

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING DESIGN

SUBJECT 9193

PAPER 01

GENERAL COMMENTS

All candidates attempted Section A and three questions from Section B. There were very few candidates who attempted Section A confidently but Section B gave the candidates a choice. Section A has proved to be very challenging to most candidates.

SECTION A: THIS IS A 'TEXTILE SCIENCE' SECTION

QUESTION 1

- (a) Candidates were expected to define terms. This was fairly done by most candidates although a lot of them could not define a mordant.
- (b) Most, if not all, candidates could not describe one method of manufacturing metallic yarns and their uses.
- (c) Most candidates had a rough idea of textured yarns, as a result they grouped them wrongly.
- (d) Reasons for blending Nylon with Wool were known but were scientifically explained. The candidates used simple and general reasons, as a result this led to loss of part marks.

QUESTION 2

- (a) The difference between the properties of cotton and viscose, despite the fact that they are both cellulosic, was challenging to candidates. General properties were given without scientific justification.
- (b) Fancy yarns were well explained by most candidates and also why they are not suitable for children's garments.
- (c) Most candidates could distinguish between carded and combed yarns. There were, however, some who exchanged the properties.
- (d) Pile fabrics were not known by most candidates. Properties of these fabrics were also not known.

SECTION B**QUESTION 3**

- (a) Types of collars suitable for a summer blouse is basic knowledge. There were, however, some candidates who could not name and draw the collars.
- (b) Candidates were expected to describe how to prepare one of the collars drawn in (a). Some candidates drafted the collar while others were trying to attach the collar. Candidates are encouraged to read and understand questions before attempting them.
- (c) Designing a suitable embroidery motif to apply on the collar was well done by those who attempted this part of the question. They also gave details of stitches, colours and threads to be used. The motif was expected to be proportional, well positioned and suitable for the collar.

QUESTION 4

Candidates were expected to discuss factors that are important in the selection of fabric for a specific style or garment. Most candidates who attempted this question gave generalized factors which were not specific. This particular question expected candidates to discuss, texture, colour, weight, fabric surface (that is, print arrangement of plaids, stripes and one way designs), fibre content and fabric finish. This question was a challenge to many, as a result candidates lost marks.

QUESTION 5

Candidates were expected to draw a garment that would minimize height and to justify the design. A good number of candidates scored good marks on designing the dress and justifying the design. There were, however, some candidates who showed confusion on terms. They designed good dresses with correct lines but exchanged the names. Instead of writing horizontal they wrote vertical, leading to loss of some marks.

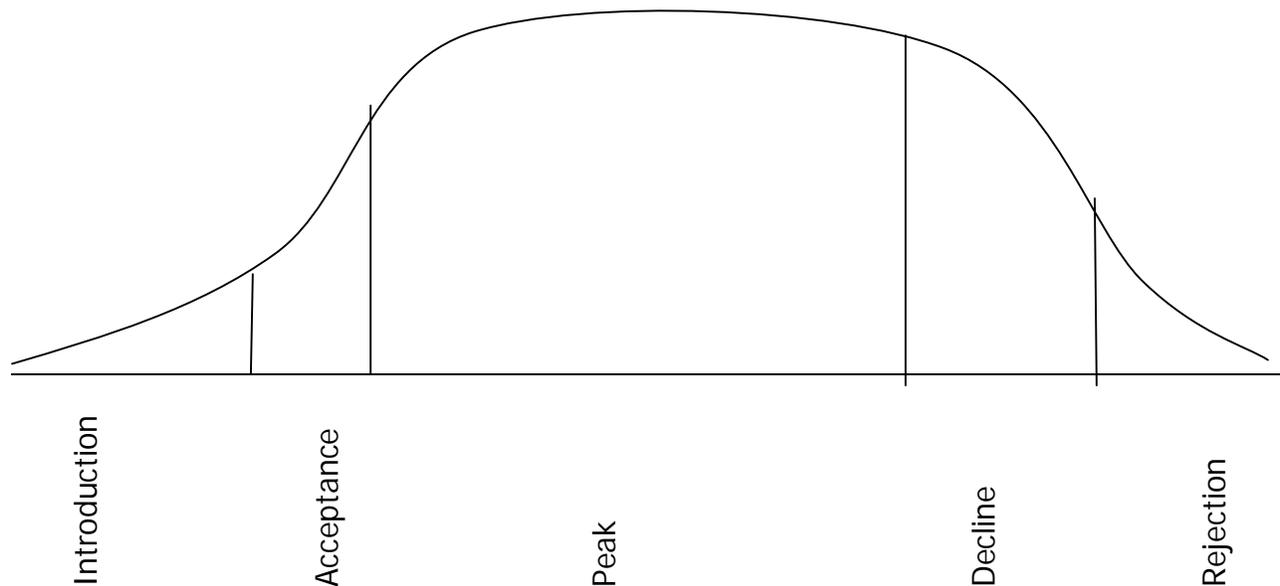
Candidates were also expected to list notions for the dress. Very few of them named the notions. The last part of the question was on how to make a wide circular hem across a seam. This was a challenge to most candidates. They did not know how to treat the circular hem.

QUESTION 6

- (a) Candidates were expected to describe a small clothing and textile business venture that one would like to establish. They were expected to describe the product to be produced, the intended market, location and reasons for the selection. A good number of candidates failed to give the points linked to the above.
- (b) Identifying three sources of funds for the business was well done by most candidates. Some candidates wasted time discussing more than three sources and this did not award them any credit. Advantages, disadvantages and risks were well explained by most candidates.

QUESTION 7

Fashion tends to evolve or move in a cycle. The discussion on this left a lot to be desired. A lot of candidates discussed factors that influence fashion changes but failed to focus on the cycle which is the introduction, then acceptance before reaching the peak, then promotion or decline phase and finally rejection phase. This could have been illustrated by a diagram like the one below:

**CONCLUSION**

Candidates need to be advised that A-Level material needs a lot of justification because just mentioning does not award one full marks. They should also be encouraged to label clearly all diagrams.