EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Matriculation Certificate Examination Regulations, 2005

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 30 (5) and 31 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by sections 31 and 35 of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Matriculation Certificate Examination Regulations, 2005.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

“the Certificate” means the Matriculation Certificate;

“the Examination” means the Matriculation Certificate Examination; and

“the MATSEC Board” means the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board.

(3) The MATSEC Board retains to itself the interpretation of the regulations and syllabuses relating to its examinations.

Applicability

2. (1) These regulations shall apply to the Examination held from 1st January 2005 onwards.
(2) The Examination shall also be subject to the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Regulations, 1996, published as Legal Notice 62 of 1996, and to any other relevant statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University.

Levels and Sessions of the Examination

3. (1) The Examination shall be held at two levels: Advanced (AM) Level and Intermediate (IM) Level.

(2) There shall be two sessions of the Examination: the First Session shall be held during the period April to June, and the Supplementary Session shall be held in September of each year.

Structure of the Examination

4. The Examination is offered in a wide range of subjects divided among groups structured in such a way as to ensure that all candidates study subjects from both the Humanities and the Science areas (as specified in regulation 5). Candidates shall be required to take:

   (a) one subject chosen from each of Groups 1, 2, and 3 and two other subjects chosen from any of the four groups indicated in regulation 5;

   (b) two of the five subjects must be at Advanced Level and the other three subjects at Intermediate Level; and

   (c) Systems of Knowledge.

Subjects of the Examination

5. In the First Session and in the Supplementary Session the subjects offered shall be the following:
**Group 1:** Maltese, Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Russian, Spanish;

**Group 2:** Accounting, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Religious Knowledge, Sociology;

**Group 3:** Applied Mathematics (Mechanics), Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science*, Physics, Pure Mathematics;

**Group 4:** Art, Computing, Engineering Drawing, Graphical Communication, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology; Music;

Systems of Knowledge*.

* offered at Intermediate Level only

**Choice of Subjects**

6. (1) Any subject may be chosen but the following restrictions apply:

(a) No subject may be offered at both Advanced and Intermediate Levels;

(b) Not more than two of Accounting, Economics, and Marketing may be offered;

(c) Environmental Science may not be offered with Biology, Chemistry, or Physics;

(d) Computing may not be offered with Information Technology; and

(e) Engineering Drawing may not be offered with Graphical Communication. At Intermediate Level the two subjects become one: Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication.
(2) No subject may be taken in both the Matriculation Certificate Examination at Advanced or Intermediate Levels and in the Secondary Education Certificate Examination at the same session.

Award of the Certificate

7. (1) The overall grade of the Certificate shall be based on the performance of the candidates in the examinations in the five subjects taken and in Systems of Knowledge.

(2) To qualify for the Certificate, candidates must pass the examinations taken in one session (which may include a Supplementary Session as specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of regulation 8).

(3) The Certificate shall be awarded to candidates who obtain a pass in at least one of the subjects offered from each of Groups 1, 2, and 3 and in Systems of Knowledge, and a minimum of 44 grade points as indicated in paragraph (4) of this regulation. It shall be awarded with a single overall grade to be given as A, B, or C in descending order of merit.

(4) The overall grade shall be determined from the sum of the grade points obtained in each subject as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade A</td>
<td>80 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade B</td>
<td>64 - 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade C</td>
<td>44 - 62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(5) The results obtained in the individual subjects shall be given as grades A, B, C, D, and E in descending order of merit. F indicates Fail and ‘abs’ indicates Absent for the examination. For the purpose of awarding the overall grade, grade points shall be awarded for these results, up to a total of 100 grade points, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Level</th>
<th>Intermediate Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade A — 30 grade points</td>
<td>Grade A — 10 grade points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade B — 24 grade points</td>
<td>Grade B — 8 grade points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supplementary Session

8. (1) Candidates shall be allowed to re-sit a maximum of three subjects as follows: one subject at Advanced Level, one subject at Intermediate Level, and Systems of Knowledge.

(2) Candidates shall be allowed to register for the Supplementary Session irrespective of the grade obtained in the First Session.

Resit of the Examination

9. (1) Candidates who narrowly fail to obtain an overall Grade C following the first session of examinations (May and September sittings) shall have their result denoted by Grade N.

(2) Grade N shall be awarded to candidates who obtain a minimum of 40 grade points and can satisfy all the requirements for the award of the Certificate by sitting the examination in one subject only.

(3) The results of candidates awarded Grade N shall be carried forward for a maximum of two years. Such candidates shall be allowed to sit for one subject only. This subject must be either a failed or a low graded subject or another subject from the same group and the same level.

(4) Candidates who have obtained the Certificate or persons who are in possession of other qualifications and are required by the University of Malta to obtain passes at Advanced and/ or Intermediate Level in order to be eligible for admission into a University course, shall be allowed to sit for the examination at Advanced and/ or Intermediate Level in the required subject/ s. In such cases, candidates shall receive a transcript of results but a certificate shall only be awarded for passes at Advanced Level.
Results

10. (1) The results sent to candidates shall show the subjects in which a pass grade had been awarded as well as the subjects in which the standard required for the lowest grade was not reached.

(2) Candidates who fail to qualify for the award of the Certificate shall be given single subject certificates for any passes obtained at Advanced Level.

(3) An authenticated copy of the result may be obtained from the MATSEC Support Unit against a fee as determined by the University.

