



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta

### **Clarification regarding May 2016 SEC examination results**

The recent publication of May 2016 SEC examination results has led to several reports and comments about standards. On the basis of the global results that were published, some reports perceived deteriorating standards, others claimed practically no change in achievement. However, a clarification is needed on the comments about the standards achieved by previous 16-year-old cohorts compared to this year's cohort, which happens to be the first group of Form 5 students who sat for SEC examinations since the removal of an entrance examination at the end of primary schooling. The comparison can only be made if only the results of 16-year-olds or Form 5 cohorts are taken into account not the global results.

For information, the percentages of candidates of the respective 2015 and 2016 cohorts who obtained passes with Grades 1 to 5 in the core subjects were as given in parenthesis, with the 2015 results shown first: English Language (72.3, 72.6), Maltese (71.9, 68.4), Mathematics (62.7, 61.2), and Physics (70.2, 71.2). These results show that the 2016 cohort performed marginally better in English Language and Physics, while the 2015 cohort performed slightly better in Mathematics and clearly better in Maltese. A fuller analysis can be carried out after the results of the September supplementary session are published.

Frank Ventura

Chairman

MATSEC Examinations Board