

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

SEC LEVEL

CLASSICAL STUDIES AND CIVILIZATION

MAY 2013

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

SEC CCC
MAY 2013 SESSION
EXAMINERS' REPORT

Introduction

There were three candidates for this session, two for Paper 2B and one for Paper 2A.

Table 1: Distribution of grades for Sec Classical Culture & Civilization Examination – May 2013:

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	0	0	0	1				0	0	1
PAPER B				0	1	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
% OF TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

PAPER I: HISTORY

This paper is made up of two sections which together cover History of Classical Greece and History of Classical Rome.

Although one candidate has produced slightly better answers than the other two, the questions in general were not well addressed and very insufficiently discussed. In other words, the impression given by the candidates is that there is no real grasp of the issues involved and the points mentioned were merely what may have been picked up in a very cursory reading of the material involved. Several answers are far too short, orthographic errors abound in all papers and command of English leaves a lot to be desired.

PAPER II: CULTURE

This paper involves three separate sections of which the Section on Greek/Roman Literature is compulsory and in the other two sections, the candidate is free to answer questions on Daily Life in Ancient Rome and/or on Greek Mythology.

Although the overall marks here, for the two B paper candidates, were higher than the marks for Paper I, the answers in the Literature section are disappointing and indicate that there not much attention has been given to the basic texts and themes which should have been covered in the syllabus. Where there is relevance in the answers, the points mentioned are simply not sufficiently discussed leading to an overall impression of superficiality and incomplete understanding.

As for the other two sections, the questions on Greek Mythology, as usual, tend to be more popular than others. Again the tendency is to be superficial and simplistic; in some cases although the information is known by the candidate, it is presented in a rather garbled form and of course, here again, adequate discussion of essay titles is very lacking as is absent a command of the English language and orthography.

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General Comments

The syllabus for this subject is admittedly rather vast, as it ranges from History to Literature to Mythology, as well as a number of special topics both for the Greek and for the Roman world. There is no substitute for proper reading both of basic classical texts (in translation, of course) and general reading on the culture and history of the Classical era. Failure to do this would necessarily lead to candidates who are insufficiently prepared to tackle this subject.

Chairperson
Examiners' Panel 2013