

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

**ART**

**MAY 2014**

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE**

**EXAMINATIONS' BOARD**

## SEC EXAMINERS' REPORT – May 2014

### SEC ART MAY 2014 SESSION EXAMINERS' REPORT

Seven hundred and fifty-eight (758) candidates registered for the SEC Art examination. The distribution of grades is outlined in the Table below:

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	17	53	118	102	91			88	10	479
PAPER B				33	82	50	40	49	25	279
TOTAL	17	53	118	135	173	50	40	137	35	758
% OF TOTAL	2.24	6.99	15.57	17.81	22.82	6.60	5.28	18.07	4.62	100

#### Coursework and Final Project

The candidates with the most successful portfolios presented a range of works based on selected themes. These works showed the candidates' skill in carrying out different practices and techniques especially drawing, painting, printing, collage, etc. Different media including pencil, charcoal, pastels, poster colours, acrylics, coloured paper, etc were used. These portfolios had a selection of imaginative work as well as work from observation, and showed evidence of the candidates' artistic growth.

Final projects are expected to be focused and personally meaningful to the candidate. They should show a systematic study of a specific theme or idea. There were cases where final projects consisted of only two works, indicative of negligence and lack of focus. The best projects were well presented with a cross-section of interesting studies exploring the chosen theme. In such cases, the final work was very often of a very good standard. It is important that the project is labelled so as to be identified.

This year it was noticed that while some school-based assessments still tended to be rather generous, there was the occasional case where the opposite situation prevailed and candidates deserved higher marks.

#### Paper 1 Work from Observation

Work presented for this paper in this year's session was on the whole of a better standard than last year's. The majority of the candidates used pencil and opted for still life. Of those using paint, some worked in full colour while others worked in monochrome. Other colouring media were also used.

Some candidates' works showed evidence of clear problems with basic drawing skills and understanding of space, placing very small compositions in the middle of the paper. Some had problems with the shape of the objects, such as the hat, which was basically a cone, and the box was often rendered with inverted perspective. The proportions of the objects were sometimes inaccurate. Some drawings tended to be flat with no variation in tones. Problems in depicting the texture of the objects, especially the cloth and the plastic glass, were also evident.

The candidates who opted to tackle the human figure had a good grasp of human anatomy and structure, rendering the pose of the model well. On the whole, the drawings were of a good standard with occasionally very successful results.

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### **Paper II Composition from a Theme**

The three general themes that the candidates receive three weeks in advance should be used to study various aspects and possible implications of the theme. This preparatory work is not an end product and should not be copied during the examination but should be used creatively to produce an original composition about the chosen title. A number of candidates downloaded pictures from the internet which they proceeded to copy. Work receives higher marks if it is both technically accomplished and approaches the question creatively.

Occasionally a candidate reached the standard of Paper A but could not be given a higher grade due to having chosen to sit for Paper B. Inversely, there were candidates who opted to sit for Paper A and who obtained an unclassified grade, who might have obtained a better grade if they had chosen to tackle Paper B instead.

#### Paper II A

The rendering of *Design a Poster for a New Year's Eve Party*, on the whole, showed the least creative approach, with problems of lettering and what information to include. Some works, such as *Carnival Celebrations* and *The Village Square*, were the most successfully tackled, although some candidates still found problems regarding the use of colour and perspective. Depicting the human figure still poses a problem. In fact, in cases where the title required the inclusion of figures, these were eliminated altogether. For example, there were occasions in *Neolithic Temples Tour* where the temples or items related to them were depicted but the tour part of the question was never tackled.

#### Paper II B

A good number of works presented for Paper B showed lack of knowledge of painting, how to use colour and how to create a good composition.

Candidates opting to tackle this paper still tend to rely excessively on the sketches they bring with them, copying them without really thinking about what is being asked of them. In the question *Design a Poster for a Science Fiction Film*, some candidates responded by creating a painting instead of a poster, and the required text was omitted altogether. The most successful posters had eye catching designs with clear and attractive lettering in the text. *Creating a Design for a Tablecloth* proved difficult for a number of candidates who instead of designing the pattern drew the table and tablecloth, tackling the question as an imaginative one. Before attempting such a question, candidates should know the elements required in pattern making and how these could be employed to tackle the task requested. Some candidates who attempted *Rubble Walls in the Maltese Countryside* had difficulty depicting the walls. *Fruit Picking* was attempted by a number of candidates, some of whom made a good job of rendering the figure and clothes of the pickers.

*Chairperson  
2014 Examination Panel*