

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

GERMAN

MAY 2014

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

EXAMINATIONS' BOARD

**SEC GERMAN
MAY 2014 SESSION
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

Introduction

A total of 378 candidates sat for SEC German in May 2014 (there were 346 candidates in 2013, 378 in 2012, 469 in 2011 and 473 in 2010.) This shows a halt in the decreasing number of candidates evident in previous years. This year 262 candidates applied for Paper 2A (69.3%, last year 62.4%) while 116 (30.7%, last year 37.6%) opted for Paper 2B.

Table 1 shows the number of students who applied for SEC German from 2010 to 2014:

Table 1

Year	Total	Paper 2A	Paper 2B
2014	378	262	116
2013	346	216	130
2012	378	236	142
2011	469	295	174
2010	473	259	214

The examination papers had the same format as the last three years. All the written sections in Paper 2A and Paper 2B were marked separately by two different markers and the final mark in each case was calculated taking both marks into consideration. In cases where a discrepancy was noted, the opinion of a third marker was decisive.

Overall Performance

Table 2 below shows the distribution of grades obtained in the May 2014 session:

Table 2

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	25	34	47	45	56			53	2	262
PAPER B				11	33	29	17	25	1	116
TOTAL	25	34	47	56	89	29	17	78	3	378
% OF TOTAL	6.61	8.99	12.43	14.81	23.54	7.67	4.50	20.63	0.79	100

Tables 3 outlines the grades obtained in the 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 sessions:

Table 3

	Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	Abs	Total
2014	I & IIA	25	34	47	45	56	--	--	53	2	262
	I & IIB	--	--	--	11	33	29	17	25	1	116
	Total N	25	34	47	56	89	29	18	77	3	378
2013	I & IIA	18	27	40	35	48	--	--	45	3	216
	I & IIB	--	--	--	10	24	34	37	25	0	130
	Total N	18	27	40	45	72	34	37	70	3	346
2012	I & IIA	20	35	37	39	47	--	--	55	3	236
	I & IIB	--	--	--	10	26	37	33	30	6	142
	Total N	20	35	37	49	73	37	33	85	9	378
2011	I & IIA	30	36	44	35	75	--	--	70	5	295
	I & IIB	--	--	--	12	30	34	52	38	8	174
	Total N	30	36	44	47	105	34	52	108	13	469

Part 1

Spoken Interaction

The oral examination consisted of three parts and required two candidates to interact with each other to perform the tasks. This component was similar to that in the last three years. Most candidates were able to carry out a basic conversation.

Listening Comprehension

The Listening Comprehension exam was recorded. The component was similar to that presented in the last three years and care was taken to ensure that the topics were suitable for the average age of the candidates. The majority of the candidates understood the content but many were not able to give correct written answers.

Paper 1 – Grammar (Sprachbausteine and Satzbau)

In this section the results were varied. All in all, many of the candidates were still not able to construct a simple written sentence in the German language correctly. This problem has already been observed in previous years.

Paper 2A and Paper 2B

These papers consist of a reading comprehension section and a written section that comprises a letter or an e-mail, and a report in Paper 2A or a note in Paper 2B.

Reading Comprehension Section

The texts were interesting and suited to the candidates' age. All in all, this time the candidates who opted for Paper 2B performed better than those who opted for Paper 2A.

Written Section

Paper 2A

Letter to a pen friend and Report on a visit to the National Aquarium

This section tests the productive writing skills. In this section candidates are required to express themselves freely.

The theme of the letter was within the candidates' competence.

Candidates seemed to be often influenced by the English language with respect to syntax. The position of the conjugated verb tended to be problematic. Prepositions were often used as in English. Capital letters were not adequately used in the case of nouns. Influence of the English language was also evident with respect to grammar.

As noted in previous years, various candidates use the incorrect phrases "Ich bin gut / Meine Familie ist gut" or "Ich gehe gut" instead of "Mir geht es gut/ Meiner Familie geht es gut." This wrong idiomatic form is influenced by English and should be avoided.

In contrast, some very good phrases were used and many candidates wrote an acceptable answer to the tasks set.

Paper 2B

E-Mail and „Nachricht“

The topics given included hobbies and planning the future. The results in this section were much better than those of last year.

Conclusion

2014 saw a slight increase in the number of candidates who sat for SEC German. Overall results this year were similar to those of last year and better than those obtained in 2011 and 2012. This trend is both positive and hopeful.

*Chairperson
2014 Examination Panel*