

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE**

**SEC**

**HOME ECONOMICS**

**MAY 2014**

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

**SEC Home Economics**  
**May 2014 Session**  
**Examiners' Report**

**Section 1: Statistical Information**

Table 1 shows the distribution of grades for the May 2014 session of the examination.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Abs</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Paper A</b>	49	180	203	130	29			56	0	647
<b>Paper B</b>				72	78	100	28	40	6	324
<b>Total</b>	49	180	203	202	107	100	28	96	6	971
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>5.04</b>	<b>18.53</b>	<b>20.90</b>	<b>20.80</b>	<b>11.01</b>	<b>10.29</b>	<b>2.88</b>	<b>9.88</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>100</b>

**Part 2: Comments regarding candidate's performance****2.1 Paper1****Question 1: Cereals**

- a. Several candidates, particularly those attempting Paper B, found difficulty labelling the wheat grain using the correct terminology. Numerous candidates mistook the diagram for a plant cell, referring to the cytoplasm and nucleus. In addition, the 'germ' and 'endosperm' were swapped around by a small proportion of candidates.
- b. This question did not pose any major difficulties to the majority of candidates and several types of cereals were cited appropriately. However, it is pertinent to note that a substantial number of candidates disregarded the word 'other', listing wheat as one of their responses. In addition, the term pulses was a common response. A few candidates made direct reference to names of breakfast cereals.
- c. On the whole this question was completed appropriately by the majority of candidates and valid storage methods were outlined.
- d. The majority of candidates suggested valid reasons as to why people are encouraged to consume high fibre rather than refined cereals. The most common recommendations were related to the lowering of blood sugar and cholesterol, the prevention of constipation, cancer of the colon and diverticulitis. Few candidates made reference to the difference between these cereals in relation to taste, texture and nutritional value.
- e. Despite being a very straightforward question, a substantial number of candidates found difficulty providing concrete ways of including cereals in everyday meals. It was noted that where the application of knowledge was a requirement, many candidates underperformed. Common and recurring answers were 'at breakfast', 'as a mid-day snack' and 'for dinner'. Few candidates suggested practical ways of using this food commodity at meal times.

**Question 2: Food**

- a. On the whole, the majority of candidates performed well in this question and outlined such benefits as supplying energy, sparing from disease and assisting with growth, repair and maintenance of the body. Nonetheless, a substantial amount of candidates listed survival as being another benefit associated with the consumption of food. This answer was not accepted as it was related to the opening sentence of the question.
- b. The candidates' performance in this question was good and valid recommendations were listed to control John's weight gain, including the consumption of fruits and vegetables, white meat, wholegrain cereals, water and the reduction in the intake of saturated fat and sugar. However, some candidates failed to address the question and outlined limiting salt intake and performing physical activity, the former not associated with weight gain, while the latter not related to diet.
- c. Almost all candidates demonstrated appropriate knowledge in this question and listed physical activity as a method of improving health, apart from diet.
- d. The majority of candidates found difficulty providing the full name for these terms and few candidates were able to achieve full marks. In addition, it is pertinent to note that candidates, who failed to spell the terms correctly, were unable to obtain marks in the said question.
- e. The performance in this question was poor by both Paper A and B candidates indicating a lack of knowledge in this regard. Answers which provided numbers without accompanying measurements, such as *kcal* or *kJ* were not accepted.

**Question 3: The CINDI Food Guide Pyramid**

- a. Most of the candidates listed correct foods that should be either consumed in large amounts or moderately. However, at times, candidates mentioned unhealthy foods such as soft drinks and junk foods as foods that should be eaten in moderation.
- b. On the whole this question was completed appropriately with candidates giving a different reason for every unhealthy item listed. Most of the listed items were foods high in salt, fat or sugar.
- c. This question did not pose any major difficulties to the majority of the candidates. The most common correct answers were that pulses are an alternative food for vegetarian people and that pulses have similar nutrients as that of meat, mainly protein and iron.
- d. The most common dishes chosen by the candidates which included pulses were soups, such as lentil soup, casseroles, rice with peas and chili con carne.
- e. This question was answered correctly by most candidates. Reasons why pulses should be soaked in water prior cooking included; 'reducing the cooking time', 'to remove dirt, bacteria or toxins', 'to become soft when cooked'.

