SECTION A

Question 1 – Designing

Q1 (a) The majority of candidates attempted this question and generally answered it well. It was apparent that centres had prepared their candidates well. There was a lack of creative responses and a lack of constructional knowledge conveyed through sketches and notes. Some candidates drew ‘nets’ but failed to annotate the constructional defaults or provide a simple ‘key’. Too many candidates used cardboard as their answer for sheet material.

Q1 (b) The development question was poorly answered; candidates were unable to modify one of their ideas to show positive improvements, and often only applied graphics to promote the product. Too many candidates simply copied a previous design idea from part (a). Where there was development in the design, it was done well but many candidates did not use sketches to show development.

Q1 (c) The majority of the candidates are still producing oblique 3D presentation drawings. The specification clearly states candidates should be able to produce one and two point perspective sketches and isometric drawings. Some candidates resorted back to showing only 2D responses.

Q1 (d) Critical analysis is a skill that candidates are still finding difficult. The majority of evaluations were descriptive, but there has been a slight improvement on previous years in the quality of the responses.

SECTION B

Question 2 – Sketching and Scale drawings

This question was answered well by the majority of candidates and the mean mark achieved was the highest amongst all of the questions on the paper.

Q2 (a) This question was answered well, in line with candidates’ understanding of the topic.

Q2 (b) The enlargement on the whole was very accurate. The line quality was variable as some candidates did not have suitable drawing equipment including a black pen.

Q2 (c) (i) The most frequent response given by candidates was acrylic.

(ii) Too many candidates struggled to provide a reasoned explanation for choosing acrylic in part (i).
(iii) Those who stated acrylic in part (i) tended to answer *cut out using a laser cutter* in part (iii).

**Question 3 – Designers**

**Q3 (a)** Whilst there were some very good responses to this question, many candidates were unable to give a fully reasoned response for each of the design requirements. A significant number of candidates produced a material specification rather than a design requirement.

**Q3 (b)** This question was generally well answered with candidates showing an understanding of the influences on manufacturing costs.

**Q3 (c)** Although some candidates used generic terms, such as ‘plastic’ or ‘thermoplastic’, this question was answered well on the whole. However, reasons for their choice were often lacking in detail.

**Q3 (d)** Most candidates answered this well. Styrofoam was a popular response.

**Q3 (e)** The majority of candidates attempted this question and scored highly. Some candidates mixed up stages 5 and 6.

**Q3 (f)** (i) This question was well answered.

(ii) Most candidates gained at least half marks for this question.

**Question 4 – Aesthetics**

**Q4** The majority of candidates demonstrated some understanding of the topic. The most common error was that candidates repeated themselves and did not always fully understand the term ‘graphic product’ when providing a valid example. Cars, tables and iPhones were all used as examples. Candidates struggled with their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling and appropriate design and technology terminology.
Question 5 – Materials

Q5 (a)  (i) The majority of candidates were able to successfully label the packaging.

(ii) Most candidates gave the correct answer.

(iii) This question was generally not answered well. A number of candidates used notes and sketches to explain the process described in the rubric instead of providing an alternative method.

Q5 (b)  (i) The majority of responses were correct.

(ii) Some candidates failed to realize it was the mould material not the vacuum forming material that was required.

(iii) A number of candidates drew the process of vacuum forming instead of the mould. Many candidates who did draw a mould did not gain full marks as sketching was generally of a poor quality.

Question 6 – Presentation

Q6 (a) The responses given demonstrated that candidates were able to apply thick and thin emphasis techniques to the drawing.

Q6 (b) Those candidates who used tonal shading demonstrated this well.

Question 7 – Sequential Illustrations

Q7 (a)  (i) This question was generally well answered.

(ii) The most common response was ‘laminating’, but several candidates were familiar with ‘encapsulation’.

(iii) This question was generally well answered; most candidates gave ‘blu-tack’ as their answer.

Q7 (b) This question was generally well attempted. Although the question asked for diagrams, some candidates instead chose to use words to explain what should appear in the boxes. Line quality was frequently poor with candidates struggling to draw faces and hands.
Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the Results Statistics page of the AQA Website.

Converting Marks into UMS marks

Convert raw marks into Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) marks by using the link below.

UMS conversion calculator www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion