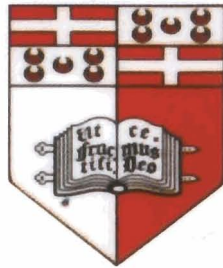
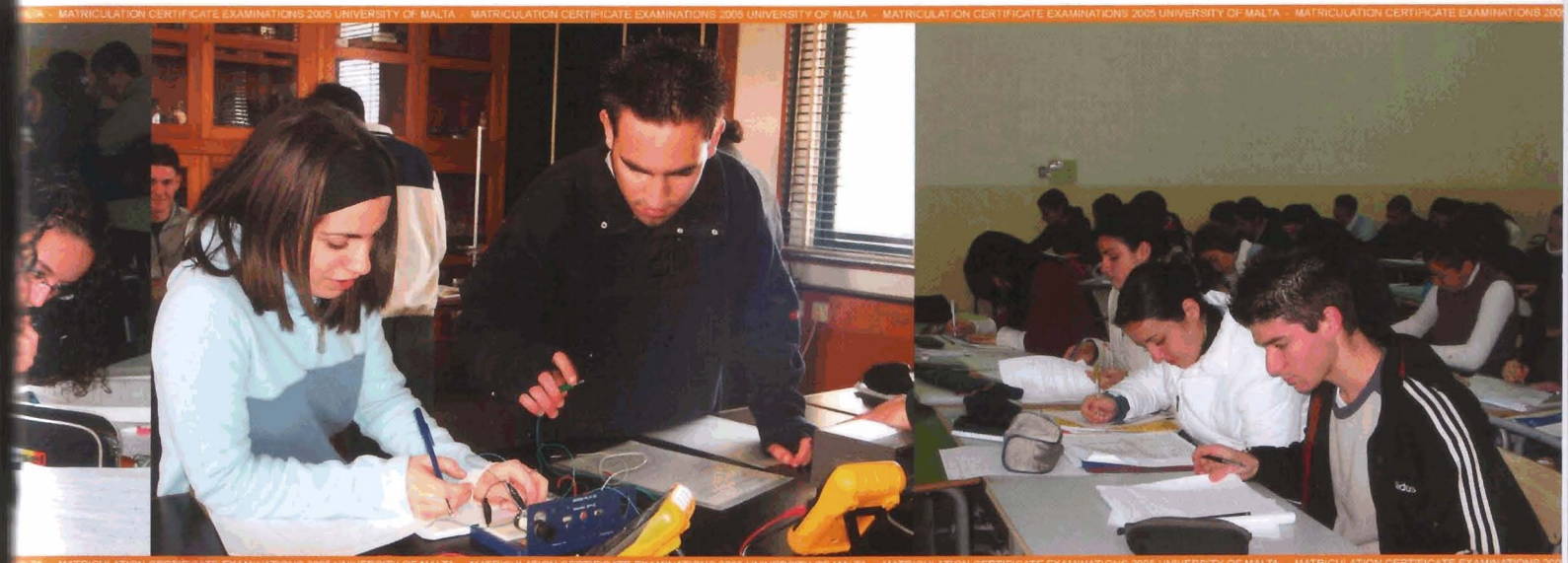


UNIVERSITY OF MALTA MATSEC



MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2005 STATISTICAL REPORT



MATSEC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS 2005**

**MATSEC SUPPORT UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

FEBRUARY 2006

FOREWORD

This Matriculation Certificate examinations statistical report highlights quantitative information about the performance of post-secondary students seeking entry to University and other students who sat for Advanced levels as single subjects in the 2005 session of examinations. The report presents statistics relating to registrations and results of the main session of examinations in May and the supplementary session in September in 2005. Besides the general statistics, data are grouped by subject and gender, while the data relating to the 18 year-old cohort of candidates are also treated separately. Interestingly, the number of registrations for the Matriculation Certificate has continued to increase while the gap between males and females has widened even more than in previous years. Indeed, in 2005, the proportion of female candidates was 58.1% . This gender difference is even more evident when one considers the results the 18-year-old cohort. Out of the 5314 children born in 1987, 23.2% were awarded the Matriculation Certificate in 2005 and gained admission to University. These represented 30.3% of the girls and only 16.5% of the boys who were born in 1987. This gender gap requires further study and action. Following the reactions to the recently published MATSEC Review Report, which took a broader view of MATSEC examinations, it is instructive to examine certain data more carefully. Particularly relevant are the data of the September 2005 supplementary examination, the pass rates in the Intermediate level subjects and in Systems of Knowledge. Interpretation of the data is not attempted; however, the report would serve its purpose if it were to be used to inform public debate about ways of improving post-secondary education in Malta.

Besides the printed edition, this year's Report will be posted on the MATSEC website, which can be accessed either by entering the University website (www.um.edu.mt) and clicking on the MATSEC option or directly by using the URL address www.home.um.edu.mt/matsec. The website will provide schools and the general public with easier access to information about MATSEC examinations and the services offered by the MATSEC Board and the Support Unit. Currently, the website contains the regulations of the SEC and Matriculation Certificate examinations, updated syllabi of all levels, the 2005 examiners' reports, some FAQs, the timetable of examinations and other notices. The Code of Practice section presents a brief explanation of many of the procedures used by the MATSEC Board and its contacts with various stakeholders. The Resources section includes a glossary of terms used in MATSEC examinations and notes on chemical nomenclature. Eventually it will include research reports by academic staff of the Support Unit.

Naturally, this report highlights the information about candidates and their performance, however, the reader should realise how much this work depends on the dedicated performance of all the staff at the MATSEC Support Unit, the examiners and, not least, the Examinations Department which provides the essential logistical support. Of course, the actual production of the report is in the hands of a few individuals who deserve special thanks, starting with Dr Grace Grima, who compiled and wrote the report, Ms Margaret Gerada, who retrieved the information from the computer database, and Ms Joanne Grech and Ms Bernice Cutajar who inputted and checked the data.

Prof Frank Ventura
Chairman
MATSEC Examinations Board

February 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports on the Matriculation Certificate examinations of 2005 as well as the single subjects offered at Advanced Matriculation level in the same year. It gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration and results data of the main session in May and the supplementary session in September. It also presents general statistics from the May and September sessions which have taken place between 1997 - 2005 to indicate the trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate examinations were introduced in the Maltese Islands.

May 2005 Registrations

Matriculation Certificate

Overall, there were 2,455 candidates (1028 males and 1,427 females) who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations in May 2005. There were 2,196 candidates from Malta (916 males and 1,280 females) and 259 candidates from Gozo (112 males and 147 females).

In 2005, the largest proportion of registrations (73.8%) belonged to the 1987 cohort. These are the candidates who turned eighteen in 2005. In total, 34.0% of the infants born in 1987 (N=5,314) registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations in 2005. In particular, 25.5% of males (N=2,770) and 43.1% of females (N=2,594) born in 1987 registered for these examinations in this year.

In 2005, females outnumbered males in the registrations of the Matriculation Certificate examination. The relative proportions of males and females that made up the total registrations amounted to 41.9% males and 58.1% females.

The most popular subjects at Advanced level were English (790 candidates), Pure Mathematics (656), Accounting (597), Biology (500) and Physics (475). Subjects with a significantly higher proportion of females included all the languages (with the exception of Russian), Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Home Economics, Marketing, Philosophy, Religious Knowledge and Sociology. Males predominated in Advanced level Computing, Graphical Communication, Physics and Pure Mathematics.

At Intermediate level, the most popular subject was English, with 1355 candidates. This was followed by Maltese (708), Philosophy (696) and Environmental Science (611). At this level, higher proportions of females were observed in Biology, Chemistry, English, Environmental Science, French, Home Economics, Information Technology, Maltese, Philosophy, Physics, Sociology and Systems of Knowledge. Males only predominated in four subjects at Intermediate level: Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Computing and Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication.

In Malta, the largest numbers of registrations came from the Northern Harbour region.

Single Subjects

In 2005, there were 1,129 candidates who registered for Single Subjects at Advanced Matriculation level: 471 males and 658 females. There were 1,062 candidates from Malta (445 males and 617 females) and 67 candidates from Gozo (26 males and 41 females).

The most popular Advanced level Single Subjects were English (238 candidates) and two of the commercial subjects: Accounting (199 candidates) and Marketing (165).

May 2005 Results

Matriculation Certificate

At Advanced level, there were two subjects with a small number of entries, that had a very high percentage of Grade A results. These were Russian and Spanish. Other subjects with a relatively high proportion of Grade A results were Biology (11.5%), Chemistry (10.7%) and Religious Knowledge (9.9%). In this session, Pure Mathematics and English had the highest failure rates (37.3% and 35.3% respectively). In this session, there were significant gender differences in Biology ($\chi^2=12.97$, $df=4$, $p<0.05$), English ($\chi^2=19.89$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$), Information Technology ($\chi^2=14.4$, $df=2$, $p<0.01$) and Sociology ($\chi^2=14.31$, $df=4$, $p<0.01$).

At Intermediate level, subjects with a high percentage of Grade A results were Information Technology (16.7%), Applied Mathematics (15.8%), Biology (14.0%), Pure Mathematics (11.1%) and Chemistry (10.5%). There was a high percentage of failures in Engineering Drawing (59.1%), Chemistry (26.3%), Pure Mathematics (25.6%), English (25.5%), Sociology (24.5%) and Physics (23.9%). There were significant gender differences in English ($\chi^2=11.6$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Environmental Science ($\chi^2=11.51$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Maltese ($\chi^2=16.52$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$), Physics ($\chi^2=11.32$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Pure Mathematics ($\chi^2=12.19$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Sociology ($\chi^2=16.13$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$) and Systems of Knowledge ($\chi^2=44.79$, $df=5$, $p<0.001$). Interestingly, the gender differences in Information Technology and Computing were not statistically significant.

The May 2005 results showed that 46.3% of the registered candidates (42.9% of males and 48.7% of females) were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the main examination session. Overall, 6.4% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 16.3% obtained Grade B and 23.6% obtained Grade C. There were significant differences in the grades obtained by males and females ($\chi^2=13.28$, $df=3$, $p<0.01$). There were also significantly more females than males who obtained the Matriculation Certificate in this session ($\chi^2=7.87$, $df=1$, $p<0.01$).

Single Subjects

The subjects with relatively high proportions of A-C grades were German (76.2%), Chemistry (67.7%), Spanish (57.9%) and Biology (55.1%). There was a high percentage of failures in most of the subjects. There was no statistically significant gender difference in the grades awarded in these subjects.

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 7.7% for subjects at Advanced level and 3.5% for subjects at Intermediate level. At Advanced level, there were 12 out of the 471 requests that were upgraded. At Intermediate level, 10 out of the 336 requests resulted in a higher grade.

September 2005 Registrations

In total, 53.4% of the candidates (49.8% of males and 55.9% of females) who sat for the Matriculation Certificate in May 2005 applied for the September session. As expected, the majority of the candidates who applied for the supplementary session had failed in May (73.4%). In addition, 22.1% of the September candidates had already obtained an overall Grade C in May and 4.0% had obtained a Grade B.

September 2005 Results

Overall, 52.0% of the candidates (43.8% of males and 57.3% of females) who sat for the supplementary session managed to obtain a pass in the Matriculation Certificate. Overall, 1.1% obtained Grade A, 12.0% obtained Grade B and 38.9% obtained Grade C. There were 12.8% of the candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed after this session. There were highly significant differences in favour of females both in pass rates ($\chi^2=22.83$, $df=2$, $p<0.001$.) and in the distribution of grades obtained ($\chi^2=20.88$, $df=3$, $p<0.001$).