**Question 4: Food choices and Milk**

- a. The majority of the candidates demonstrated appropriate knowledge regarding the different factors that affect our choice of food. Most of the candidates got full marks for this question. However, some candidates repeated answers such as listing different health conditions that influence our food choices.
- b. This question was answered correctly by most candidates.
- c. Most students gave appropriate suggestions about how fresh milk can be included in the diet of a five-year old child. The most common answers were: added to breakfast cereals and added to fruit such as strawberries to make milkshakes. Some students also listed milk used to make custard and homemade white sauce to make pasta and lasagne.
- d. The majority knew the correct meaning of a 'Use by' date.

**Question 5: The importance of Nutrients**

- a. Some candidates found this question rather difficult as quite a good number of them were not able to write down the correct answer to this question. It was noted that most candidates were more familiar with the chemical name and deficiency disease of Vitamin A rather than Vitamin B.
- b. A significant number of candidates were unable to give the correct reason why folic acid is important during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. On the other hand, nearly all candidates knew that children and teenagers need more protein for growth. Quite a good number of candidates knew that athletes need to consume more foods rich in carbohydrates to provide them with energy.
- c. For this question candidates' performance was quite good. Most candidates listed correct food sources of HBV protein and starchy carbohydrates. However, some candidates found it difficult to list appropriate food sources of folic acid and iron.
- d. A lot of candidates gave relevant and correct answers when they had to identify the importance of iron in the diet. On the other hand, in the second part of the question some candidates managed to identify Vitamin C and its function in helping the absorption of iron, while others mentioned an incorrect vitamin that is linked with iron. The most popular population groups with higher protein requirements were pregnant women, children, people who are recovering from an operation and women. Correct reasons were also listed to compliment these answers. The most common incorrect answers for this question were vegetarians/vegans and elderly people. Nearly all candidates listed correct ways how vegans can ensure an adequate intake of iron with soya products, iron supplements and green leafy vegetables being the most common correct answers.

**Question 6: Food Packaging**

- a. Most candidates managed to come up with valid reasons why food packaging is important. Most common answers were to protect food from damage or contamination, to provide the consumer with information about the product, to promote the product through attractive packaging and for ease of transportation.
- b. The majority of the candidates seemed to struggle to think of four different materials (apart from glass) that are used for food packaging. The least popular answer was textiles/ cotton used to pack bulk foods including grain, flour, sugar and salt. Examples of food given were most often correct.
- c. Most candidates were able to give three advantages and three disadvantages of glass food packaging.
- d. Candidates performed well in this question. At times however, little regard was given to the word *food* packaging and listed other measures to reduce the negative impact on the environment. In addition, some candidates, especially those taking paper B, failed to explain the practices listed.

**Question 7: Natural and synthetic food additives.**

- a. Only a few candidates managed to list correct natural food additives, while most candidates failed to identify two synthetic food additives. Poor knowledge of food additives was demonstrated.
- b. While some candidates were able to outline two advantages of food additives, a significant number of candidates were unable to list the two disadvantages of food additives.
- c. A good number of candidates were familiar with the importance of the E numbers, however most of them failed to explain their meaning leading to loss of marks.

**Question 8: The digestive System**

- a. The majority of the candidates scored well in this question. Although it was not expected of them, some of the candidates did not only label the digestive system but also explained each step.
- b. Most candidates did not find any difficulty in listing two guidelines that promoted a healthy digestive system.
- c. Most of the candidates gave correct answers when asked about the importance of chewing in digestion.
- d. When asked to list the function of enzymes, some candidates got their answers perfectly correct while others gave completely incorrect answers.

