

BASKETRY 2

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

The standard of the paper favourably compares with that of the previous years.

2. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

- (1) Most candidates expressed themselves adequately and avoided one-word responses.
- (2) There was legibility in their handwriting.
- (3) Some candidates went the extra mile to illustrate their answers though that was not required.
- (4) There was an appreciable level of understanding of Basketry processes and terminologies.

3. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES

- (1) Most of the candidates were unable to relate 'Principles of design' to basketry weaves.
- (2) Some candidates exhibited very tiny handwriting that made it difficult to read.
- (3) Some candidates showed lack of understanding of basketry terminologies.

4. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

- (1) More attention should be paid to understanding basketry terminologies.
- (2) Students should be taken more deeply through preparatory processes of basketry materials and how to relate principles of design.
- (3) Candidates should be encouraged to write boldly.

5. DETAILED COMMENTS

QUESTION 1

- (a) **State three traditional treatment methods for bamboo.**
- (b) **Explain the four-chemical treatment methods for bamboo.**

- (a) Most candidates answered this question correctly, stating the traditional methods of treating bamboo.

About 25% of the candidates who attempted this question could however not provide appropriate responses.

The expected responses are:

- (i) Clump curing
- (ii) Smoking
- (iii) Soaking
- (iv) Open air treatment

- (b) Almost all the candidates who attempted this question provided good explanations to the stated chemical methods of treating bamboo.

Good marks were earned by many candidates.

The expected answers are:

- (i) Open tank treatment;
- (ii) Dip diffusion method
- (iii) Butt treatment method
- (iv) Boucherie method

Explanations

Most candidates provided good answers to some of the processes. Few lost marks as they completely deviated from the demands of the questions.

The expected answers are as follows:

- (i) Open tank treatment refers to a process of immersing cut bamboo into chemical solution in a brat-like trough or tank for at least one week.
- (ii) Dip diffusion method involves the immersion of cut bamboo into concentrated chemical solution for 10 minutes after which the bamboo is wrapped up with plastic for about one week.
- (iii) Butt treatment consist of putting freshly cut bamboo, placing them bottom ends first, in a drum containing preservatives for about one week. The leaves act as a pump to fill in the chemical by a process known as capillary action.
- (iv) Boucherie method consists of an air pump to force the preservative into the bamboo. It can also be achieved by placing the container with preservatives very high above the bamboo, connected by a rubber tube through which the chemicals flow into the bamboo.

Some unrelated responses are:

- (i) Cut the bamboo and keep in the sun.
- (ii) Cut it fresh and keep it down.
- (iii) Cut it, then when it is matured, use it, etc.

QUESTION 2

Explain five attributes that develop competency in basketry skills.

Over 70% of the candidates attempted this question and showed some understanding of the demands of the question. Good marks were earned from their responses.

Others however indicated expectations from external sources instead of inbuilt traits and tendencies.

The correct answers are:

- (a) Open mindedness makes it easy for an individual to benefit from basketry skills of others.
- (b) Being observant allows or makes it easy for an individual to acquire necessary basketry skills.
- (c) Planning makes it possible to process one's ideas into craftier outcomes that promote originality.
- (d) Flexibility allows changes in ideas and plans that ensure better outputs.
- (e) Research allows the individual to access new/fresh knowledge which he can build on.
- (f) Self discipline makes it easy for an individual to have concentration and perseverance to force on, etc.

QUESTION 3

- (a) State ten rationales for studying Basketry.**
- (b) Identify the following people with their basketry craft.**
 - (i) American Indian;**
 - (ii) Chinese/Japanese;**
 - (iii) African;**
 - (iv) Arabian.**
 - (v) Venezuelan/Mexican.**

Question 3 was favourite choice for most candidates. Almost every candidate was able to answer it adequately.

Some candidates however provided answers like 'to earn income'. Both the uneducated basketry artist as well as the educated one would earn incomes. The income generating ability should have been distinctively qualified for example 'would earn a high income', etc.

Some of the appropriate answers are:

- (i) Acquire in-depth knowledge in basketry.
- (ii) Benefit from structured and tested knowledge.
- (iii) Learn new conservation methods.
- (iv) Acquire theoretical knowledge.
- (v) Gain business skills.
- (vi) Pursue higher levels in basketry.
- (vii) Gain and apply knowledge in ICT.

QUESTION 4

- (a) Explain complementary materials in basketry.**
- (b) List three complementary materials in basketry.**
- (c) Write on any three ways an artist can be creative in producing an article.**

- (a) Most candidates were able to explain the term complementary materials. Some could not offer good explanations, therefore provided answers one of which is as follows: “they are materials which are interrelated with each other.”
- (b) Over 80% of the candidates were able to list three complementary articles correctly. A few of them rather listed cane, cord, raffia and bamboo which are directly basketry materials. This is indicating a misunderstanding of the question.
- (c) Question (c) was well attempted in terms of numbers, however, the correct answers seem to have eluded most candidates.

Expected answers include:

- (i) Hard working/highly imaginative;
- (ii) Curiosity/eagerness to learn;
- (iii) Accepting challenges and working on them;
- (iv) Ability to fit into new situations;
- (v) Experimenting all the time with materials and tools.

QUESTION 5

- (a) List three basketry articles that are produced from sisal.**
- (b) Describe how sisal leaf is processed.**
- (c) State two reasons for fitting in basketry.**

- (a) Candidates correctly listed articles that are produced from sisal. Some of those correctly listed included bags, baskets, carpets, mats and ropes.
- (b) This question was largely well answered by most candidates. The activities describing the processing of sisal include:
 - (i) Removal of thorns from the apex of the leaf.
 - (ii) The leaf is beaten against flat surface or soaked in water to loosen the fibres.
 - (iii) The fibres are washed to remove impurities.
 - (iv) The washed fibres are then dried.
 - (v) The fibres are dyed (if desired)

It was observed that the candidates skipped step 1 (removal of thorns) but made up for lost marks by stating the optional step (dyeing).

QUESTION 6

- (a) Explain what is meant by Principles of Design.**
- (b) State four Principles of Design.**
- (c) Give two examples of how each of the Principles stated in 6 (b) is related to basketry weaves.**

This question was poorly answered by most candidates.

Many explained the term 'Principles of Design' partially, and gave examples of Principles of Design, but failed to relate the principles to weaves in basketry.

Some of the incorrect answers are:

Balance: the colours which are applied to basketry items produced;

Variety: shapes and techniques.

The expected answers include:

Balance: The sense of symmetry on the article produced (conical, round, etc.)

Unity: A sense of uniformity of various weaves used.

Emphasis: repetition of weaves on a basket.

Contrast: Differences in the weaves supporting the form of the basket i.e. randing against pairing or waling.

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