

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI

EGCSE

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR

FASHION AND FABRICS

6904

YEAR

2021

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EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS

Paper 6904/01

Theory

General Comments

A total of 2242 sat for the 2021 examination, showing an increase in enrolment as compared to the previous year when 1368 candidates sat for the examination. Scripts were well presented and easy to read. All questions were answered in the spaces provided and most candidates answered all the questions that were required. However, many answers lacked detail in direct relation to the context of some questions. All candidates attempted Section A and produced a wide range of responses. Most candidates answered two questions in Section B, as required, with a small number attempting all questions. Questions 2 and 6 were the most accessible. A careful reading of the questions and planning of answers would help the candidates structure their responses in a better and more effective way, for candidates to get full marks. The marks awarded for each question are indicated in brackets [] at the end of each question and that should give an indication of the amount of information that is required to gain full marks for each question.

Comments on Specific Questions**SECTION A****Question 1**

- (a) Most candidates correctly identified all the style features correctly except for peplum. Few identified style feature **A** as topstitching. Some of the candidates could not identify any of the style features.

Expected answers include:

- A. Stand collar/ Mandarine collar
- B. Button and buttonhole
- C. Long set-in sleeve/set-in sleeve
- D. Princess seam/line
- E. Peplum front

- (b) (i) This question was answered well by most candidates. Answers to this question showed a good understanding of the properties of Irish linen.

Expected answers were:

Irish linen fabric is made from the fibre of the **flax plant**. Irish linen fabric is **cool** to wear in summer. Linen fibres make the fabric **strong** and **durable**. Irish linen is easily damaged by **mildew** but is not attacked by **moths**.

- (ii) To gain full marks in his question, candidates had to describe how the fabric finish is applied rather than explaining how the fabric will behave.

Expected answers include:

Sanforising/pre-shrinking - fabric is immersed in an alkaline solution

Water repellent – silicon is used to reduce affinity for water

Crease-resistant – synthetic resin is applied so the garment will not need ironing

Bleaching – hydrogen peroxide or chloride is used to remove the natural colour of the fabric

- (c) Most candidates answered these questions correctly:

Expected answers include:

(i) **Throat plate** gives seam allowance width guide.

(ii) **Presser's foot** pushes the fabric forward while sewing

- (d) Most candidates were not able to get full marks; they only managed to state a function for one of the stitches.

Expected answers include:

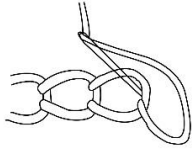
(i) **Back stitch** is used to make a seam/ repair seams/ join pieces of fabric together permanently.

Slip hemming is used to secure hems/sew hems on garments

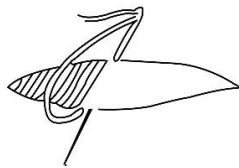
(ii) Most candidates could draw a diagram showing the complete stitch but could not show the position of the needle as a result full marks were not awarded. Many candidates just showed the needle in a random position on the fabric instead of using the needle to show how the stitch was made.

Expected answers included:

Chain stitch



Satin Stitch



(e) Almost all candidates knew at least two advantages of blending fibres,
expected answers include:

- Fabrics with more desirable/ better properties can be produced/ excellent fabrics are produced
- Produce interesting variations of colour and texture
- Reduce cost
- Remedy defects

(f) This question was generally well answered

(i) Candidates were able to explain what a primary colour is but the explanation for secondary colours was incomplete.

Expected answers were:

Primary colours- basic colours from which all other colours are produced

Secondary colours-made by mixing two primary colours in equal amounts

(ii) Most answered this question correct

Expected answers were:

With nap - the fabric has a surface pile/ raised surface

One-way design - is a fabric that has the design facing the same direction

(iii) There were excellent answers with candidates even explaining how each type of interfacing should be cut.

Expected answers were:

Woven interfacing – a piece of fabric that has a warp and weft threads and straight grains that are closely woven to strengthen the part of a garment, e.g. facings.

Bonded interfacing – man-made that are bonded, with no straight grain to strengthen parts of a garment.

(g) Most candidates were able to draw and label pattern markings in their correct position. Candidates should be encouraged not to draw 'straight grain line' and 'place on fold' on the same pattern piece.