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 6.8% for subjects at Advanced level and 7.2% for subjects at Intermediate level. In this session, there were four upgrades at Advanced level and one upgrade at Intermediate level.

Overall Results

In 2005, there were 59.8% of the candidates (1,496 out of 2,455) who obtained the Matriculation Certificate. There were 46.3% (1,136) who qualified in the May session and 13.6% (333) who qualified in the September session.

The analysis of the 1987 cohort shows that 68.2% of the candidates born in that year obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2005 (1,235 out of 5,314). This means that 23.2% of the infants born in 1987 (1,235 out of 5,314) obtained the obligatory entry requirements for University in 2005. There was a gender imbalance in this figure in favour of females: while 30.3% of females born in 1987 (787 out of 2,594) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2005, only 16.5% of males born in the same year (448 out of 2,770) obtained the same qualification.

At Advanced level, when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the range of pass rates in the different subjects varied from over 90% (in Arabic, French, Information Technology, Latin, Maltese, Music and Spanish) to 40-49% (in Applied Mathematics).

At Intermediate level, when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the range of pass rates in the different subjects also varied from over 90% (in Environmental Science, French, German, Information Technology, Maltese, Marketing and Music) to 40-49% (in Engineering/Graphical Communication).

MATSEC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE 2005

SECTION 1.0: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate (MATSEC) Board was set up in 1991. It is responsible for external examinations at two levels: (a) the Matriculation Certificate examinations which have replaced the GCE A-levels and (b) the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) examinations which have replaced the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O-level) offered by English examination boards.

The Matriculation Certificate is based on the International Baccalaureate model that maintains that students develop into more mature individuals if their studies cover both the areas of the Humanities and the Sciences. In the Matriculation Certificate examinations, subjects are divided into four groups and students must choose one subject from each of Groups 1, 2 and 3 and any other two subjects. This structure ensures that candidates choose subjects from both the Humanities and the Sciences areas. In addition, all students are obliged to sit for Systems of Knowledge, a pass in which is obligatory in order to be awarded the certificate. In this system of examinations, students study two subjects at Advanced level and another four at Intermediate level, including Systems of Knowledge. Although any of the subjects offered may be chosen, there are some restrictions laid out in the regulations (See Appendix A). The regulations permit candidates to sit for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level only.

The Matriculation Certificate requirements are intended to provide an opportunity for all students finishing post-secondary school education to obtain external certification for the subjects studied at school. The Matriculation Certificate is the obligatory entry requirement into the University of Malta. However, certain Faculties have special course requirements in terms of the subjects needed for admission and the grades that are acceptable for further studies in particular areas. From this year, students already in possession of the Matriculation Certificate have the opportunity to apply for specific subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels to fulfil special course requirements.

The main session of the examinations is held in May while the supplementary session is held in September. The regulations of these examinations were first published in 1994, and candidates took the examinations for the first time in 1997. To be awarded the Matriculation Certificate, candidates must obtain a pass in at least one of the subjects offered in each of Groups 1, 2 and 3 and Systems of Knowledge in one session (which includes the supplementary session) and gain at least 44 grade points. Grade points are awarded as follows:

For subjects at Advanced Level:

Grade A = 30 grade points
Grade B = 24 grade points
Grade C = 18 grade points
Grade D = 12 grade points
Grade E = 6 grade points.

For subjects at Intermediate Level:

Grade A = 10 grade points
Grade B = 8 grade points
Grade C = 6 grade points
Grade D = 4 grade points
Grade E = 2 grade points

The Certificate is awarded with an overall grade A, B, or C on the basis of the candidates' performance in the five subjects and in Systems of Knowledge.

Grade A is awarded to candidates who score between 80 and 100 grade points.

Grade B is awarded to candidates who score between 64 and 78 grade points.

Grade C is awarded to candidates who score between 44 and 62 grade points.

Candidates are allowed to resit a maximum of three subjects in the supplementary session as follows: one subject at Advanced level, one subject at Intermediate level and Systems of Knowledge.

Candidates who narrowly fail to obtain the overall Grade C in the supplementary session are awarded a Grade N. These candidates have the option to resit one failed/low graded subject or sit for another subject from the same group and at the same level in the next session of examinations.

Table 1.1 below shows the numbers of candidates who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations during the period 1997 – 2005.

Table 1.1: Registrations for Matriculation Certificate 1997-2005

Year	Males	Females	Total
1997	628	681	1309
1998	756	874	1630
1999	784	937	1721
2000	811	1051	1862
2001	842	1139	1981
2002	869	1149	2018
2003	878	1181	2059
2004	976	1257	2233
2005	1028	1427	2455

Table 1.2 shows the numbers of candidates who have registered for Single Subjects at Advanced Matriculation level during the period 1997– 2005.

Table 1.2: Registrations for Single Subjects 1997-2005

Year	Males	Females	Total
1997	713	760	1473
1998	558	635	1193
1999	610	800	1410
2000	556	671	1227
2001	643	874	1517
2002	586	739	1325
2003	522	733	1255
2004	478	700	1178
2005	471	658	1129

The present document reports on the Matriculation Certificate examinations which took place in 2005. It also presents data on the entries for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in the same year. The report first gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration and results data of the main session in May and the supplementary session in September. It also presents general statistics from the May and September sessions which have taken place between 1997- 2005 to indicate the trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations was introduced in the Maltese Islands.

1.2 Administrative Information

The regulations of the Matriculation Certificate examinations 2005 are presented in Appendix A.

2005 May Session

The timetable for the May session was issued in mid-October 2005 (a copy is available in Appendix B). Registration for the examinations took place between the 3rd and 14th January 2005 (See Appendix C for a copy of the registration forms). Late applications were received on the 27th January 2005. All applications were received at the Examinations Department, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo. They were processed by the Examinations Department, Floriana. There were 2,455 candidates (1028 males and 1427 females) who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations of May 2005. In addition, there were 1,129 candidates (471 males and 658 females) who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level.

The written examinations took place between the 26th April and 28th May 2005.

The following subjects were offered for examination:

Accounting,	Applied Mathematics,	Arabic,
Art,	Biology,	Chemistry,
Computing,	Economics,	Engineering Drawing**,
Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication*,	French,	English,
Environmental Science*,	Graphical Communication**,	Geography,
German,	Home Economics,	Greek,
History,	Latin,	Information Technology,
Italian,	Music,	Maltese,
Marketing,	Pure Mathematics,	Philosophy,
Physics,	Sociology,	Religious Knowledge,
Russian,		Spanish,
Systems of Knowledge*.		

* Offered at Intermediate Level only.

** Offered at Advanced Level only.

These subjects were grouped as follows:

Group 1:

Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Maltese, Russian and Spanish.

Group 2:

Accounting, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Religious Knowledge and Sociology.

Group 3:

Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, and Pure Mathematics.

Group 4:

Art, Computing, Engineering Drawing, Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication, Graphical Communication, Home Economics, Information Technology, Music.

Systems of Knowledge.

The results of these examinations were published on the 13th July 2005. In this session, there were 87.2% (2140) of the Matriculation Certificate candidates (N=2455) who applied to receive their results by sms. There were 85.9% (970) of the Single Subject registrants (1129) who also applied for this service. Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place between the 26th July and 29th July 2005 at the Gateway Building, University of Malta. (See Appendix D for a copy of the form).

2005 September Session

The timetable for the September session was issued on the 14th July 2005 (see Appendix B).

Registration for the examinations took place between the 26th July and the 29th July 2005. Late applications were received on the 5th and 8th August 2005.

All applications were received and processed by the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta. There were 1310 candidates who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations (512 males and 798 females) and 249 candidates who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level (94 males and 155 females) for the supplementary session.

The examinations were held between the 1st and 7th September 2005.

All the subjects offered for examination in the May session were offered in the September session.

The results of these examinations were published on the 28th September 2005. In this session, 85% (1120) of the Matriculation Certificate candidates registered to receive their result by sms. A further 215 (865) of the Single Subject candidates (N=249) also registered for this service.

Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place on the 4th October 2005 at the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

1.3 Requests for Special Arrangements

Requests for Special Arrangements during MATSEC examinations were received during the period of registration. Candidates needed to fill in a special form (see Appendix E for a copy of the form). This year, there were 23 applications for special arrangements that were considered by the Special Needs Committee of the University of Malta.

1.4 Registrations for Special Course Requirements

Registrations for Special Course Requirements were introduced in 2004 for students who had already obtained the Matriculation Certificate but needed to satisfy the special requirements for courses at the University. Registrations for Special Course Requirements were received during the period of registration for the Matriculation Certificate. This year, there were 45 such registrations for the main session in May and three for the September supplementary session.

1.5 The Examination Centres

In Malta, the administration of the examinations in the different centres was the responsibility of the Examinations Department, Floriana.

In Gozo, the administration of the examinations in the different centres was the responsibility of the Examinations Centre, Victoria.

In 2005, the following examination centres were used in Malta:

May 2005

Name of Centre	Capacity
Junior College, Msida	1070
St. Aloysius College, B'Kara	853
St. Elmo Centre, Valletta	409
St Theresa Girls' Junior Lyceum, Mriehel	300
Dun Guzepp Zammit Brighella Boys' Junior Lyceum, Hamrun	500

The services of 8 supervisors and 150 invigilators were used.

September 2005

Name of Centre	Capacity
St Aloysius College, B'Kara	638
Maria Assumpta Girls' Secondary School, Hamrun	765

The services of 5 supervisors and 57 invigilators were used.

In Gozo, the following two examination centres were used in 2005:

Name of Centre	Capacity
Examinations Centre, Victoria	150
Sir M.A. Refalo Post-Secondary School, Victoria	500

In May 2005, the services of 3 supervisors and 40 invigilators were used whereas in September 2005, the services of 2 supervisors and 20 invigilators were used.

1.6 Oral Examinations

Tables 1.3 and 1.4 show the dates of the oral examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels.

Table 1.3: Oral Examinations – Advanced Level

Subject	Dates
Arabic	25 th April
French	23 rd April
German	25 th April
Italian	3 rd and 18 th May
Russian	25 th April
Spanish	25 th April

Table 1.4: Oral Examinations – Intermediate Level

Subject	Dates
English	29 th , 30 th April, 6 th , 9 th , 21 st May
French	11 th May
German	19 th May
Italian	4 th , 17 th May
Maltese	27 th April, 14 th , 24 th May
Russian	19 th May
Spanish	19 th May

In Malta, the oral examinations were held at St Aloysius College, B’Kara and the Junior College, Msida. In Gozo, the examinations were held at the Examinations Centre, Victoria.

Teachers were recruited for the oral examinations on the basis of the recommendation of the Chairperson of the respective subjects.

Tables 1.5 and 1.6 show the numbers of examiners involved in the different subjects at the two levels.

Table 1.5: Examiners used for Orals of Advanced Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
Arabic	1	0	1
French	8	1	9
German	3	1	4
Italian	9	2	11
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	3	1	4
Total	25	5	30

Table 1.6: Examiners used for Orals of Intermediate Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
English	12	6	18
French	9	1	10
German	2	0	2
Italian	9	1	10
Maltese	10	4	14
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	1	0	1
Total	44	12	56

1.7 Coursework

There were five subjects at Advanced Level with coursework in May 2005. These were: Art, Computing, Geography, Home Economics and Information Technology. The coursework of the private candidates was to be submitted to the Examinations Department, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by the 11th March 2005.

There were four subjects at Intermediate Level with coursework in May 2005. These were: Art, Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge. The coursework of the private candidates was to be submitted to the Examinations Department, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by the 28th February 2005.