Examination in Single Subjects

11. (1) Candidates may sit for examinations in single subjects at Advanced Level only. In the case of a pass grade a certificate shall be issued.

(2) Such certificates shall, however, not be taken into consideration for the granting of a Matriculation Certificate.

Registration

12. (1) Registration for the First Session of the Examination, on the appropriate application form and accompanied by the relevant fee, must be made by the closing date as published in the notice for registration. Applications submitted after the closing date but by the published date for late applications shall be accepted if an additional fee is paid.

(2) The Registrar may, at his discretion, accept applications for registration for the First Session at a later date against the payment of a further additional fee.
(3) Registration for the Supplementary Session shall be made during the week following the publication of the First Session results. Candidates shall be allowed to register for the Supplementary Session only if they had also registered for the First Session of the examination.

(4) The Registrar may, at his discretion, accept late applications for the Supplementary Session after the closing date if an additional fee is paid.

(5) Alterations to the application form may only be made by the candidates subject to the same conditions and additional fees applicable for late registration.

(6) Private candidates must submit their project descriptions as specified by the syllabus.

**Enquiries upon Results**

13. The marking of papers and the results shall be final and binding on all candidates and the MATSEC Board shall not, except in its absolute discretion, enter into correspondence about results with candidates or their parents or any other person.

**Candidates with Special Needs**

14. (1) Candidates with special needs may be given the option to be exempted from being examined in a particular component of the examination, such as an oral or a practical examination. When candidates accept the option and their work is pro-rated to compensate for the missing component, their certificate shall be endorsed as follows:

‘Special arrangements were made to enable the candidate to be assessed in this subject. Details may be obtained from the Registrar.’
(2) Such certificates shall only be issued as a last resort when ways cannot be found of supporting candidates with special needs to satisfy examination requirements.

(3) Applications requesting special arrangements shall be made on the appropriate form, within the date stipulated by the MATSEC Board, and must be endorsed by the Head of the candidate’s school and supported by appropriate medical or other professional evidence issued within the two years previous to the examination.

Conduct during the Examination

15. (1) Conduct during the Examination shall be governed by the statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University in force at the time of the examination.

(2) Candidates shall not be allowed into an examination room after the first half hour of the examination, and they shall not be allowed to leave the examination room, temporarily or permanently, during the first half hour and during the last quarter of an hour of an examination.

(3) Mobile phones, books, note-books, and any other unauthorised aids to the examination (including electronic aids) must be left outside the examination room or delivered to the invigilator before the examination questions are distributed.

(4) Candidates shall be provided with one or more examination booklets, which must be filled in accordance with the directions printed on the cover of the booklet. No part of an examination booklet may be torn off, and no examination booklet or part thereof may be taken outside the examination room.

(5) When an index number is used, candidates must not write their name on any part of the examination booklet or make any mark thereon calculated to disclose their identity to a marker.
(6) Candidates caught cheating, or attempting to cheat, during an examination or in any way caught taking, or attempting to take, an unfair advantage over other candidates shall be subject to disciplinary procedures as laid down in the statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University at the time of the examination. Such candidates may have the results of all their examinations cancelled and they may also be precluded from sitting for any other examinations offered by the MATSEC Board.

**Coursework**

16. (1) All coursework is to be available at the candidates’ schools for moderation by the Markers’ Panel.

(2) The school assessments must reach the MATSEC Support Unit by the date specified by the MATSEC Board.

(3) Private candidates are required to submit their coursework as established by the Board, with a dated endorsement showing where it was carried out, by the date specified by the MATSEC Board.

(4) Candidates may be called for an interview relating to their coursework.

(5) Coursework assessment marks may also be retained for subsequent sessions of the Examination, but the candidates may, at their option, present new coursework.

**Oral/Aural Components of the Examination**

17. A Supplementary Session for orals shall be made available to candidates who are marked absent for the First Session of the oral/aural examination provided that they are either covered by a medical certificate presented within three days of the oral/aural examination or they are absent for a reason deemed valid by the MATSEC Board. Candidates who are absent for the oral/aural examination in the First Session without a valid reason shall not be
awarded any marks and shall not be entitled to a supplementary oral examination.

**Examination Work**

18. (1) Candidates are expected to bear in mind the necessity for good expression and orderly presentation in their examination answers.

(2) All work submitted in connection with the Examination, including written work and coursework, shall remain the property of the MATSEC Board, but may be returned to the candidates at the discretion of the MATSEC Board.

**Structure of Examination Papers**

19. Each Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examination has its own particular structure.

**Examination Materials**

20. (1) No texts or dictionaries are permitted in the examination room unless specifically indicated in the syllabus.

(2) The use of non-programmable electronic calculators is permitted in Mathematics, science subjects, and related subjects, unless indicated otherwise in the syllabus.

(3) A booklet with mathematical formulae shall be supplied by the MATSEC Board where appropriate.

**Revision of Examination Papers**

21. (1) In terms of regulation 6 of the University Examinations Regulations, candidates who are not satisfied with the grade awarded to them in any of the subjects for which they sat, may request a revision of their examination
scripts, within the period specified by the MATSEC Board and against a fee as determined by the University.

(2) The revised result shall be final.

Quality of Language

22. Candidates are expected to bear in mind the necessity for good expression and orderly presentation in their examination answers.

Language of Examination

23. Candidates are required to answer in the language the questions are set, unless otherwise specified in the examination paper.

Repeal

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