(h) Only a small number of candidates were able to answer this question in full. Most candidates could only state that run and fell seam is strong without giving an explanation.

The explaining:

strong - it is double stitched.

durable - it can withstand frequent laundering

self-neatening - will not fray and it is flat

comfortable – will not irritate the skin during wear.

SECTION B**Question 2**

This was a popular question

(a) Almost all candidates who answered this question got full marks

Expected answers were:

- Saves money/ cheap
- Choose your own fabric/pattern/colour
- a Make unique garment
- Make garment accurately to body measurements
- Recycle
- Improve sewing skills
- Satisfaction of making own clothes

(b) (i) Most candidates showed some understanding of the difference between easing and gathering. Few candidates could explain the processes in sufficient detail to achieve full marks.

Expected answers were:**Easing:**

one line of running stitches is done; folds do not show on the right side of the garment. Easing is used where one edge is slightly longer than the other. Running stitches are done on the one / longer edge and tightened so that the two edges join smoothly, and the running stitches are not seen.

Gathering:

two lines of the gathering are done, and the gathers show on the right side, the gathers become a style feature.

(ii) This question was well answered

Expected answers were:

- yoke
- sleeve cap/ head
- princess line seam

(c) This question was misunderstood, most candidates stated points to consider when choosing fasteners instead of points to consider when attaching fasteners.

The expected answers include:

- **Stitch on double fabric** - for strength and durability
- **Evenly distributed on garments** - so that they do not gape
- **Stabilise/strengthen** the fabric with interfacing
- Right over left for females and left over right for males

(d) Answers showed an understanding of the properties of knitted garments.

Candidates explained that even though they are clingy, they do not restrict movement, they are comfortable, have excellent recovery and are wrinkle resistant.

The expected answers include:

- **They stretch** - important where fit and comfort are concerned/ they fit snugly but do not restrict movement.
- **Excellent** recovery – the ability of the fabric to return to its shape after being stretched/worn.
- **Warmth** - the gaps in knitted fabrics trap air making them warm to wear in cold weather
- **Wrinkle resistant** - shed wrinkles easily

- (e) Answers to this question generally demonstrated poor knowledge of attaching an in-seam pocket. Answers generally lacked sufficient detail to gain full marks and often indicated that the candidate had not learned anything about pockets.

Expected answers were:

- (i) Pin, tack, and machine stitch the skirt side seam above and below the pocket opening.
- (ii) Neaten the seam
- (iii) With R.S of pocket and garment together, match raw edges, notches, and fitting lines.
- (iv) Pin, tack, and machine stitch one pocket section 0.5 cm inside the fitting line on the seam allowance, this will prevent the seam from being noticeable on the R.S
- (v) Press
- (vi) Do the same to other pocket section
- (vii) Place pocket sections together, and match notches. Pin, tack, and machine stitch around the pocket.
- (viii) Neaten around the pocket.

Question 3

Although this was a popular question many candidates who attempted it lost marks in parts (e) and (f) because they did not read the question carefully.

- (a) Generally, well answered

The expected answer was:

Fashion fad – Short-lived fashion, accepted by a ‘certain age group’

- (b) Most candidates gave good answers

Expected answers were:

- Hem
- Cuff/ band
- Elasticated casing/ elastic
- Flounce
- Frills/ piping/ lace
- Crossway strip/ binding

- (c) Responses were generally correct with candidates showing a good understanding of commercial patterns.

Expected answers were:

- Convenient-saves time for drafting
- There is a picture of the finished design on the envelope - so you know what the garment will look like when made up.
- Value for money- a variety of items/ views are provided in one pattern envelope/multi-sized pattern so the pattern can be used for different-sized people

- Can adjust the pattern to fit
- Saves waste/knows how much fabric/notions to buy
- Suitable fabrics are suggested
- Step-by-step instructions on how to make the garment

(d) Fairly done, most candidates lost marks because they were stating what should not be worn instead of what should be worn to disguise figure faults. Most did not know how to disguise big/large hips.

The expected answers were:

- (i) **Short neck** - Wear V- Necklines; Long narrow pointed collars
A long string of beads
- (ii) **Flat chest** - Choose a style with fullness or tucks around the chest
- (iii) **Big / Large/hips** - longer suit jackets/tunics
 - A-line dresses
 - Panelled skirts made with soft fabric flaring slightly down the sides

(e) The majority of candidates sketched correct care symbols for drying the white woven shirt and knitted dress.