It is important to note that some candidates were called for an interview in relation to the work presented for the coursework component of the subjects under consideration.

1.8 Practical Examinations

Practical examinations at Advanced Level were held in the following subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Music and Physics. Table 1.7 shows the dates of these examinations:

Table 1.7: Practical Examinations – Advanced Level

Subject	Dates
Art	28 th May
Biology	6 th , 8 th , 10 th June
Chemistry	26 th May, 2 nd June, 9 th June
Music	27 th & 28 th April
Physics	30 th , 31 st May

In Malta, the practical examinations for Biology, Chemistry and Physics were held at the University laboratories. In Gozo, they were held at the laboratories of Sir M.A.Refalo Post-Secondary School, Victoria.

In May 2005 the Music practical examination was held at the Music Studies Room, Mediterranean Institute, University of Malta and at the Ministry for Gozo, Victoria, Gozo.

1.9 Revision of Papers

Candidates who are not satisfied with the grade awarded to them in any subject may register for the service of a Revision of Papers. Information about the registration period for this service is posted to the candidates with their result slip. For each subject, an additional examiner is appointed to review the papers of the candidates who ask for a Revision of Papers. A brief report on the performance of the candidate is written in each case. This is forwarded to the candidate. A fee of Lm15 per subject is paid on registration. This fee is refundable in cases where the Board of Examiners recommends a change in the original grade. In the May 2005 session, there were 471 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 336 at Intermediate Level. In the September 2005, session, there were 83 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 77 at Intermediate Level.

1.10 Examiners' Reports

For each subject, the Chairperson is required to write an Examiners' Report on the performance of the candidates on the examination. The information for this report is usually compiled from the different markers involved in the process. This report provides statistical data on the grades awarded and gives detailed feedback on the performance of the candidates. These reports, complemented with copies of the respective examination papers, were published in December 2005. They were circulated to all post-secondary schools and to the University Library as well as the Public Libraries in Malta and Gozo. These reports are available on the MATSEC website <http://www.home.um.edu.mt/matsec>

SECTION 2.0: MAY 2005 REGISTRATIONS

Table 2.1 presents the numbers of candidates who registered in May 2005 for the Matriculation Certificate by year of birth and gender.

**Table 2.1: 2005 Matriculation Certificate Registrations
By Year of Birth and Gender**

Year	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1984	8	5	13
1984	15	7	22
1985	53	49	102
1986	256	247	503
1987	694	1118	1812
1988	2	1	3
Total	1028	1427	2455

In total, there were 2,455 candidates in May 2005: 1,028 males and 1,427 females. There were 2,196 candidates from Malta (916 males and 1,280 females) and 259 candidates from Gozo (112 males and 147 females).

The largest number of registrations (73.8%) belonged to the 1987 cohort. This is the cohort that turned eighteen in 2005. There were 5,314 infants born in 1987 (2,720 males and 2,594 females) in the Maltese Islands. This means that 34.0% of the infants born in 1987 (25.5% of males and 43.1% of females) registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations in 2005.

Table 2.2 presents the numbers of candidates who registered in May 2005 for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level by year of birth and gender.

**Table 2.2: 2005 Single Subjects Registrations
by Year of Birth and Gender**

Year	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1984	160	261	421
1984	46	41	87
1985	51	68	119
1986	104	126	230
1987	58	103	161
1988	52	56	108
1989	0	3	3
Total	471	658	1129

Table 2.2 shows that there were 1,129 candidates who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in 2005: 471 males and 658 females. There were 1,062 candidates from Malta (445 males and 617 females) and 67 candidates from Gozo (26 males and 41 females).

The largest category of registrations for single subjects belonged to the pre-1984 cohort (37.3%). These candidates were over 21 years old when they applied for these examinations. The second and third largest categories of registrations came from the 19-year-olds (20.4%) and the 18-year-olds (14.3%).

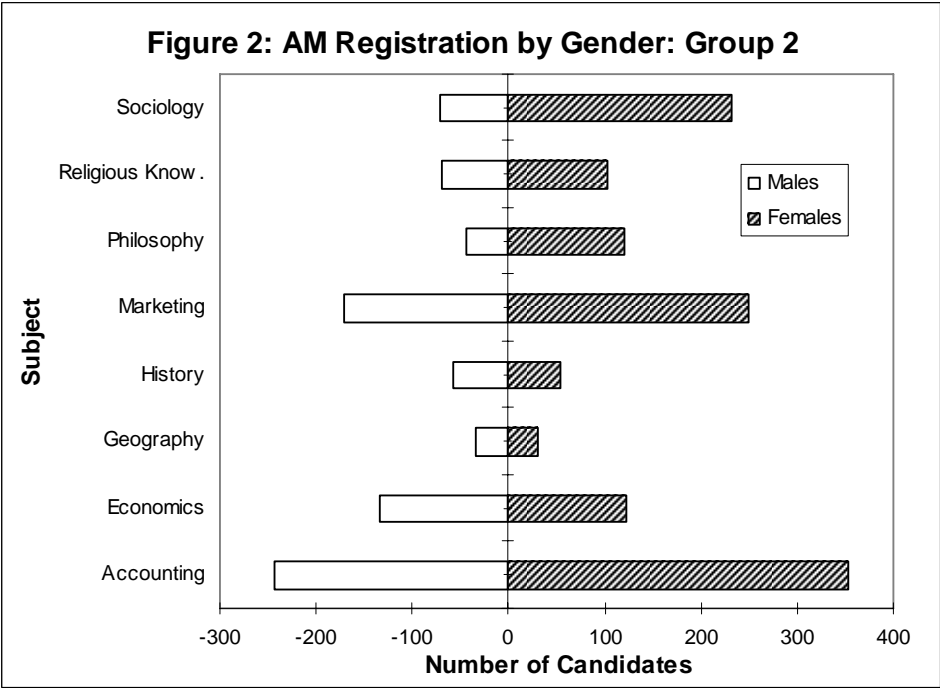
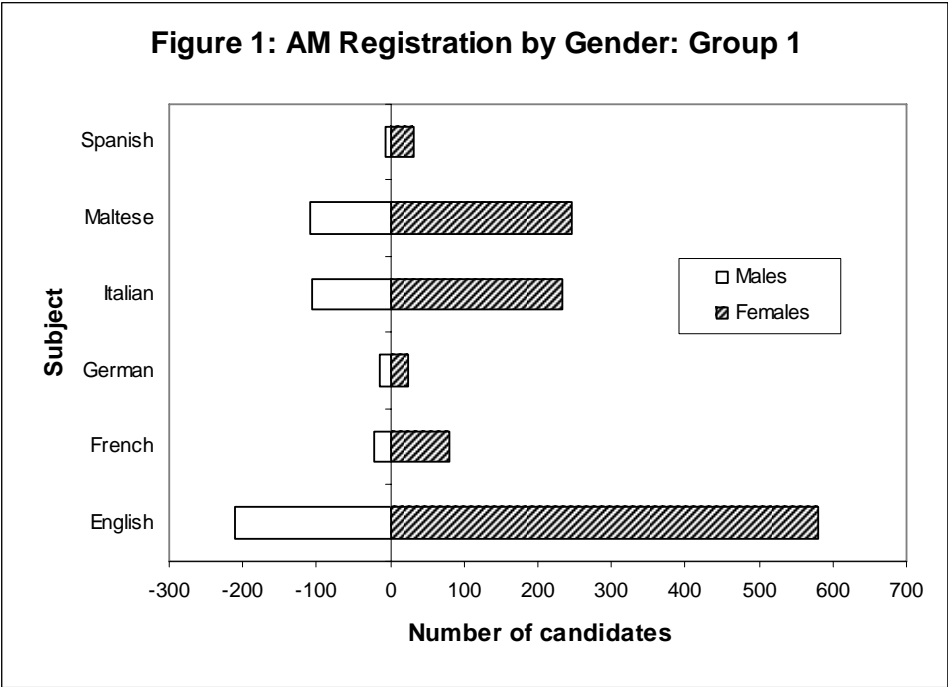
Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show that females outnumbered males in the registrations of both the Matriculation Certificate and the Single Subjects Advanced Matriculation examinations. In both cases, the relative proportions of males and females that made up the total registrations were higher for females (58.1% females versus 41.9% males for the Matriculation Certificate and 58.3% females versus 41.7% males for the Single Subjects).

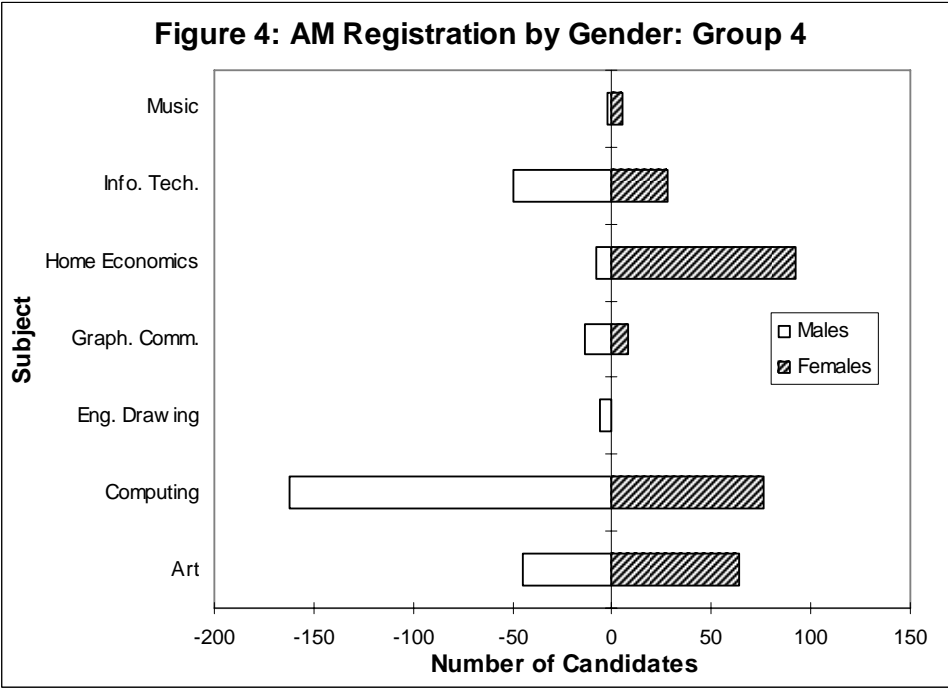
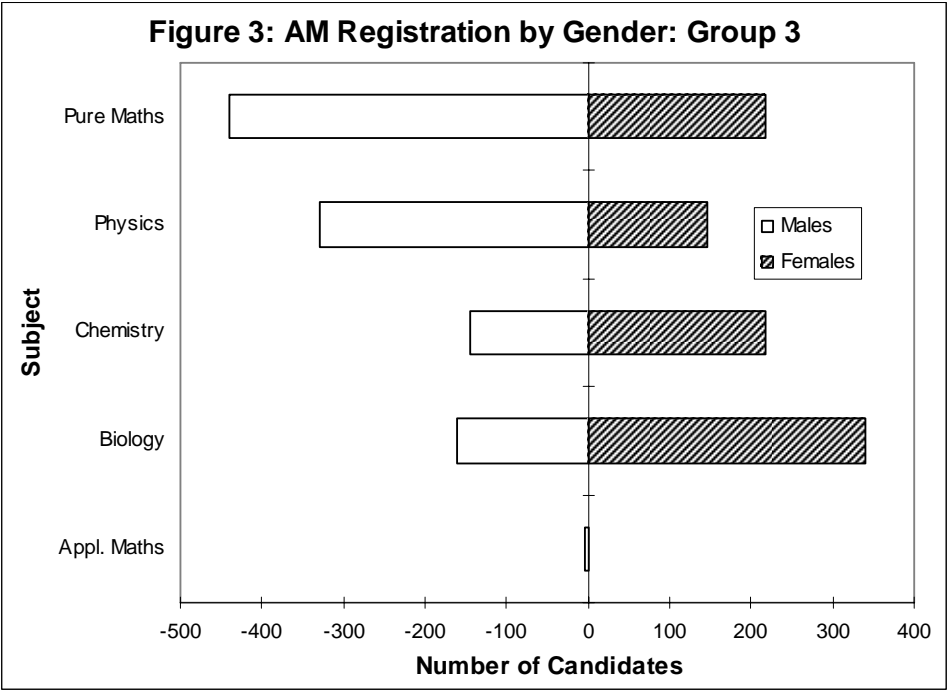
Table 2.3 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for the Matriculation Certificate examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects.