**Question 9: The Yeast Dough**

- a. The majority of candidates answered this question correctly, listing the proper function of raising agents.
- b. Most respondents answered correctly to this question. Some, however, especially lower achievers, listed the basic ingredients needed for the yeast dough (even though the latter had to be repeated in part d), rather than *conditions* for the yeast to grow successfully,
- c. A good number of candidates listed bread as an example of a *baked item* where yeast may be used even though this was clearly given as an example in the question. In addition, at times some candidates listed other products containing yeast such as *beer*.
- d. Quite a good number of candidates confused the yeast dough with the shortcrust pastry and so gave the main ingredients of shortcrust pastry such as margarine and milk instead of the ingredients of yeast dough.
- e. With regards to this part of the question, where the candidates had to mention rules to follow when making the yeast dough, and in relation to what has been written before, that the candidates mixed yeast dough with shortcrust pastry, quite a large number of candidates got this part of the question wrong.
- f. The majority of the lower achievers gave incorrect answers or abstained from giving the definition of the terms *fermentation* and *proofing*. Some of the high achievers on the other hand managed to define proofing. Yet still, a good percentage of these candidates failed to give an accurate definition of fermentation.

**Question 10: Organic Farming**

- a. At times candidates just mentioned that in organic farming, artificial fertilisers, chemicals and pesticides are not used. They failed to refer to the positive impact of organic farming on the environment.
- b. The majority of the candidates, especially lower achievers, struggled with this question. Some gave correct ways how organic farming differs from conventional farming methods but then repeated the same answers when listing the benefits and disadvantages of organic farming. On the whole most candidates showed lack of knowledge about this aspect.
- c. Candidates seemed to have problems with this part of the question and quite a large number of candidates gave unrelated or incorrect answers with regards to the benefits of using organic farming methods.
- d. Few candidates were able to give two disadvantages to organic farming. The most common answer was that organic food is more expensive to buy for the consumer.
- e. At times lower achievers seemed not to understand this question and provided incorrect answers. High achievers, on the other hand, suggested several valid ways to increase awareness about organic farming.

**Home Economics 2014**

**Paper 2A**

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**Question 1: Cookers**

- a. The majority of the candidates did not find any difficulty in identifying the types of cookers.
- b. The majority of the candidates mentioned three valid main parts of a cooker.
- c. When it came to listing and describing three special features that may be found in a cooker, most of the candidates gave an incorrect answer. Most of the candidates wrote parts of a cooker such as a grill instead of special features such as self-cleaning oven lining.
- d. Most of the candidates listed three valid advantages of using a microwave oven and also a good rule to follow when using a microwave oven.

**Question 2: Budgeting**

- a. While the majority of candidates scored well in this question, the two sources of income was wrongly given by some candidates.
- b. In this part of the question, the candidates were expected to mention ways how a young woman living with her parents can spend her income. Things such as buying food or paying loan or bills were not accepted.
- c. Some of the candidates were able to mention relevant answers for this question while others failed to give valid advantages of planning a household budget.
- d. Most candidates gave a valid definition of gross income and net income.
- e. The majority of candidates were able to give two reasons why it is better to put money in a bank account rather than leaving the money at home. Quite a number of candidates were unable to mention the name of the bank account that is suitable for Janet.
- f. With regards to naming a bank account where money is left untouched, here again some candidates found difficulty in naming a valid bank account. However, most candidates listed a good advantage of the bank account mentioned in previous answer.

**Question 3: Kitchen Planning**

- a. The majority of high achievers managed to link the term ergonomic with the study of people's efficiency in the kitchen environment; however the majority of candidates lacked the necessary vocabulary to describe this term effectively.

b. This question did not pose any major difficulty to candidates, however not all candidates were successful in mentioning the cooker, fridge and the sink. The majority of candidates were capable of illustrating the work triangle in a freehand labelled diagram.

c. The majority of low achievers found this question difficult as they were unable to provide three reasons why the work triangle is important in kitchen planning and provided repetitive answers to 1a and 1b. High achievers were able to provide various answers, including the use of keywords like efficient distance, traffic, work zone, frustration, strain on the user and efficiency.

d. Not all candidates were able to give valid points when deciding on lighting, ventilation and floor covering, with the majority being very repetitive in their answers and ideas. However a good number of candidates made reference to choosing energy saving lights and appliances, as well as the importance of natural lighting in the kitchen. The majority of candidates also successfully mentioned the importance of choosing non-slip flooring which is easy to clean and durable.