(f) Candidates showed a reasonable understanding of how to make gathers even though the sequence was sometimes not logical. Most candidates lost marks in the attaching of the yoke because there were no sufficient details given on how this process is executed, there was no mention of diagonal stitch to hold gathered piece to the yoke, neatening of the seam and how the two pieces were attached to each other. Diagrams were not labelled.

Expected answers were:

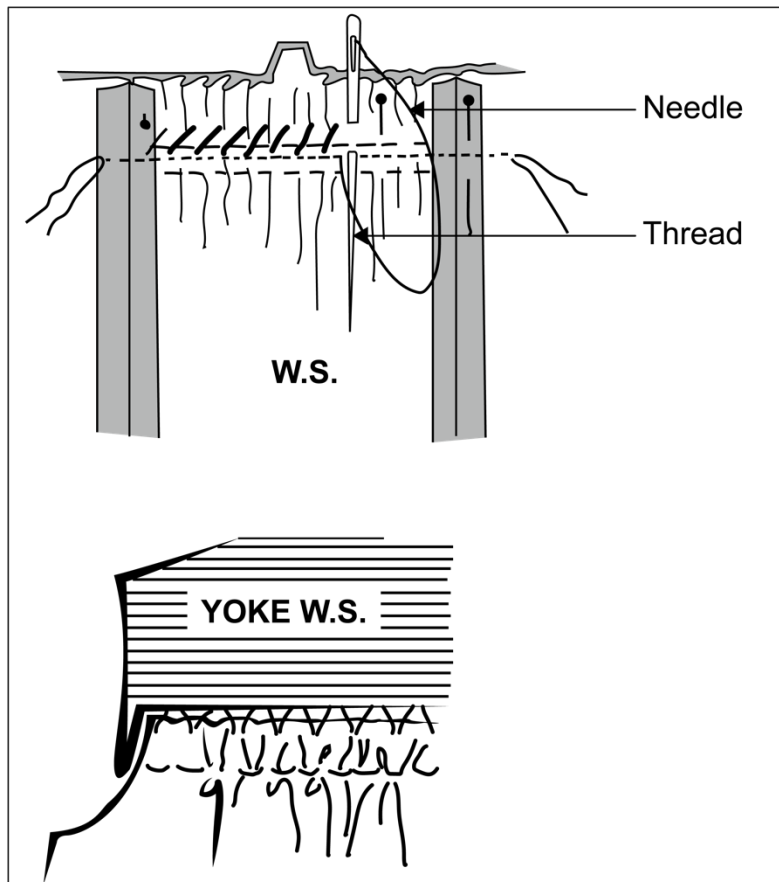
Preparation

- Lengthen stitch on the machine to maximum
- Sew two rows of gathering stitches 6mm above and below the FL.
- Secure one end of bobbin threads
- Pull threads to make gathers, secure threads on one side
- Distribute gathers evenly

Attaching

- With R.S of bodice and yoke together, match raw edges, notches, and FL
- Pin, and sew diagonal tack on the fitting line.
- Machine stitch on FL, making sure the gathered side is uppermost
- Neaten the seam
- Press

- Under stitch or top stitch the seam if desired



Question 4

This was the least popular question.

- (a) Most of the candidates knew what a selvedge is.

The expected answer was:

Selvedge - the reinforced/ finished edge of the fabric made during the weaving of the fabric by closely packed warp threads at the edge.

- (b) Most candidates answered this question correctly.

Expected answers were:

- Edge stitching/clean finish
- Pinking shears
- Overcasting stitch
- Zig zag stitch
- Blanket stitch
- Binding/crossway strips

- (c) (i) and (ii) This question was poorly done. Most of the candidates did not know how to remove the stains; they could only state that they wash afterwards.

Expected answers were:

Grease - Wash in hot soapy water/ soak in talcum powder/ benzine
- Rinse and dry

Grass - Rub stain with methylated spirit
- Wash and dry

- (d) While most candidates were able to give correct symbols for washing and ironing the acrylic garment, few candidates gave the wrong care symbol for drying the garment.

