

FASHION AND FABRICS

SUBJECT 6051

PAPER 02

GENERAL COMMENTS

The test required candidates to produce the right half of a toddler's jumper. Fabrics chosen were generally easy to handle. Toptex proved to be the best fabrics as it produced very neat cut edges and clear processes. A few centres chose thick fabrics like drill and Hartelle which were difficult to manipulate, fine poly cotton which was difficult to cut smoothly and loosely woven fabrics which frayed badly.

Most candidates produced wearable pieces but workmanship of processes was generally poor. Marks were lost on accuracy of measurements. Candidates showed lack of skill of measuring. Candidates also lost marks because they produced incomplete test pieces which could imply lack of practice and/or supervision. Workmanship was also affected by the use of industrial methods such as the working of the false double stitched seam, which was not required.

Very few centres performed well and their test pieces were complete and correctly made. It was noted with concern that most urban centres had large numbers of absentees and very poor performance. It was also disturbing to note that some centres used 2½ hours to just cut out and label the test pieces.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS/PROCESSES

1 Cutting Out

Well done by most centres. Grain was generally correct but cut edges on curves lacked smoothness. Candidates who used sheeting fabric lost marks on grain. Most candidates produced the correct right half and muddled pieces were a result of crotch seams joined or facing reversed. Labelling and pressing were well done.

2 Side Seam

This was attempted by all candidates. Candidates were expected to work a double stitched seam. Some candidates lost marks because they worked other seams like single, French and false double stitched seams. Correct length of seam was not achieved by many candidates. Seams were generally well stitched but too wide and uneven. Flatness was often achieved on right side only and rarely on wrong side.

3 Facings

Candidates were expected to join and neaten the free edge of the facing. Most facings were correctly joined but trimming and pressing the seam open were rarely done. Some candidates lost marks because they did not neaten the facings. Candidates who edge stitched the facings often failed to produce good stitching lines and even turnings.

4 Attachment of facings

This was attempted by many candidates. Very few seams matched at underarm and almost all facings were not secured with a hand sewn stitch on the side seam. Snipping of the facing at curves was generally not known and some candidates notched the seam instead of snipping it.

The majority of the seams were neither slightly rolled to the wrong side nor on edge. Very few candidates managed to produce sharp corners. Top stitching was generally well done but candidates should remember to use a longer stitch for top stitching. Some candidates did not top stitch at all.

5 Double Patch Pocket

This was attempted by all candidates. Very few candidates used the correct method of preparation and the majority treated it like a single patch pocket with raw edges showing. Most candidates trimmed the pocket turnings but very few notched the curve. Stitching was fairly done but very few fastened the threads off. Most corners were not sharp and reinforcement was rarely done. Very few candidates scored well on size, shape and position.

6 Inner Leg Seam

This was attempted by most candidates and generally well done. Some candidates lost marks because they worked a single seam instead of the French seam. Incorrect width of hem affected the length of the seam in most cases. Very few seams were pressed towards the back.

7 Hem

Most candidates did not attempt this process. Some candidates just pressed the turnings in position. Those who attempted the process lost marks on correct width of hem and on stitches worked.

These did not have a good size and some of the stitches were difficult to identify. The 10 cm distance was observed by some candidates while others worked the whole hem. Securing at seam junctions and matching of seams was well done.

8 Buttonhole

Candidates were expected to work a buttonhole with a round end and barred end. Most candidates failed to get to this stage. Those who attempted it did not cut the buttonhole nor work on it. On the correct position, some buttonholes were either horizontal or on single fabric. Some buttonholes were not cut along a straight thread. Instead, a piece of fabric was removed to make a hole. Some candidates lost marks on size because the buttonholes were not cut. Most candidates failed to work the round and barred ends on their correct positions. Loop stitch was often used to neaten the buttonhole instead of buttonhole stitch. Stitches worked were often too long and widely spaced. Very few neat, well positioned and correctly made buttonholes were noted. Machine made buttonholes scored well but spaces between the sides were often too wide.

9 Presentation

Most of the test pieces were neat, well labelled and well pressed. A few candidates left pins and needles on their labels or secured labels on double fabric.

Some candidates lost marks on cleanliness because they had pencil, chalk or ink markings on the notches. Most of the completed scripts had no loose threads.