Table 2.3: May 2005 Matriculation Certificate Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	244	353	597	74	61	135
Applied Mathematics	4	1	5	74	27	101
Art	45	64	109	28	44	72
Biology	160	340	500	32	183	215
Chemistry	145	218	363	8	11	19
Computing	162	76	238	97	48	145
Economics	134	123	257	48	47	95
Engineering Drawing	6	0	6	-	-	-
Engineering/Graph. Com	-	-	-	74	14	88
English	210	580	790	577	778	1355
Environmental Science	-	-	-	217	394	611
French	21	79	100	39	67	106
Geography	34	31	65	43	58	101
German	14	25	39	14	19	33
Graphical Communication	14	8	22	-	-	-
History	57	53	110	30	25	55
Home Economics	8	92	100	3	38	41
Information Technology	50	28	78	165	194	359
Italian	107	234	341	170	150	320
Maltese	108	245	353	246	462	708
Marketing	170	250	420	93	78	171
Music	2	5	7	1	3	4
Philosophy	43	121	164	254	442	696
Physics	329	146	475	206	316	522
Pure Mathematics	439	217	656	249	321	570
Religious Knowledge	69	103	172	237	248	485
Russian	1	3	4	0	0	0
Sociology	71	231	302	104	241	345
Spanish	7	32	39	1	12	13
Systems of Knowledge	5	0	5	1028	1427	2455

Figures 1-4 and 5-8 that follow, present the numbers of male and female registrations per subject at Advanced and Intermediate levels. Please note that in these figures, AM refers to Advanced level subjects and IM refers to Intermediate level subjects.





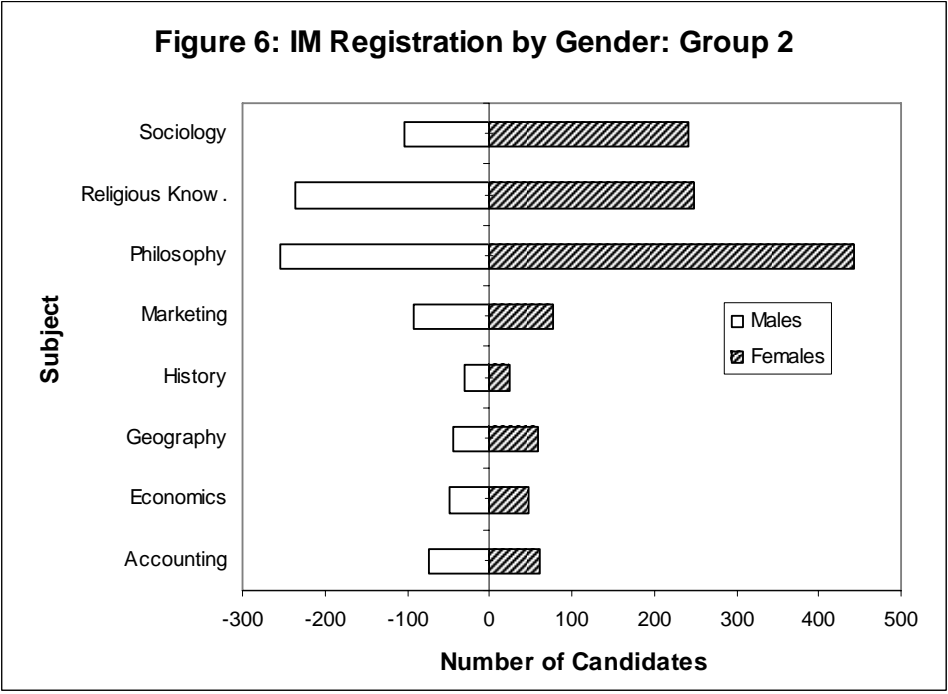
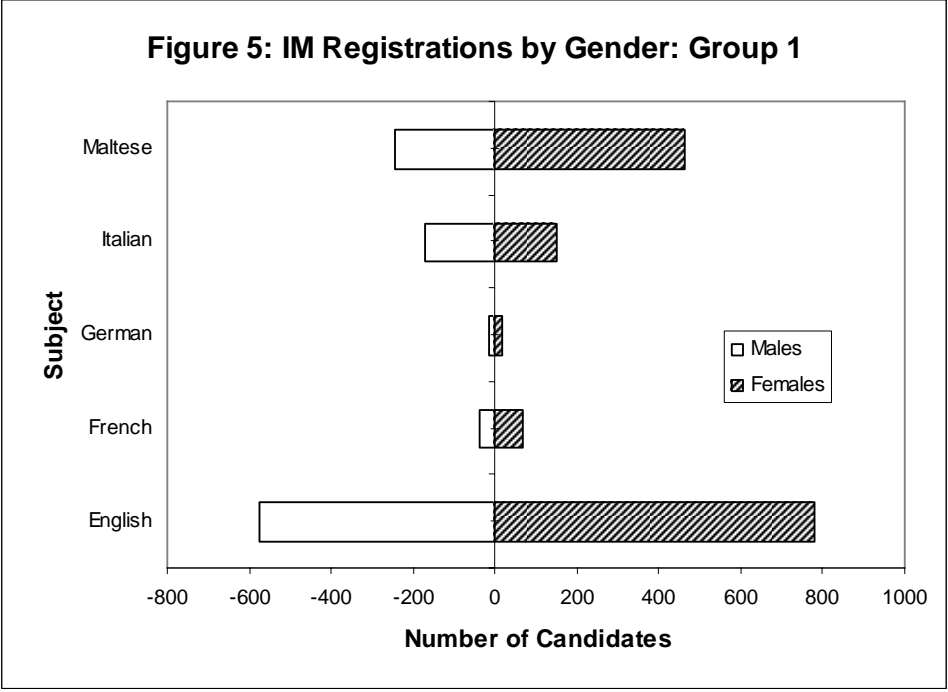


Figure 7: IM Registration by Gender: Group 3

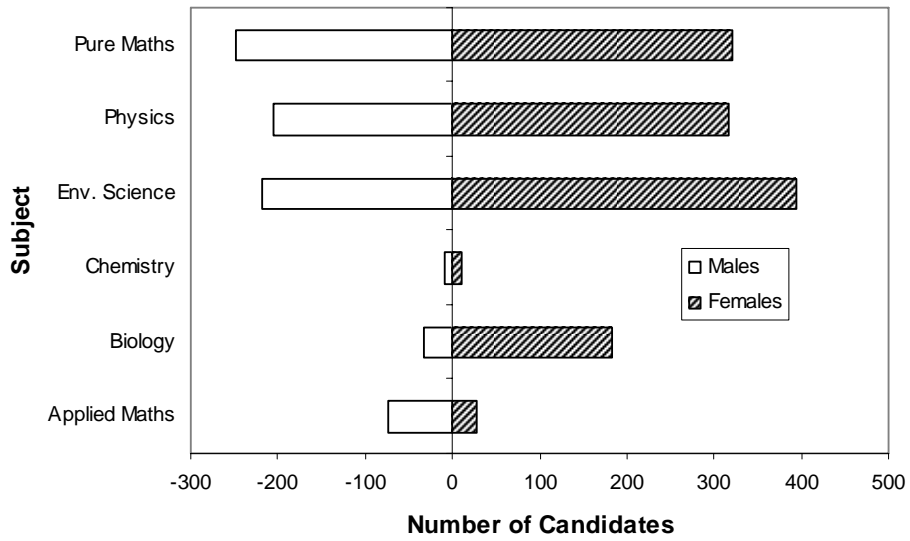
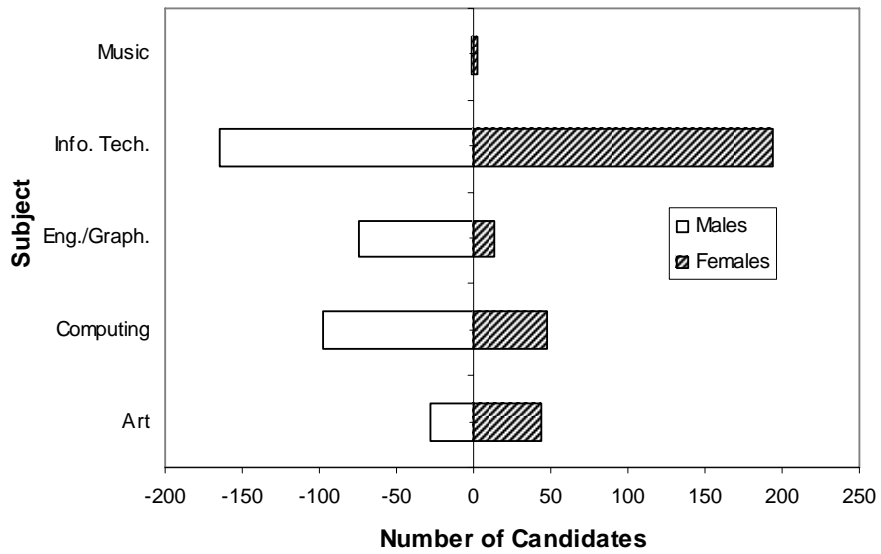


Figure 8: IM Registration by Gender: Group 4



In the Matriculation Certificate, the five most popular subjects at Advanced level were English (790 candidates), Pure Mathematics (656), Accounting (597), Biology (500) and Physics (475). At Intermediate level, the most popular subject was English (1355 candidates). This was followed by Maltese (708), Philosophy (696), and Environmental Science (611).

At Advanced level, subjects with a significantly higher proportion of females included all the languages (with the exception of Russian), Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Home Economics, Marketing, Philosophy, Religious Knowledge and Sociology. Males predominated in Advanced level Computing, Graphical Communication, Physics and Pure Mathematics.

At Intermediate level, a higher proportion of females than males was observed in Biology, Chemistry, English, Environmental Science, French, Home Economics, Information Technology, Maltese, Philosophy, Physics, Sociology and Systems of Knowledge. It is interesting to note that more males than females tended to study Pure Mathematics at Advanced level, while more females than males tended to study this subjects at Intermediate level. Males only predominated in four subjects at Intermediate level: Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Computing and Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication.

In 2004, there were 164 candidates (76 males and 88 females) who were classified as Narrowly Failed (N). A total of 131 Narrowly Failed candidates (64 males and 67 females) from 2004 or 2003 re-applied in May 2005. As explained in Section 1.1, these candidates had the option to resit one failed/low graded subject or sit for another subject from the same group at the same level. These candidates are followed through as a subgroup of the Matriculation Certificate examinations in the different sections of this report.

Table 2.4 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in the different subjects. Systems of Knowledge was the only subject that was offered as a single subject at Intermediate level. The registration numbers show that in 2005, the most popular single subjects were English (238 candidates) and two commercial subjects: Accounting (199 candidates) and Marketing (165 candidates).