- (e) Answers to this question demonstrated a poor understanding of fabric construction. Very few candidates answered this question correctly, most managed one mark for mentioning that you form a diagonal ridge.

Expected Answers were:

- two warp yarns go over and under two weft threads in each
- succeeding row, the weft yarns move one warp yarn along the right forming a diagonal ridge
- threads to be packed tightly together

- (f) This question was poorly done. Most candidates misunderstood the question and instead explained in detail how to measure and cut the crossway strips. Joining was just mentioned without any details. The diagrams were not labelled.

Expected answers were:

- joining - place the strips R.S together
- match straight grain
- points will stick out beyond the edge of the strip
- stitch a seam 5 mm wide
- cut off /trim protruding points
- press seam open

SECTION C

Question 5

Although this was a popular question many candidates who attempted it lost marks because they did not read and understand the question carefully

Most candidates misunderstood the question, instead of discussing a variety of sewing equipment; most candidates discussed either the sewing machine in detail or just one type of sewing equipment. Candidates were expected to discuss a variety of small sewing equipment; justify/ give reasons for selecting them and explain the care of each piece of equipment. This resulted in candidates getting marks in the lower bands.

Expected answers were:

Equipment	Choice	Care
Dressmakers' shears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Should be 18 - 20 cm long ➤ One blade should be narrow and pointed for slipping easily under the fabric. ➤ Should be made of stainless steel to prevent rusting. ➤ Sharp to prevent chewing of fabric during cutting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use for the purpose it was intended for. ➤ Keep dry in a sheath. ➤ Avoid dropping. ➤ Oil regularly
Paper scissors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Buy small cheap scissors available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep in a clean dry place
Seam ripper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The blade should be sharp and made from stainless steel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep the shield on when not in use
Tape measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose one made from glass fibre with metal tips on both ends to prevent stretching ➤ Marked on both sides in cm and inches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coil or hang it
Pins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Long - easy to use ➤ Sharp - not make holes on fabric ➤ Thin - easy to penetrate fabric ➤ Rustproof - not to leave marks on fabric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Store in a dry container lined with paper ➤ Do not store needles with pins ➤ Store in pin cushion when in use
Pin cushion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Made of soft fabric filled with sawdust or wools so they are not easily buried 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep in a clean dry place
Tracing wheel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose a spike one, it is more accurate and will not damage most fabrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep in a clean dry place
Thimble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose one that fits comfortable around the finger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep sharp edge covered in a clean dry place

Tailor's chalk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose colour close to the colour of fabric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep in a clean dry place ➤ Keep secured to avoid breaking
Dressmaker's carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose colour close to colour of fabric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ keep in envelope to avoid creasing
Sewing needles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Made of stainless steel ➤ Match needle size to fabric weight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep in a clean dry place to avoid rusting
Ruler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ should be transparent ➤ 15 - 20cm so it fits in the box ➤ Marking should be clearly shown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep secured to avoid breaking
Sewing machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brand ➤ Attachments ➤ Ease of servicing ➤ Ease of getting parts, the price, weight ➤ Storage ➤ Fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oil regularly ➤ Do not sew on pins ➤ Keep covered when not in use ➤ Place fabric between the presser foot and throat plate to prevent scratching during storage
Pressing iron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fuel ➤ Steam or dry ➤ Price 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clean ➤ Remove water in steam iron when storing
Ironing board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate height ➤ Padded ➤ Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Store in a dry place

Question 6

This was the least popular question.

Few candidates answered this question satisfactorily. Most candidates did not discuss the points to consider when planning a wardrobe for a teenager but just listed points and there were no examples given. Sometimes the terminology used was not correct and they would spend a lot of time discussing just one point in different words.

