

IM SYLLABUS (2008-2011)

PHILOSOPHY

IM 25

SYLLABUS

Philosophy Syllabus	IM 25	(Available in September) 1 Paper (3 hrs)
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Introduction

Philosophy is a fascinating subject. It deals with some of the most basic questions human beings have asked themselves. Rather than providing easy or ready-made solutions, it encourages those who take it seriously to think about such questions systematically, to discuss them rigorously, to examine what others have said about them, to form considered judgements and derive sound conclusions from well-structured arguments.

Aims and Objectives

The Philosophy syllabus at Intermediate Level seeks to provide candidates with basic logical tools and thinking skills. It also aims at introducing them to problems in applied ethics of great topical interest (e.g. problems related to the beginning and end of life, war, sustainable development, the rights of future generations, etc.). In the history of philosophy section, students will learn about the beginning of philosophy and its development through the works of some of its earliest – and best – practitioners.

Content

- **Section A. Logic**
V. Riolo, *An Introduction to Logic* (Malta University Press, 1994).
- **Section B. Ethics**
E. Agius, *Problems in Applied Ethics* (Malta University Press, 1994).
- **Section C. History of Philosophy**
Either J. Friggieri, *In-Nisfa tal-ġsieb* (Media Centre, Malta, 2000), Chapters 1 to 7 only (pp. 1 to 165).
Or T. Irwin, *Classical Thought*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1989.

Questions in this Section will be set in both Maltese and English. Consequently, in Section C, candidates may opt to answer in either language.

Assessment Criteria

Candidates will be expected to:

- (i) show they have acquired the basic logical skills to work out logical problems;
- (ii) use language clearly, consistently and appropriately;
- (iii) identify and formulate problems philosophically;
- (iv) construct philosophical arguments;
- (v) reflect on the origins of philosophy and its early development.

Assessment Scheme

One three-hour paper is set. It will be divided into three sections. Candidates will be expected to answer three questions in all, one from each section. Each question will carry one third of the global mark.

Grade Descriptions

- A Excellent performance all round
- B Very good overall
- C Average
- D Fair to low
- E Marginal performance
- F Unsatisfactory