This year there were 23 candidates who made requests for special arrangements at this level. Table 2.5 shows the presenting conditions of these candidates. It is important to point out that applications by candidates with special needs were processed by the Special Needs Committee of the University of Malta. This committee decides on appropriate arrangements to enable these candidates to take the examinations. In general, special arrangements included extra time, rest periods, large print, the provision of amanuenses as well as special instructions to examiners of oral components, invigilators and markers.

Table 2.4: May 2005 Single Subjects Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level		
	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	69	130	199
Applied Mathematics	2	0	2
Arabic	0	1	1
Art	17	22	39
Biology	21	28	49
Chemistry	18	16	34
Computing	51	26	77
Economics	26	21	47
Engineering Drawing	2	0	2
English	63	175	238
French	3	9	12
Geography	5	2	7
German	11	10	21
Graphical Communication	3	1	4
History	11	19	30
Home Economics	1	13	14
Information Technology	5	3	8
Italian	18	58	76
Maltese	24	43	67
Marketing	73	92	165
Music	1	1	2
Philosophy	14	16	30
Physics	31	11	42
Pure Mathematics	66	16	82
Religious Knowledge	35	46	81
Russian	1	3	4
Sociology	22	29	51
Spanish	5	14	19
	Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total
Systems of Knowledge	5	0	5

Table 2.5: May 2005 Registration of Requests for Special Arrangements by Presenting Condition

Condition	Candidates
Speech Impairment	1
Hand Injury	3
Spina Bifida	1
Diabetic	1
ADHD	3
Visual/Speech Impairment	1
Colour Blindness	3
Arthritis	1
Anxiety	1
Hearing Impairment	1
Specific Learning Difficulty/Dyslexia	4
Mobility Difficulty	1
Wheelchair user	2
Total	23

Table 2.6 below shows that candidates who made requests for special arrangements registered for a variety of subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels.

Table 2.6: May 2005 Registrations of Requests for Special Arrangements by Subject

Subject	Advanced	Intermediate
Accounting	2	0
Chemistry	3	0
Computing	3	2
Economics	2	2
English	5	8
Environmental Science	-	5
Geography	1	0
Graphical Communication	1	-
History	0	4
Home Economics	1	-
Information Technology	0	2
Italian	5	1
Maltese	2	5
Marketing	2	0
Philosophy	0	4
Physics	4	2
Pure Mathematics	5	2
Religious Knowledge	2	3
Sociology	1	1
Spanish	1	0
Systems of Knowledge	-	14
Total	40	55

Table 2.7 below shows the Intermediate level subjects that a subgroup of candidates registered for in order to satisfy special course requirements (N=45). At Advanced level, the candidates who applied in this category are grouped with the Single Subjects candidates.

Table 2.7: May 2005 Registrations for Special Course Requirements

Subject	Intermediate
Accounting	1
Biology	5
English	11
Environmental Science	3
French	2
Italian	2
Maltese	3
Philosophy	8
Physics	17
Pure Mathematics	5
Religious Knowledge	6
Sociology	1

Tables 2.8 and 2.9 below show the number of candidates who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations from the different localities in Malta and Gozo.

Table 2.8: May 2005 Registrations of Matriculation Certificate Candidates by Region and Locality in Malta (Page 1 of 2)

Locality - Malta	Males	Females	Total
Southern Harbour	115	210	325
Birgu	2	0	2
Bormla	0	4	4
Fgura	22	44	66
Floriana	2	5	7
Isla	3	3	6
Kalkara	4	8	12
Luqa	12	10	22
Marsa	2	4	6
Paola	18	16	34
Santa Luċija	5	19	24
Tarxien	16	42	58
Valletta	5	9	14
Żabbar	24	46	70
Northern Harbour	314	359	673
Birkirkara	61	66	127
Blata l-Bajda	0	1	1
Fleur-de-Lys	1	1	2
G`Mangia	2	1	3
Gżira	16	15	31
Hamrun	12	15	27
Ibraġġ	8	7	15
Kappara	4	12	16
Msida	18	19	37
Pembroke	12	11	23
Pieta'	4	3	7
Qormi	32	48	80
San Ġiljan	23	19	42
San Ġwann	32	42	74
Santa Venera	14	18	32
Sliema	38	44	82
St Andrews	3	1	4
Swatar	1	3	4
Swieqi	26	26	52
Ta' Xbiex	7	7	14

Table 2.8: May 2005 Registrations of Matriculation Certificate Candidates by Region and Locality in Malta (Page 2 of 2)

South Eastern	132	213	345
Birżebbuġa	16	26	42
Għaxaq	7	17	24
Gudja	7	15	22
Kirkop	4	9	13
Marsascala	25	24	49
Marsaxlokk	8	14	22
Mqabba	3	12	15
Qrendi	10	10	20
Safi	2	9	11
Żejtun	20	35	55
Żurrieq	30	42	72
Western	189	263	452
Attard	67	64	131
Baħrija	1	0	1
Balzan	16	17	33
Dingli	5	12	17
Iklin	17	23	40
Lija	8	11	19
Mdina	1	1	2
Mrieħel	1	0	1
Mtarfa	2	3	5
Rabat	22	45	67
Siggiewi	20	35	55
Żebbuġ	29	52	81
Northern	165	233	398
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq	2	3	5
Buġibba	3	8	11
Burmarrad	4	2	6
Għargħur	4	6	10
Madliena	4	8	12
Manikata	0	1	1
Mellieħa	17	26	43
Mġarr	8	13	21
Mosta	65	87	152
Naxxar	36	49	85
Qawra	3	9	12
San Pawl il-Baħar	10	16	26
San Pawl tat-Tarġa	5	5	10
Xemxija	4	0	4
Total	915	1278	2193

Table 2.9: Registrations of Matriculation Certificate Candidates by Locality in Gozo

Locality - Gozo	Males	Females	Total
Fontana	1	7	8
Ghajnsielem	11	13	24
Gharb	7	4	11
Ghasri	1	1	2
Kercem	5	3	8
Marsalforn	1	0	1
Munxar	3	8	11
Nadur	11	15	26
Qala	5	11	16
San Lawrenz	1	4	5
Sannat	6	8	14
Santa Lucija	1	1	2
Victoria	35	40	75
Xaghra	13	16	29
Xewkija	11	14	25
Zebbug	1	4	5
Total	113	149	262

This year, the data are grouped by locality as well as by region. In Malta, the largest number of registrations for the Matriculation Certificate were from the Northern Harbour region.

Table 2.10 below shows the numbers of candidates who registered for a Revision of Papers after the May 2005 results were issued.

Table 2.10: May 2005 Registrations for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced*			Intermediate		
	Reg.	Requests	%	Reg.	Requests	%
Accounting	597	24	4.0	135	2	1.5
Applied Mathematics	0	0	-	101	1	1.0
Art	109	15	13.8	72	8	11.1
Biology	500	33	6.6	215	9	4.2
Chemistry	363	71	19.6	0	0	-
Computing	238	10	4.2	145	2	1.4
Economics	257	9	3.5	95	5	5.3
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Com.	-	-	-	88	5	5.7
English	790	147	18.6	1355	83	6.1
Environmental Science	0	0	-	611	12	2.0
French	100	2	2.0	106	6	5.7
Geography	65	3	4.6	101	3	3.0
German	0	0	-	33	2	6.1
History	110	4	3.6	0	0	-
Home Economics	100	5	5.0	41	1	2.4
Information Technology	0	0	-	359	5	1.4
Italian	341	15	4.4	320	7	2.2
Maltese	353	19	5.4	708	17	2.4
Marketing	420	10	2.4	171	3	1.8
Philosophy	164	4	2.4	696	14	2.0
Physics	475	37	7.8	522	15	2.9
Pure Mathematics	656	42	6.4	570	11	1.9
Religious Knowledge	172	5	2.9	485	18	3.7
Sociology	302	16	5.3	345	12	3.5
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	2455	95	3.9
Total	6112	471	7.7	9729	336	3.5

* At Advanced level, the number of registrations and requests for revision of papers for the Matriculation Certificate and Single Subjects are combined.

Table 2.10 shows that the overall percentage of requests for a Revision of Papers was higher for subjects at Advanced level compared to the Intermediate level (7.7% and 3.5% respectively). Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.

SECTION 3.0: MAY 2005 RESULTS

The following tables present the May 2005 results.

Table 3.1 and 3.2 present the Advanced and Intermediate level results by gender obtained in the different subjects studied as part of the Matriculation Certificate. Table 3.3 presents the results of the Single Subjects studied at Advanced level.

Table 3.1 shows that at Advanced level, there were two subjects with very small entries that had a very high percentage of Grade A results. These were Russian (30.0%) and Spanish (22.2%). Other subjects with a relatively high proportion of Grade A were Biology (11.5%), Chemistry (10.7%), and Religious Knowledge (9.9%). In this session, Pure Mathematics and English had the highest failure rates (37.3% and 35.3% respectively). In this session, there were significant gender differences in Biology ($\chi^2=12.97$, $df=4$, $p<0.05$), English ($\chi^2=19.89$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$), Information Technology ($\chi^2=14.4$, $df=2$, $p<0.01$) and Sociology ($\chi^2=14.31$, $df=4$, $p<0.01$).

Table 3.2 shows that at Intermediate level, subjects with a relatively high percentage of Grade A results were Information Technology (with 16.7% getting Grade A), Applied Mathematics (15.8%), Biology (14.0%), Pure Mathematics (11.1%) and Chemistry (10.5%). In this session, there was a high percentage of failures in Engineering Drawing (59.1%), Chemistry (26.3%), Pure Mathematics (25.6%), English (25.5%), Sociology (24.5%) and Physics (23.9%). There were significant gender differences in English ($\chi^2=11.6$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Environmental Science ($\chi^2=11.51$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Maltese ($\chi^2=16.52$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$), Physics ($\chi^2=11.32$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Pure Mathematics ($\chi^2=12.19$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$), Sociology ($\chi^2=16.13$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$) and Systems of Knowledge ($\chi^2=44.79$, $df=5$, $p<0.001$). Interestingly, the gender differences in Information Technology and Computing were not statistically significant.

Table 3.3 shows the range of grades obtained by the candidates who applied for Single Subjects at Advanced level. The subjects with relatively high proportions of A-C grades were German (76.2%), Chemistry (67.7%), Spanish (57.9%) and Biology (55.1%). In this session, high rate of failure was observed in most of the subjects. There was no statistically significant gender difference in the grades awarded in these subjects.