Expected Answers were:

Wardrobe planning for a teenager

- **Definition of wardrobe**
- **Peer pressure among teenagers** - they are forced to conform to dress-group identity
- **Take stock of the clothes in your wardrobe** - decide which are useful after alterations, renovation, and dry cleaning - these give new life to garments - Make a list of what you have in your wardrobe to avoid buying the same articles/styles
- **Consider hobbies and activities** - so you buy clothes suitable for your lifestyle
- **Money available** - to avoid waste and keep within budget

- Purchase most **essentials** first and spread the rest of the purchases over a period
- **Plan new purchases** - to "mix and match" with clothes already must expand your wardrobe
- Select garments of style and serviceable colour e.g., skirt and jackets etc. - because they should last a long time
- Consider figure type
- **Change appearance of clothes** - by adding accessories like scarves, necklaces etc.
- **Do not change your mind easily** - once you have decided, always keep colour in mind when buying new clothes
- **Go shopping when shops are not crowded** - so you can decide calmly without being hurried
- Avoid impulsive buying
- Make use of 'end of season' and sale range
- **Make sure clothes** - you buy can be easily laundered
- Get maximum value for money
- Buy easy to launder garments
- **Decide the quality of clothes** - by studying the label and pay attention to:
 - name of manufacturer
 - fibre content
 - colour fastness
 - special finish - e.g., special directions for laundering
- Choose accessories wisely
- Do not follow fashion blindly- avoid fashion fads

EGCSE FASHION AND FABRICS**Paper 6904/02****Coursework****Introduction**

A total of 2242 candidates registered for the year 2021 and 2107 were actual candidates which resulted in a high number of absentee 135 candidates. This showed a drastic increase from 2020 when 1368 candidates sat for Fashion and Fabrics Paper 2. However, some centres showed a slight improvement in the quality of the work done on the garment. As an abnormal year, the syllabus was slightly amended to suit the abnormality and only one garment was submitted by centres which were garment two. An extra process to cater for the waistband was added which was the cuff or sleeve band. All required processes for the garment were well done. Most of the candidates still had difficulty in relating reasons for choice in the folder for the garment to self; with those who gave good explanations outperformed the previous year's cohort. Very few candidates did not have a folder. There were cases of the dropouts who simply did not submit either the folder, the garment or both.

Packaging and Presentation

There has been a great improvement yet again in the packing of the garment, folder, and paperwork this year. Only a few centres packed all garments in one box, and folders in another, which makes it very difficult to find the work for each candidate. Otherwise, almost all centres packed the garments well as the folder per candidate and the paperwork in a separate envelop which was commendable. Centres provided with MS1 mark sheet to enter and shade the candidate scores and return to ECESWA with candidates' work. There were few centres that did this correctly.

Labelling

This was done well by most candidates and some candidates did the labelling exceptionally well on pieces of cloth using a stencil for writing and sewing these clothes on their garments. However, a few candidates attached the labels to garments using pins and staplers which are not acceptable as this can cause injury to anyone handling those articles. Some candidates sew their labels on double fabric which is discouraged. A few candidates attached their labels using a single thread and did not secure the ends well, and these labels were coming out. Those centres are urged to have their candidates' work labelled. All centres are still urged to

label the ECESWA plastics accurately with all the necessary information e.g. Centre number. When a centre has two plastic bags the labelling should indicate 1 out of 2. A few centres wrote 1 of 1 even though they had 2 ECESWA plastic bags. Those using boxes should put paperwork in an envelope and then put it in the box.

Folder

All the requirements for the folder were met by most candidates except for those few. Most candidates were able to describe the garment in detail with a few of them giving very brief explanations with an omission of some style features such as the hem, pockets, and embellishment. The reasons for choice were well explained by a good number of the Candidates and they related to self. However, some candidates had reasons for choosing not to relate to themselves. A few candidates did not have folders, and some had incomplete ones. Some candidates had well-drawn, coloured, and labelled illustrations. Very few candidates did not label their illustrations. Some candidates mixed costing and the list of requirements. They also did not quantify the list of requirements, and those who did, however, calculated wrongly. Some included sewing equipment which should be discouraged. Plans of work were done well, but most candidates wrote too detailed plans of work instead of well-articulated summaries. This time around three photos were to be included in the folder, one for layout, one for sewing of processes and the last one for fitting. A few centres had all the photos most had at least one present. Centres are encouraged to follow the syllabus well.

Choice of Fabric for The Project

There was a great improvement in the choice of fabric for the garment this year. However, some centres still had fabrics that gave the candidates challenges during sewing the final pressing of the garments. It is advisable that candidates are assisted to choose fabrics that are easy to handle.

Garment

In general, the garment was well done Overall and had all the required processes for most candidates. However, a few candidates lacked one or two processes i.e. cuff or band, pocket. Most candidates this year made shirts and dresses.