#### **Question 4: Elderly**

a. Overall most of the candidates successfully mentioned advantages and disadvantages for the case study in the question, showing awareness about the different struggles faced by the elderly who need to decide between living in their own residence and staying in an elderly residential home.

b. This question did not pose any difficulty and candidates suggested valid reasons why elderly people are more prone to accidents.

c. Not all candidates were able to suggest ways how the elderly person in the case study could keep his morale high during recovery. A good number of candidates lacked creativity in their answers. Very few candidates were able to mention two ways how the elderly person could contribute to his community after recovery; however the most common correct suggestions were voluntary work, contributing to the local parish or local council and joining an organization or club.

d. Almost all candidates managed to list two important safety rules that an elderly person should follow when walking or crossing a busy street, with the most common answers being crossing from a zebra crossing or pedestrian lights, asking for help to a passer-by and walking on the pavement.

#### **Question 5: Family**

a. The majority of the candidates did not find any difficulty in identifying different types of families.

b. Most candidates managed to outline three rights and one responsibility of children within a family.

c. Some of the candidates did not understand this question and so they were unable to discuss the merits of good child-parent communication. In fact, some wrongly explained how a child and a parent can have a good communication.

d. With regards to identifying a situation which can cause stress in the family, most candidates wrote very good situations. However it was noted, that some candidates found it difficult to suggest two ways how the family can keep stress to a minimum when at home.

e. The factors that may influence the choice of leisure time activities chosen by a family was correctly described by most candidates.

f. Most of the candidates did not have problems in writing down welfare services that may be used during the child's developing years. Most candidates were able to explain briefly why it is important to follow the vaccine programme offered by the National Immunisation Services for their child. However, this was not the case when the candidates were asked to mention four diseases that the baby will be immunised against when completing the programme. While the candidates mentioned different immunisation, most of them were not related to the question asked.

g. A good number of candidates gave two valid guidelines that should be followed when storing cleaning agents. The part of the question when they had to mention the treatment for a minor burn did not present a lot of difficulties for the candidates to answer. The most common answers for the question about what items you will find in a first aid box, most of the candidates listed scissors, bandages, tweezers and disposable gloves. The majority got this part of the question right.

#### **Question 6: Buying and Renting a House**

a. This question did not pose any difficulty in mentioning three factors which influence the choice of home besides the cost. The most common acceptable answers were: size of the house, locality and neighbourhood and type of household.

b. The majority of candidates defined the term *renting* successfully and found no difficulty in this question. Not all candidates were able to mention two reasons why renting is not very popular in Malta. Overall the majority of candidates were able to provide one reason why renting may be a good option for the young couple in the case study, with the most common answer being that renting provides flexibility and the opportunity to live together whilst saving for a future family home. Most of the candidates mentioned advantages and disadvantages of buying a house successfully and showed full understanding of the question.

c. A good percentage of candidates were able to mention *real estate agents* as the go-to persons for assistance in finding an ideal home. However a good number of students just wrote *agents*. Nearly all candidates recognised the main disadvantage of consulting with a real estate agent, with the majority of answers referring to the *cost* of hiring the service. Overall, this question was addressed well, with the majority of candidates outlining correctly the role of the architect in the inspection of the house prior to renting or buying.

d. Nearly all candidates were able to list an advantage and a disadvantage of obtaining a loan to buy a house. However, only high achievers used proper terminology like the term *interest*. Overall most of the candidates were able to mention an important factor that the bank would need to consider before granting the loan, with the most common answer being *income*. The majority of high achievers were able to define the term *life assurance*, but a good number of candidates confused this term with *home insurance*. Not all candidates were able to specify that life assurance gives *financial protection* and some candidates lacked the proper terminology to explain themselves properly. The majority of candidates were able to outline the importance of having a home insurance, with the most common answers being protection against damage to the property with examples like fire and theft.

e. The majority of candidates were able to mention and explain one safety procedure for the kitchen and the bathroom, showing proficiency in this question.