**Table 3.1: May 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	22	63	126	57	52	75	3	398
Males	10	29	59	29	19	28	1	175
Females	12	34	67	28	33	47	2	223
Applied Maths	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Males	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Art	3	6	19	13	10	18	1	70
Males	3	1	7	3	4	10	0	28
Females	0	5	12	10	6	8	1	42
Biology	52	94	109	85	62	39	10	451
Males	18	42	26	24	15	11	3	139
Females	34	52	83	61	47	28	7	312
Chemistry	35	25	82	49	42	84	12	329
Males	11	8	32	18	14	37	7	127
Females	24	17	50	31	28	47	5	202
Computing	14	30	47	32	20	17	1	161
Males	10	21	32	24	9	14	1	111
Females	4	9	15	8	11	3	0	50
Economics	4	28	62	73	14	27	2	210
Males	2	20	30	38	5	11	2	108
Females	2	8	32	35	9	16	0	102
Eng. Drawing	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Males	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	2	11	77	77	184	195	6	552
Males	1	6	26	29	45	35	5	147
Females	1	5	51	48	139	160	1	405
French	7	19	23	22	12	5	0	88
Males	1	3	3	6	4	1	0	18
Females	6	16	20	16	8	4	0	70
Geography	4	12	17	10	10	5	0	58
Males	3	8	8	4	5	1	0	29
Females	1	4	9	6	5	4	0	29
German	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	18
Males	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Females	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	15
Graphical Comm.	1	1	7	4	3	2	0	18
Males	1	1	4	3	1	1	0	11
Females	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	7

**Table 3.1: May 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
History	2	13	30	14	11	4	6	80
Males	1	11	18	7	3	2	4	46
Females	1	2	12	7	8	2	2	34
Home Economics	8	11	43	15	3	5	1	86
Males	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	7
Females	8	10	39	15	3	3	1	79
Info. Technology	5	15	24	14	8	4	0	70
Males	2	4	17	13	6	3	0	45
Females	3	11	7	1	2	1	0	25
Italian	18	49	96	24	32	42	4	265
Males	3	9	38	5	12	20	2	89
Females	15	40	58	19	20	22	2	176
Maltese	15	59	119	37	38	14	4	286
Males	1	18	34	14	9	6	2	84
Females	14	41	85	23	29	8	2	202
Marketing	16	71	106	23	24	7	8	255
Males	9	22	41	10	11	3	1	97
Females	7	49	65	13	13	4	7	158
Music	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	5
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Philosophy	9	14	35	18	23	34	1	134
Males	2	1	3	5	5	12	1	29
Females	7	13	32	13	18	22	0	105
Physics	28	69	101	90	64	79	2	433
Males	18	50	67	66	36	61	0	298
Females	10	19	34	24	28	18	2	135
Pure Maths	42	74	99	58	79	214	8	574
Males	23	52	60	35	46	154	3	373
Females	19	22	39	23	33	60	5	201
Religious Know.	9	29	28	13	9	3	0	91
Males	4	7	9	8	4	2	0	34
Females	5	22	19	5	5	1	0	57
Sociology	12	55	48	38	53	41	4	251
Males	0	4	8	8	17	10	2	49
Females	12	51	40	30	36	31	2	202
Spanish	6	3	8	2	1	0	0	20
Males	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Females	6	2	8	1	1	0	0	18

**Table 3.2: May 2005 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	10	20	32	23	31	19	0	135
Males	3	14	13	16	17	11	0	74
Females	7	6	19	7	14	8	0	61
Applied Maths	16	20	23	12	9	19	2	101
Males	11	17	16	6	6	16	2	74
Females	5	3	7	6	3	3	0	27
Art	1	2	8	24	16	18	3	72
Males	0	0	4	11	6	6	1	28
Females	1	2	4	13	10	12	2	44
Biology	31	44	48	28	23	39	2	215
Males	3	10	5	3	7	4	0	32
Females	28	34	43	25	16	35	2	183
Chemistry	2	3	5	2	1	5	1	19
Males	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	8
Females	0	2	2	1	1	4	1	11
Computing	7	25	42	30	16	23	2	145
Males	7	15	30	21	8	14	2	97
Females	0	10	12	9	8	9	0	48
Economics	3	9	17	33	11	20	2	95
Males	3	4	5	20	7	8	1	48
Females	0	5	12	13	4	12	1	47
Eng/Graph. Com	2	4	4	14	9	52	3	88
Males	2	4	4	13	7	42	2	74
Females	0	0	0	1	2	10	1	14
English	54	130	305	198	310	346	12	1355
Males	29	69	130	77	129	135	8	577
Females	25	61	175	121	181	211	4	778
Env. Science	39	75	230	95	112	49	11	611
Males	21	22	81	38	39	11	5	217
Females	18	53	149	57	73	38	6	394
French	5	9	17	21	33	20	1	106
Males	2	4	8	7	11	7	0	39
Females	3	5	9	14	22	13	1	67
Geography	2	10	25	18	16	25	5	101
Males	1	3	14	7	7	10	1	43
Females	1	7	11	11	9	15	4	58
German	3	7	11	3	5	4	0	33
Males	0	5	3	1	3	2	0	14
Females	3	2	8	2	2	2	0	19

**Table 3.2: May 2005 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
History	4	13	11	14	7	5	1	55
Males	3	8	5	6	3	4	1	30
Females	1	5	6	8	4	1	0	25
Home Economics	0	7	15	7	6	4	2	41
Males	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Females	0	7	15	6	5	3	2	38
Info. Technology	60	110	106	51	19	12	1	359
Males	27	47	52	24	9	6	0	165
Females	33	63	54	27	10	6	1	194
Italian	22	56	109	44	46	42	1	320
Males	9	31	66	22	20	21	1	170
Females	13	25	43	22	26	21	0	150
Maltese	16	105	244	235	65	38	5	708
Males	4	24	78	100	20	17	3	246
Females	12	81	166	135	45	21	2	462
Marketing	17	29	45	36	26	17	1	171
Males	9	12	21	21	17	12	1	93
Females	8	17	24	15	9	5	0	78
Music	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Females	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Philosophy	30	109	276	133	45	88	15	696
Males	13	36	88	51	23	34	9	254
Females	17	73	188	82	22	54	6	442
Physics	36	71	135	68	75	125	12	522
Males	9	37	49	21	29	54	7	206
Females	27	34	86	47	46	71	5	316
Pure Mathematics	63	75	104	73	96	144	15	570
Males	25	23	43	29	47	76	6	249
Females	38	52	61	44	49	68	9	321
Religious Knowledge	35	86	138	106	46	65	9	485
Males	15	40	71	50	22	35	4	237
Females	20	46	67	56	24	30	5	248
Sociology	10	24	81	64	73	86	7	345
Males	6	8	25	10	17	34	4	104
Females	4	16	56	54	56	52	3	241
Spanish	0	0	4	2	3	2	2	13
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	3	2	3	2	2	12
Systems of Knowledge	46	423	1248	152	19	567	0	2455
Males	7	135	538	82	11	255	0	1028
Females	39	288	710	70	8	312	0	1427

**Table 3.3: May 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	1	14	32	26	37	66	23	199
Males	0	5	13	9	10	21	11	69
Females	1	9	19	17	27	45	12	130
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Art	3	4	14	2	3	8	5	39
Males	1	3	3	1	1	4	4	17
Females	2	1	11	1	2	4	1	22
Biology	3	14	10	4	4	10	4	49
Males	2	7	6	1	2	2	1	21
Females	1	7	4	3	2	8	3	28
Chemistry	6	4	13	2	3	2	4	34
Males	5	2	5	1	2	1	2	18
Females	1	2	8	1	1	1	2	16
Computing	2	13	15	18	11	16	2	77
Males	2	4	10	14	8	11	2	51
Females	0	9	5	4	3	5	0	26
Economics	1	0	13	6	1	12	14	47
Males	1	0	3	4	1	7	10	26
Females	0	0	10	2	0	5	4	21
Engineering Drawing	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	2	4	22	37	72	73	28	238
Males	1	1	6	9	15	19	12	63
Females	1	3	16	28	57	54	16	175
French	0	2	1	0	4	4	1	12
Males	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Females	0	2	1	0	2	3	1	9
Geography	0	1	0	1	1	3	1	7
Males	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	5
Females	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
German	8	3	5	2	1	1	1	21
Males	6	3	1	0	0	0	1	11
Females	2	0	4	2	1	1	0	10
Graphical Communication	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	4
Males	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
History	0	2	6	5	1	4	12	30
Males	0	1	3	1	1	1	4	11
Females	0	1	3	4	0	3	8	19

**Table 3.3: May 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Home Economics	0	0	2	1	5	6	0	14
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	2	1	5	5	0	13
Information Technology	0	2	3	1	0	2	0	8
Males	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5
Females	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Italian	3	2	8	4	10	41	8	76
Males	1	0	1	0	0	13	3	18
Females	2	2	7	4	10	28	5	58
Maltese	0	1	21	14	12	10	9	67
Males	0	0	6	4	3	5	6	24
Females	0	1	15	10	9	5	3	43
Marketing	0	17	46	16	35	14	37	165
Males	0	6	15	7	17	10	18	73
Females	0	11	31	9	18	4	19	92
Music	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	1	4	6	3	0	8	8	30
Males	0	3	3	0	0	3	5	14
Females	1	1	3	3	0	5	3	16
Physics	0	3	8	9	2	15	5	42
Males	0	2	5	7	2	11	4	31
Females	0	1	3	2	0	4	1	11
Pure Mathematics	0	5	14	11	5	35	12	82
Males	0	5	10	10	5	28	8	66
Females	0	0	4	1	0	7	4	16
Religious Knowledge	8	13	14	12	12	6	16	81
Males	2	7	6	7	4	3	6	35
Females	6	6	8	5	8	3	10	46
Russian	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	4
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Sociology	0	4	6	7	10	15	9	51
Males	0	1	2	2	4	8	5	22
Females	0	3	4	5	6	7	4	29
Spanish	6	4	1	2	2	2	2	19
Males	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
Females	4	3	0	2	2	2	1	14
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	5
Males	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	5
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3.4 presents the Intermediate level results for the candidates who had special course requirements.

Table 3.4: May 2005 Results of Special Course Requirements

Subject	Intermediate Level							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Biology	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	5
English	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	11
Environmental Science	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
French	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Italian	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Maltese	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
Philosophy	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	8
Physics	1	3	6	3	0	2	2	17
Pure Maths	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	5
Religious Knowledge	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	6
Sociology	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

This table shows that Physics and English featured prominently for special course requirements. In all subjects, this group of candidates tended to do well.

Table 3.5 presents information on the outcome of the requests made for a Revision of Papers of the different Advanced and Intermediate levels subjects after the May 2004 results were issued.

Table 3.5: May 2005 Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subjects	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded
Accounting	597	24	4.0	0	135	2	1.5	0
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	-	101	1	1.0	0
Art	109	15	13.8	2	72	8	11.1	0
Biology	500	33	6.6	5	215	9	4.2	3
Chemistry	363	71	19.6	0	0	0	-	-
Computing	238	10	4.2	0	145	2	1.4	0
Economics	257	9	3.5	0	95	5	5.3	0
Eng. Drawing & Graph.	-	-	-	-	88	5	5.7	0
English	790	147	18.6	0	1355	83	6.1	0
Environmental Science	-	-	-	-	611	12	2.0	0
French	100	2	2.0	0	106	6	5.7	0
Geography	65	3	4.6	1	101	3	3.0	0
German	0	0	0	-	33	2	6.1	0
History	110	4	3.6	0	0	0	-	-
Home Economics	100	5	5.0	0	41	1	2.4	0
Information Technology	0	0	0	-	359	5	1.4	0
Italian	341	15	4.4	0	320	7	2.2	1
Maltese	353	19	5.4	1	708	17	2.4	1
Marketing	420	10	2.4	1	171	3	1.8	0
Philosophy	164	4	2.4	0	696	14	2.0	0
Physics	475	37	7.8	0	522	15	2.9	0
Pure Mathematics	656	42	6.4	1	570	11	1.9	2
Religious Knowledge	172	5	2.9	1	485	18	3.7	3
Sociology	302	16	5.3	0	345	12	3.5	0
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	2455	95	3.9	0
Total	6112	471	7.7	12	9729	336	3.5	10

* At Advanced level, the number of registrations and requests for revision of papers for the Matriculation Certificate and Single Subjects are combined.

Table 3.5 shows that in May 2005, at Advanced level, 12 out of the 471 requests for a Revision of Papers had their grade revised. This means that 2.5% of the requests resulted in a different grade. At Intermediate level, 10 out of the 336 requests had their grade revised. At this level, 3.0% of the requests resulted in a different grade.

