

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

ART

MAY 2013

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

EXAMINATIONS' BOARD

**SEC ART
MAY 2013 SESSION
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

Six hundred and sixty-eight (668) candidates registered for the SEC Art examination. The distribution of grades is outlined in the Table below:

MAY 2013 RESULTS										
GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	8	40	94	79	79			109	9	418
PAPER B				31	69	50	29	58	13	250
TOTAL	8	40	94	110	148	50	29	167	22	668
% OF TOTAL	1.20	5.99	14.07	16.47	22.16	7.49	4.34	25.00	3.29	100

Coursework and final project

The candidates with the most satisfactory portfolios worked on different themes and media and showed evidence of artistic growth. Final projects are expected to be focused and personally meaningful, and show a systematic study of a specific theme or idea. School-based assessments still tend to be rather generous. The criteria should be taken note of.

Paper I Work from observation

Work presented for this paper in this year's session was relatively weak compared to previous sessions. The majority of candidates used pencil and opted for still-life. Many candidates' works showed evidence of clear problems with basic drawing skills and understanding of space. Drawings tended to be flat, while proportions were often inaccurate. Other issues related to shading, texture and composition were apparent. On the whole, the few candidates who opted for the human figure this year had quite a good grasp of human anatomy, structure, and the like.

Paper IIA

The three general themes that candidates receive three weeks in advance should be used for studying various aspects and possible implications of the theme, and not as a definite end-product that is copied during the examination. Work receives higher marks if it is both technically accomplished and approaches the question creatively. Unfortunately, creativity was not very much in evidence in the work of many candidates who opted for No. 1 (Heavy Showers in the Countryside): the work tended to be rather superficial, and landscape elements such as trees, paths, fences and houses were stereotypical. Some of those who opted for No. 2 (Helping in the Kitchen) also approached the theme in a rather naïve way and others had problems with rendering depth. Candidates' work that included the human figure was often weak.

Paper IIB

Some students still tend to rely too much on the sketches they bring with them. This seemed to be the case especially with 'Design a poster for a national swimming event'. Some candidates approached this question as a straightforward painting related to swimming rather than a poster promoting an event. In some cases, no text was included in the poster. 'Dressed up for a party' was attempted by several candidates, some of whom made a fairly good job of rendering the figure and clothes. Few candidates attempted 'Fashion boutique': several of these had problems in rendering perspective.

*Chairperson
2013 Examination Panel*