### **Question 7: Family Wash**

a. The majority of candidates addressed this question well and outlined various types of detergents that assist with the laundering of clothes, including powder, liquid and biological, among others. Nonetheless, a small proportion of candidates made reference to popular washing laundry detergent brands, failing to obtain any marks.

b. This question was completed appropriately with typical answers including the type of fragrance, family requirements such as having sensitive skin, price, level of concentration, biodegradability and low phosphate content. Candidates who identified 'quality' as one of the factors failed to obtain marks due to the ambiguity of their response.

c. This question posed no major difficulties and the majority of candidates outlined valid reasons as to why clothes should be prepared before washing with the following answers featuring frequently: to treat stains, separate whites from colours to prevent clothes from being ruined, to wash at the appropriate temperature and prevent damaging clothes. Similarly, the second part of the question was well-addressed. The candidates highlighted the importance of reading care labels well, primarily to prevent damage including shrinkage and know what detergent to apply to the clothing. Candidates must ensure that if the question calls for ONE reason, they should abstain from listing more as only the first answer will be considered.

d. The majority of candidates addressed this question well and identified valid factors that need to be taken into consideration prior to purchasing a washing machine. Typical answers included price, efficiency and size of room and/or family. The examiner failed to accept 'weight' as an answer as the candidate's response was incoherent. Proper terminology such as 'capacity' should have been used in lieu. In general this question did not pose any major difficulties and common answers included date of purchase, name and type of product and type of guarantee (parts, labour or both).

e. Few candidates successfully completed the question at hand and the minority was awarded full marks. Many candidates failed to list essential rules for successful stain removal and their knowledge in this regard was fairly

limited. Some candidates obtained few marks for partially correct answers. The examiner failed to accept answers such as wash in water (with no indication of temperature), wash as usual or wash with a detergent.

f. In general, the candidates outlined valid ways of curbing water usage in the home and garden. Their environmental awareness was broad. Typical answers which featured included closing water when brushing teeth and opting for a shower rather than a bath. Similarly, the candidates demonstrated good understanding of the question at hand and outlined valid recommendations as to how electricity consumption could be mitigated. Reasons provided indicated the candidate's knowledge with regards to making use of alternative sources of energy. Typical responses included reducing electricity bills and reducing pollution and the greenhouse effect. Some candidates also made reference to the fact that fossil fuels are on the decline and solar and other forms of energy are renewable sources.

**Home Economics 2014**

**Paper 2B**

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**Question 1: Cookers**

- a. Overall the question was poorly completed by candidates sitting for Paper 2B. The majority of the candidates failed to identify the types of cookers.
- b. Most candidates had difficulty labelling correctly the parts of the cooker.
- c. When it came to listing and explaining two special features that may be found in a cooker, candidates wrongly listed parts of the cooker such as cooker hood or grill rather than special features found in a cooker.
- d. Because they failed to write relevant answers in the previous question, candidates got this part of the question wrong.
- e. When it came to listing down advantages of using a microwave oven, most of the candidates listed three valid advantages. Most students also gave relevant answers with regards to rules to follow when using a microwave oven.

**Question 2: Budgeting**

- a. The performance for Question 2 was quite mixed. Most candidates found it difficult to identify an income to buy a car and instead listed ways of how income could be saved up for future use.
- b. When it came to listing items or occasions when money can be spent, most candidates gave relevant, correct answers.
- c. For the question about the importance of budgeting an income, most candidates provided right answers.
- d. Some candidates misunderstood this question and worked out the difference in money rather than defined the difference between gross and net income. Most of the students did not give a valid definition.
- e. The majority of candidates were able to give two reasons why it is better to put money in a bank account rather than leaving the money at home.
- f. With regards to naming the bank account, some candidates found difficulty in naming the fixed bank account. However, most candidates listed a good advantage of the bank account mentioned in previous answer.

