

General

It seems that many of the candidates did not regard Woodwork Theory as a subject to be studied, preferring to rely on general knowledge to answer the question paper. If candidates would only study, their results would improve.

QUESTION 1 – WOOD TYPES, WOOD AND PRESERVATIVES

Question 1.1 was answered poorly because candidates did not study the section on fungi.

Question 1.2 was also answered poorly. Candidates could not make deductions regarding wood types.

Question 1.3 was answered reasonably well, but the causes of defects in sawn timber were not studied.

QUESTION 2 – HAND TOOLS

This question was answered fairly well, although it is obvious that hand tools are being used less frequently. It is clear that some candidates have never sharpened a chisel or the blade of a plane.

QUESTION 3 – MACHINE TOOLS

Question 3.1 was answered fairly well, but it is clear that candidates did not know the difference between a scraping and a cutting chisel. The skew chisel (a cutting tool) is presumably used as a scraping tool.

Question 3.1.6, about pulleys, was answered well.

Question 3.2 was answered poorly. Presumably, candidates do not know the meaning of the following words:

3.2.1 – actions

3.2.2 – requirements

3.2.3 – control functions

It is clear that learners' vocabulary is becoming a very worrying aspect for all teachers.

QUESTION 4 – JOINTS, CONSTRUCTIONS, PANELS AND GLUE

Question 4.1 was answered fairly well, although candidates did not know what glue cavities are.

Many candidates did not make a copy of the sketch asked for in Question 4.2. They also did not know what a single through-dovetailed joint looks like. This should have been studied.

Question 4.3. Candidates knew the names of panels, but not their functions.

Questions 4.3.3 and 4.3.4. Any panel could have been used, but the candidate's answer had to correlate with his reason. 4.3.1.3 was the best answer, because water cannot penetrate a closed panel easily. Quite a number of candidates answered this correctly.

QUESTION 5 – DESIGN AND FINISHING

Question 5.1 was answered well. Some candidates still believe that turpentine is a thinning agent for sanding sealer. These candidates clearly have never used sanding sealer, or do not know what they use to clean their brushes after using sanding sealer.

Question 5.3 was answered well, but some candidates could better the design.

Question 5.4 was answered well, but some candidates chose to use wax or oil as the surface finish. The question clearly stated that the table was used as a woman's dressing table. It must be able to withstand heat, chemicals, water, etc. This was one of those questions where the candidates had to use their knowledge and experience of woodwork and design.