The following set of Tables present data relating to the overall Matriculation Certificate grades awarded after the main examination session in May 2005. The information in Tables 3.6 and 3.7 includes all the 2005 candidates whereas Tables 3.8 focuses on the 1987 cohort, that is, those candidates who turned eighteen in 2006. Table 3.9 focuses on the Narrowly Failed candidates from the previous two years.

**Table 3.6: May 2005
Matriculation Certificate Distribution of Grades**

Grade	Males	Females	Total
A	69	87	156
B	165	235	400
C	207	373	580
Passes	441	695	1136
Fail	587	732	1319
Total	1028	1427	2455

The data in Table 3.6 show that 46.3% of the May 2005 candidates (42.9% of males and 48.7% of females) were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the main examination session. Overall, 6.4% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 16.3% obtained Grade B and 23.6% obtained Grade C. Similar proportions of males and females obtained Grade A this year (6.7% of males compared to 6.1% of females), Grade B (16.% of males compared to 16.4% of females) However, larger proportions of females obtained Grade C (26.1% of females compared to 20.1% of males). There were significant differences in the grades obtained by males and females ($\chi^2=13.28$, $df=3$, $p<0.01$). There were also significantly more females than males who obtained the Matriculation Certificate in this session ($\chi^2=7.87$, $df=1$, $p<0.01$).

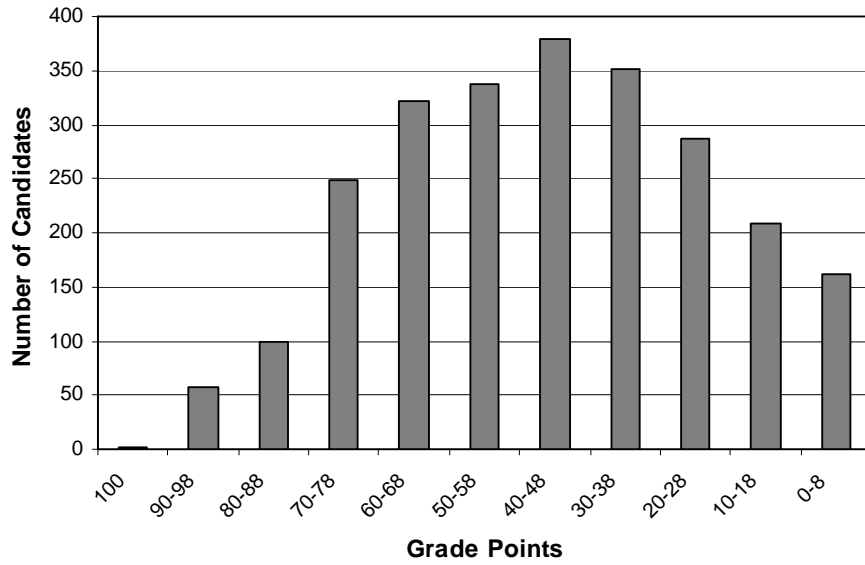
**Table 3.7: May 2005 Failed/Missing Component/s
in Matriculation Certificate**

Missing Component/s	Males	Females	Total
Group 1 only	46	60	106
Group 2 only	32	29	61
Group 3 only	67	88	155
Systems of Knowledge	100	127	227
Total: One Component	245	304	549
Passed - Not enough points	149	207	356
More than One Component	193	221	414
Total	587	732	1319

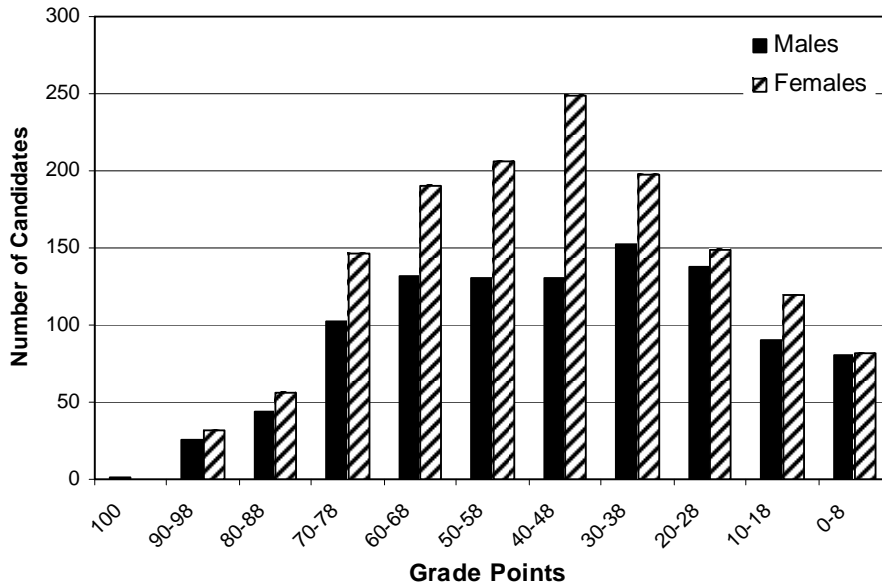
Table 3.7 shows that there were 1319 candidates who failed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in May 2005 (53.7% of all candidates). The largest category (41.6%) included the students who had one component missing.

Figures 9 and 10 show the distributions of the grade points obtained in the Matriculation Certificate examinations of May 2005 by all the candidates and by the subgroups of males and females separately. These figures show an overall normal distribution of grade points. However, there is an unexpectedly high number of candidates who obtained eight points or less. There was only one male candidate who obtained 100 points in this session.

**Figure 9: Distribution of Grade Points
May 2005**



**Figure 10: Distribution of Grade Points by Gender
May 2005**



**Table 3.8: May 2005 Matriculation Certificate
Distribution of Grades: 1987 Cohort**

Grade	Males	Females	Total
A	65	87	152
B	149	217	366
C	153	310	463
Passes	327	614	831

Fail	367	504	981
Total	694	1118	1812

The data in Table 3.8 show that 45.9% of the candidates (47.1% of males and 54.9% of females) that were born in 1987 were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the May 2005 examination session. Overall, 8.4% of these candidates were awarded Grade A, 20.2% were awarded Grade B, and 25.6% were awarded Grade C. For Grade A, the proportion of males (9.4%) was higher than the proportion of females (7.78%). This was also the case for Grade B (21.5% of males compared to 19.4% of females obtained this grade). For Grade C, the proportion was higher for females: 28.0% of females obtained Grade C compared to 22.1% of males. Chi-square tests show that there were significant gender differences in the grades obtained by males and females ($\chi^2=11.48$, $df=3$, $p<0.01$). There was a statistically significant difference in the pass rates in favour of females in this session ($\chi^2=10.13$, $df=1$, $p<0.01$).

Table 3.9: May 2005 Results of the Narrowly Failed Candidates (2003 and 2004)

	Males	Females	Total
Narrowly Failed in 2003	18	17	35
Applied in May 2005	2	3	5
May 2005 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	0	0	0
Grade C	1	1	2
Passed in May 2005	1	1	2
Still Narrowly Failed May 2005	1	2	3
Narrowly Failed in 2004	76	88	164
Applied in May 2005	61	63	124
May 2005 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	4	3	7
Grade C	31	39	70
Passed in May 2005	35	42	77
Still Narrowly Failed May 2005	26	21	47

Table 3.9 shows that two out of the five candidates who had been classified as Narrowly Failed in 2003, managed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in May 2005. Out of the 164 candidates who were Narrowly Failed in 2004, there were 77 (47%) who managed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in May 2005. Most of these candidates obtained an overall Grade C.

SECTION 4.0: SEPTEMBER 2005 REGISTRATIONS

Table 4.1 below shows the numbers of candidates who applied for the Supplementary session in September 2005. This table indicates the Matriculation Certificate grades they were awarded after the main session in May 2005.

**Table 4.1: September 2005 Registrations
by Matriculation Certificate Grades obtained in May 2005**

Grade in May	Registration in September		
	Males	Females	Total
A	2	3	5
B	15	38	53
C	87	203	290
Fail	408	554	962
Total	512	798	1310

In total, 53.4% of the candidates who sat for the Matriculation Certificate in May 2005 applied for the supplementary session in September. In particular, 49.8% of the male candidates and 55.9% of the female candidates who applied for the May session also applied for the September session. As expected, the majority of the candidates who applied for the supplementary session were the ones who failed in May (73.4%).

It is interesting to note that 22.1% of the September candidates had already obtained an overall Grade C in May. A smaller number (4.0%) had obtained a Grade B in May. This year there were five candidates who applied for the September session who had already obtained an overall Grade A in May 2005.

Fifty Narrowly Failed Candidates of 2003-4 (27 males and 23 females) did not manage to improve their overall grade in the May 2005 session. Thirty-two of these (15 males and 17 females) applied for the September 2005 session.

Table 4.2 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for the Matriculation Certificate examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects in September 2005.

Table 4.2: September 2005 Matriculation Certificate Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	57	96	153	7	7	14
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	11	3	14
Art	7	10	17	5	3	8
Biology	13	44	57	2	32	34
Chemistry	29	46	75	1	0	1
Computing	23	10	33	6	2	8
Economics	14	9	23	2	3	5
Engineering Drawing	1	0	1	-	-	-
Engineer./Graphical	-	-	-	17	2	19
English	71	267	338	93	201	294
Environ. Science	-	-	-	10	27	37
French	5	13	18	5	11	16
Geography	1	4	5	7	11	18
German	2	4	6	1	1	2
Graphical Comm.	3	1	4	-	-	-
History	11	18	29	2	3	5
Home Economics	0	5	5	0	4	4
Info. Technology	7	0	7	6	6	12
Italian	21	28	49	11	13	24
Maltese	11	32	43	9	34	43
Marketing	15	23	38	3	7	10
Music	1	0	1	0	0	0
Philosophy	7	32	39	28	31	59
Physics	51	28	79	36	49	85
Pure Mathematics	153	66	219	44	54	98
Religious Knowledge	5	5	10	23	25	48
Sociology	13	46	59	14	29	43
Spanish	0	2	2	0	1	1
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	144	202	346

In the September session, at Advanced level, the subject with most candidates was English (338). At Intermediate level, Systems of Knowledge (346) and English (294) were the subject with the highest registrations in September 2005. In this session, subjects with higher numbers of registrations from females included Advanced level Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, English, Maltese, Philosophy and Sociology. At the same time, there were more registrations from males than females for Advanced level Computing, Physics and Pure Mathematics. At Intermediate level, there were more registrations from females than males in Biology, English, Environmental Science, Maltese, Philosophy, Sociology and Systems of Knowledge. At Intermediate level, there were more registrations from males than females for Applied Mathematics and Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication.

Table 4.3 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who re-applied for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in September 2005.

Table 4.3: September 2005 Single Subjects Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level		
	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	15	34	49
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0
Art	0	0	0
Biology	1	2	3
Chemistry	0	0	0
Computing	13	4	17
Economics	1	2	3
English	17	55	72
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0
French	1	2	3
Geography	0	0	0
German	0	2	2
Graphical Comm.	0	0	0
History	1	6	7
Home Economics	0	0	0
Information Technology	1	0	1
Italian	5	9	14
Maltese	2	7	9
Marketing	12	17	29
Music	1	0	1
Philosophy	1	2	3
Physics	4	2	6
Pure Mathematics	17	3	20
Religious Knowledge	1	2	3
Sociology	1	5	6
Spanish	0	1	1
	Intermediate Level		
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0

In the Supplementary session, the single subjects with the highest registrations were English (72) and Accounting (49). In this session, single subjects with higher registrations from females than males were Accounting, English and Marketing. At the same time, there were more registrations from males than females for Computing and Pure Mathematics.