**Question 3: Kitchen Planning**

a. The majority of students were able to provide factors to be considered when planning a kitchen, with the most common answers being *floor space and budget available*. However the students seemed to struggle with their vocabulary and showed limitations in their understanding of questions and writing skills.

b. This question was answered correctly by most candidates, however not all candidates were successful in mentioning the *cooker, fridge* and the *sink* in their description of the work triangle.

c. The drawing of a diagram showing the work triangle did not pose any difficulties to the majority, but a good number of candidates did not label the parts of the work triangle or just drew a triangle. Some candidates also surprisingly made reference to the CINDI Food Guide Pyramid instead.

d. The majority of lower achievers found this question difficult as they were unable to provide two valid reasons why the work triangle is important in kitchen planning. Many candidates showed great difficulty in finding the right vocabulary and writing skills.

e. Like in Paper A, not all candidates were able to give valid points when deciding on lighting, ventilation and floor covering. High achievers sitting for Paper B made reference to choosing *energy saving lights* and appliances, like high achievers in Paper A, as well as the importance of *natural lighting* in the kitchen. The majority of candidates also successfully mentioned the importance of choosing *non-slip flooring* which is *easy to clean* and *durable*, but had very limited answers when it came to proper *ventilation*, using the word *fan* instead of *extractor*.

**Question 4: Elderly**

a. Overall most of the candidates did not find this question difficult and were able to give advantages and disadvantages of elderly living in their own residence versus living in an elderly residential home.

b. This question did not pose any difficulty and candidates suggested valid reasons why elderly people are more prone to accidents.

c. Not all candidates were able to suggest ways how the elderly person in the case study could keep his morale high during recovery. A good number of candidates lacked creativity in their answers and were very repetitive. Some candidates seemed to struggle in understanding the wording of the questions posed in the paper. The majority of candidates were able to suggest one way how other people can help John feel better, with the most common answers being the provision of support to the elderly, helping them in house chores and providing moral support to improve their quality of life. Like in Paper A, high achievers in Paper B, were able to mention ways how the elderly person can contribute to the community. Most candidates mentioned voluntary work, contributing to the local parish or local council and joining an organisation or club, but low achievers seemed to find it difficult to understand the question.

d. Almost all candidates managed to list two important safety rules that an elderly person should follow when walking or crossing a busy street, with the most common answers being crossing from a zebra crossing or pedestrian lights, asking for help to a passer-by and walking on the pavement.

**Question 5: Family**

- a. The majority of the candidates did not find any difficulty in identifying different types of families.
- b. Most candidates were able to outline three good rights and one responsibility of children within a family.
- c. Not all candidates were able to discuss the benefits of good child-parent communication.
- d. With regards to identifying a situation which can cause stress in the family, most candidates wrote very good situations.
- e. A good number of candidates were also able to suggest good ways how stress can be reduced in a family with two teenagers where both the father and mother work outside the home.
- f. It was noted that some candidates found it difficult to suggest welfare services that may be used during the child's developing years. Also most candidates were able to explain why vaccines are important. However, this cannot be said for the next question. A lot of other diseases were mentioned instead of the ones a baby is immunised against.
- g. A good number of candidates gave correct answer, where they listed two valid guidelines that should be followed when storing cleaning agents. Most candidates were also able describe the first aid treatment for a minor burn and to list down proper items that could be found in a first aid box.