Manipulation

Collar

The collar was attached well by most candidates, their collars were trimmed, flat and collar points matched. However, a few had their collars bulky, not aligned and out of balance. A few finished the collar using a crossway strip as binding instead of using it as a facing on the inside. Some candidates attached a facing instead of a collar, yet the syllabus required that a collar is used. All types of collars were observed the roll collar, the flat and the stand collar as per the syllabus.

Sleeves

Most candidates used set-in sleeves and they attached the sleeves very well, except for those who used the flat method. The sleeves were mostly aligned well on the underarm seam. Some candidates went the extra mile to apply a placket on the sleeve edges of their shirts and this was done to an excellent standard. However, some candidates did not confine fullness on the head, but it was found in some cases almost at underarm, indicating a poor distribution. All sleeves were expected to have a band or a cuff which was not the case with some, and it had to be attached the right way, finished with a hand stitch for some.

Control of Fullness

The Garment for most candidates had double-pointed darts, box, and knife pleats as they were mostly shirts and dresses. The shirts with double-pointed darts were worked well by most candidates and there were few cases where the darts were not positioned well and not of an equal length. A few candidates sew gathers and tucks and some of these were well spaced and well pressed.

Fasteners

A variety of fasteners were found on the garments. Candidates made buttons and buttonholes, zippers, hooks and eyes and press studs. These were done well by most candidates except for a few cases where a wrong hand stitch was used on the hooks and eyes as well as the press studs. The correct placing of the buttons and buttonholes at the centre front was done by most candidates and few even made hand-worked shanks on their buttons and did them well. Covered buttons were also used by some candidates and these were done well. The buttonhole stitch was done well this year by some. Other candidates made vertical buttonholes on the collar bands instead of horizontal ones.

Embellishment

Most candidates embellished their garments to an excellent standard as they used varied types of embellishment e.g. motifs, piping, contrasting, ribbons, embroidery, applique and trimmings. Some candidates who did embroidery stitches worked to a fair standard. There were those, however, who did low-quality stitches and they seemed not well planned for.

Seams

Candidates generally used a plain seam (closed and open) and were mostly done well except for a few candidates whose widths were too wide. A few candidates used French and a flat fell method these were also done well with good widths and stitching. Most centres failed to neaten curved areas e.g. armhole seam, there were more candidates this year who used zig-zag for neatening unlike the previous years instead of the overlocker, an improvement is needed on the use of zig-zag stitch as a method of neatening.

Hems

Most candidates had suitable hems for their garments even on curved hems, a few had wide hems on curved hems which made twisted and uneven widths. Most hems were machine stitched on the shirts and done well. A variety of stitches were used for sewing the hem e.g. hemming, slip hemming, blind hemming and herringbone. A few candidates presented their garments without hems.

Machine Stitching Skills

Very good machine stitching was done by most candidates and stitch length was suitable for most fabrics. There were fewer imbalances in the tension of the machines this year although one or two candidates completed their garments using hand stitches (back stitch) as the previous year. The centres are urged to use sewing machines to sew the project as this is a requirement at this level. The overlocker was still a challenge even this year as the tension was loose and inappropriately done by some candidates, some were affected by their choice of fabric. Sewing of straight stitches was greatly improved this time.

Hand Sewing Skills

A few candidates did excellent work on hand sewing skills that is they selected the stitches and they worked to a high standard. However, most of the candidates did not have a selection of stitches as the syllabus requires (both permanent and embroidery) to at least use three or

more. They had mostly one stitch repeated on different parts of the garment e.g. hemming stitch on the cuff, collar and on the hem edge. Some of the hem stitches were wide and loose while some centres used double thread for hemstitch when they must use a single thread. Some candidates used a single thread for embroidery, yet two or more strands are required. Candidates are encouraged to use a stabilizer where the embroidery is done.

Reminders to Centres

The individual assessment forms should not be included in packaging but should be in a separate envelope together with the summary assessment form, attendance register and MS1 mark sheet (lozenges). Centres are reminded that the MS1 mark sheet should be done in HB pencils only. Centres are advised to seek assistance from subject specialist whenever they face challenges related to the assessment of the coursework or its packaging or any kind of clarity on instructions sent to centres. All individual marked sheets should be totalled, and registers should be completed well.