**Question 6: Buying and Renting a House**

- a. This question did not pose any difficulty in mentioning three factors which influence the choice of home. The most common acceptable answers were cost, size of the house, locality and neighbourhood and type of household.
- b. Many candidates did not acknowledge the fact that with renting the property is not yours and almost none of the candidates used proper terminology like *tenant* and *landlord*. Again, the problem with language made low achievers struggle to answer the questions. Even though students are not penalised for improper English language and grammatical mistakes, phrases and words in Maltese, which were very common with Paper B candidates were not accepted as relevant answers. Overall the majority of candidates were able to provide advantages and disadvantages of renting and buying a house outlining the difference between renting and buying through their answers.
- c. A good percentage of candidates were able describe the role of the *estate agent*. The majority of students outlined the *cost* of hiring the service of an estate agent as the main disadvantage and showed no difficulty in answering the question. However, almost none of the students outlined the difference in scenario when the property is acquired directly from the owner.

d. Nearly all candidates were able to list an advantage and a disadvantage of obtaining a loan to buy a house. Unfortunately, many low achievers seemed to struggle with writing down the proper terminology in most parts of the paper, as well as improper use of English, writing many terms in Maltese which could not be accepted. A considerable number of candidates were able to refer to the importance of finances when it comes to a loan, but very few used the word *income*. A good number of students, especially low achievers, gave one word answers like *money* and *work*. A substantial number of candidates mixed up the terms in d(iii) and d(iv), often effecting the candidate's performance in both, showing lack of understanding of the terms *home insurance* and *life insurance* policy, as well as a limitation of proper vocabulary in the answers.

e. The majority of candidates were able to mention and explain safety precautions for the kitchen and the bathroom; however a good number of candidates failed to make reference to child safety in their answers and gave generic reasons instead.

### **Question 7: Family wash**

a. On the whole, this question was completed well by the majority of candidates. However, it is pertinent to note that a substantial amount of candidates made reference to popular washing laundry detergent brands in lieu of types of detergents fit for laundering.

b. A large proportion of candidates completed this question appropriately and cited such factors as fragrance, price, level of concentration, size of detergent and possibility of refilling or recycling. Candidates who identified 'quality' as one of the factors failed to obtain marks due to the ambiguity of their response.

c. This question posed no major difficulties and the majority of candidates outlined valid reasons why clothes should be prepared before washing including: treating stains, separating whites from colours to prevent clothes from being ruined and checking pockets for tissues and coins. Similarly, the second part of the question was well-addressed by the majority. The candidates highlighted the importance of reading care labels well, stating that this provides information as to how the item should be washed, including the detergent required, and suitability of garment should it be bleached or ironed. Candidates must ensure that if the question calls for ONE reason, they should abstain from listing more answers as the examiner will only correct the first answer listed.

d. While several candidates were capable of identifying valid factors that need to be taken into consideration prior to purchasing a washing machine, a large proportion disregarded the word 'other' and listed 'guarantee' as one of their factors despite featuring in the opening statement. Typical answers included price, efficiency and size of room and/or family. The examiner failed to accept 'weight' as an answer as the candidate's response was incoherent. Proper terminology such as 'capacity' should have been used in lieu. Regarding the types of information you would expect to find on a guarantee, in general this question did not pose any major difficulties and common answers included date of purchase, name and type of product and type of guarantee (parts, labour or both). A few candidates failed to provide two types of information. Candidates who listed name of manufacturer as one of their responses were not awarded any marks.

e. Few candidates completed the question at hand. The majority failed to list essential rules for successful stain removal and their knowledge in this regard was very limited.

f. A high proportion of candidates' responses were successful in outlining valid ways of curbing water usage in the home and garden. Their environmental awareness was sound. Typical answers which featured included: closing water when brushing teeth and opting for a shower rather than a bath. The small percentage of candidates who stated that the 'water should be closed when not in use' were not awarded marks. Similarly, the candidates demonstrated a good understanding on ways how to save electricity in the home and outlined valid recommendations as to how electricity consumption could be mitigated. Overall, the majority of candidates were able to provide a valid reason with regards to making use of alternative sources of energy. The most common response dealt with the reduction in electricity bills. Some candidates made reference to the fact that Malta is blessed with sunshine and benefits from several windy days, easing the switch to renewable sources. Several candidates misunderstood the question about safe use of electricity in the washroom and instead outlined safe practices when using electricity in the bathroom rather than washroom. Those who made reference to the latter were generally only capable of providing one answer which included not touching switches with wet hands.

Chairperson

2014 Examination Panel