Table 4.4 below shows that the number of registrations for the special course requirements for this session were, as expected, very small, (N=3).

Table 4.4: September 2005 Registration for Special Course Requirements

Subject	Intermediate
English	1
Environmental Science	1
Maltese	1

Table 4.5 below shows the number of requests, by subject, made for a Revision of Papers after the September 2005 results were issued. Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.

Table 4.5: September 2005 Registrations for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level*			Intermediate Level		
	Reg.	Requests	%	Reg.	Requests	%
Accounting	153	5	3.3	0	0	-
Art	17	1	5.9	8	1	12.5
Biology	57	6	11	34	1	2.9
Computing	33	2	6.1	0	0	-
Chemistry	75	9	12	0	0	-
Engineering/Graphical	0	0	0	19	1	5.3
English	338	15	4.4	294	23	7.8
Environmental Science	-	-	-	37	5	13.5
French	18	1	5.6	0	0	-
Geography	0	0	-	18	1	5.6
German	0	0	-	2	1	50.0
History	29	3	10	0	0	-
Home Economics	0	0	-	4	1	25.0
Italian	49	6	12	24	1	4.2
Maltese	43	3	7	43	2	4.7
Marketing	0	0	-	10	1	10.0
Philosophy	39	1	2.6	59	2	3.4
Physics	79	10	13	85	4	4.7
Pure Mathematics	219	16	7.3	0	0	-
Religious Knowledge	10	2	20	48	10	20.8
Sociology	59	3	5.1	43	2	4.7
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	346	21	6.1
Total	1218	83	6.8	1074	77	7.2

* At Advanced level, the number of registrations and requests for revision of papers for the Matriculation Certificate and Single Subjects are combined.

SECTION 5.0: SEPTEMBER 2005 RESULTS

The following tables present the results of the Supplementary session that took place in September 2005. Table 5.1 and 5.2 present the results, by gender of the candidates that sat for subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels as part of their Matriculation Certificate. It is important to remember that students taking the Matriculation Certificate examinations were restricted to re-apply for one subject at Advanced level, one subject at Intermediate level and Systems of Knowledge. Table 5.3 presents the results of the candidates who re-applied for Single Subjects at Advanced level. Although there are some exceptions, generally the absence or low incidence of high grades is apparent in most of the subjects in these tables.

**Table 5.1: September 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	7	31	21	17	21	7	104
Males	0	3	14	7	7	9	2	42
Females	0	4	17	14	10	12	5	62
Art	0	0	4	6	3	3	1	17
Males	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	7
Females	0	0	3	4	2	0	1	10
Biology	1	1	15	12	16	9	0	54
Males	0	0	3	3	3	3	0	12
Females	1	1	12	9	13	6	0	42
Chemistry	0	0	15	15	12	25	8	75
Males	0	0	5	6	7	6	5	29
Females	0	0	10	9	5	19	3	46
Computing	1	2	4	3	3	3	0	16
Males	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	10
Females	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	6
Economics	0	0	1	6	7	4	2	20
Males	0	0	0	3	6	3	1	13
Females	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	7
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	0	2	76	80	73	20	15	266
Males	0	1	16	14	15	3	5	54
Females	0	1	60	66	58	17	10	212
French	0	0	5	4	5	0	1	15
Males	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	4
Females	0	0	3	4	4	0	0	11
Geography	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	5
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.1: September 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
German	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Females	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Graphical Comm.	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	4
Males	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
History	0	0	7	7	5	2	1	22
Males	0	0	2	5	1	2	0	10
Females	0	0	5	2	4	0	1	12
Home Economics	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	5
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	5
Info. Technology	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	6
Males	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	6
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italian	0	1	12	4	5	12	1	35
Males	0	0	4	2	0	9	1	16
Females	0	1	8	2	5	3	0	19
Maltese	0	2	14	4	6	3	5	34
Males	0	0	5	1	2	0	1	9
Females	0	2	9	3	4	3	4	25
Marketing	0	2	1	0	2	3	1	9
Males	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Females	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	6
Music	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philosophy	0	0	12	10	4	8	2	36
Males	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	6
Females	0	0	10	8	4	7	1	30
Physics	0	3	16	23	7	20	4	73
Males	0	1	12	15	3	13	3	47
Females	0	2	4	8	4	7	1	26
Pure Mathematics	0	9	36	27	17	93	17	199
Males	0	5	23	17	11	68	12	136
Females	0	4	13	10	6	25	5	63
Religious Knowledge	0	0	1	0	3	1	2	7
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Females	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Sociology	3	15	6	3	13	7	6	53
Males	1	3	1	1	1	4	1	12
Females	2	12	5	2	12	3	5	41
Spanish	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.2: September 2005 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	1	3	2	2	4	2	14
Males	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	7
Females	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	7
Applied Maths	0	1	2	2	2	6	1	14
Males	0	1	2	1	1	5	1	11
Females	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Art	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	8
Males	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	5
Females	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Biology	2	8	2	4	6	8	4	34
Males	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Females	2	8	1	4	5	8	4	32
Chemistry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computing	0	0	4	2	0	1	1	8
Males	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	6
Females	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Economics	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	5
Males	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Females	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Engineering/Graphical	2	1	1	4	1	8	2	19
Males	2	1	1	3	1	7	2	17
Females	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
English	2	11	35	50	92	93	11	294
Males	1	3	14	8	32	29	6	93
Females	1	8	21	42	60	64	5	201
Environmental Science	0	1	5	3	7	19	2	37
Males	0	0	0	1	2	6	1	10
Females	0	1	5	2	5	13	1	27
French	0	1	1	5	8	1	0	16
Males	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	5
Females	0	1	0	5	4	1	0	11
Geography	0	1	2	9	2	4	0	18
Males	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	7
Females	0	1	1	6	1	2	0	11
German	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
History	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	5
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Females	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.2: September 2005 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Home Economics	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Information Technology	0	0	3	2	3	2	2	12
Males	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	6
Females	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	6
Italian	0	0	2	2	7	12	1	24
Males	0	0	2	1	2	6	0	11
Females	0	0	0	1	5	6	1	13
Maltese	1	8	13	11	1	5	4	43
Males	0	0	3	4	1	1	0	9
Females	1	8	10	7	0	4	4	34
Marketing	1	3	1	3	1	0	1	10
Males	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Females	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	7
Philosophy	0	3	20	12	6	12	6	59
Males	0	0	8	6	4	7	3	28
Females	0	3	12	6	2	5	3	31
Physics	1	3	23	19	8	25	6	85
Males	1	0	9	7	3	15	1	36
Females	0	3	14	12	5	10	5	49
Pure Mathematics	0	7	17	15	19	31	9	98
Males	0	2	8	3	10	17	4	44
Females	0	5	9	12	9	14	5	54
Religious Knowledge	1	3	5	8	8	21	2	48
Males	0	1	2	3	4	11	2	23
Females	1	2	3	5	4	10	0	25
Sociology	1	2	12	6	10	11	1	43
Males	0	0	4	3	4	3	0	14
Females	1	2	8	3	6	8	1	29
Spanish	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Systems of Knowledge	1	10	124	39	8	140	24	346
Males	0	3	48	20	5	51	17	144
Females	1	7	76	19	3	89	7	202

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.3: September 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	4	4	11	7	12	11	49
Males	0	1	2	7	0	1	4	15
Females	0	3	2	4	7	11	7	34
Biology	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Computing	0	1	4	6	1	3	2	17
Males	0	1	4	6	1	0	1	13
Females	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
Economics	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
English	0	0	8	20	13	12	19	72
Males	0	0	1	5	3	4	4	17
Females	0	0	7	15	10	8	15	55
French	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
German	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
History	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	7
Males	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Females	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	6
Info. Technology	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italian	0	2	2	0	1	8	1	14
Males	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	5
Females	0	1	1	0	1	5	1	9
Maltese	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	9
Males	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Females	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	7

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table

**Table 5.3: September 2005 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Marketing	1	4	11	1	2	1	9	29
Males	0	2	5	0	2	1	2	12
Females	1	2	6	1	0	0	7	17
Music	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philosophy	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Physics	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	6
Males	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Females	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pure Mathematics	1	0	4	1	5	7	2	20
Males	1	0	4	1	5	5	1	17
Females	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Religious Knowledge	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Spanish	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sociology	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	6
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	5

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

Table 5.4 below shows the results of the candidates who re-applied for the Supplementary session in order to try and complete special course requirements for university entry.

Table 5.4: September 2005 Results of Special Course Requirements

Subject	Intermediate							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Environmental Science	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
English	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Maltese	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

Table 5.5 below presents information on the outcome of the requests for a Revision of Papers made for the different subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels after the September 2005 results were issued.

Table 5.5: September 2005 Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level*				Intermediate Level			
	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded
Accounting	153	5	3.3	0	0	0	0	0
Art	17	1	5.9	0	8	1	12.5	0
Biology	57	6	11	0	34	1	2.9	0
Computing	33	2	6.1	0	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	75	9	12	0	0	0	0	0
Eng./Graph. Comm.	-	-	-	-	19	1	5.3	0
English	338	15	4.4	1	294	23	7.8	0
Environ. Science	-	-	-	-	37	5	13.5	0
French	18	1	5.6	1	0	0	0	0
Geography	0	0	-	0	18	1	5.6	0
German	0	0	-	0	2	1	50	0
History	29	3	10	0	0	0	0	0
Home Economics	0	0	-	0	4	1	25	0
Italian	49	6	12	0	24	1	4.2	0
Maltese	43	3	7	0	43	2	4.7	0
Marketing	0	0	-	0	10	1	10	0
Philosophy	39	1	2.6	0	59	2	3.4	0
Physics	79	10	13	0	85	4	4.7	0
Pure Mathematics	219	16	7.3	2	0	0	0	0
Religious Knowledge	10	2	20	0	48	10	20.8	0
Sociology	59	3	5.1	0	43	2	4.7	1
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	346	21	6.1	0
Total	1218	83	6.8	4	1074	77	7.2	1

- At Advanced level, the number of registrations and requests for revision of papers for the Matriculation Certificate and Single Subjects are combined.

Table 5.5 shows that at Advanced level, only 4 out of the 83 requests for a Revision of Papers had the grade revised. At Intermediate level, only one out of the 64 requests had a grade revised.

The following set of Tables present data related to the overall Matriculation Certificate grades awarded after the supplementary examination session of September 2005. The information in Tables 5.6 and 5.7 includes all the 2005 candidates whereas Tables 5.8 focuses on the 1987 cohort, that is, those candidates who turned eighteen in 2005. Table 5.9 focuses on the Narrowly Failed candidates from 2003.

Table 5.6: September 2005 Matriculation Certificate Distribution of Grades

	Males	Females	Total
A	5	10	15
B	45	112	157
C	174	335	509
Passed	224	457	681
Narrowly Failed	77	91	168
Fail	211	250	461
Total	512	798	1310

The data in Table 5.6 shows that 52.0% of the candidates (43.8% of males and 57.3% of females) who sat for the Supplementary session in September 2005 managed to get a pass in the Matriculation Certificate. Overall, 1.1% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 12.0% obtained Grade B and 38.9% obtained Grade C. There were 12.8% of the candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed. There were highly significant differences in favour of females both in pass rates ($\chi^2=22.83$, $df=2$, $p<0.001$.) and in the distribution of grades obtained ($\chi^2=20.88$, $df=3$, $p<0.001$).

**Table 5.7: Failed/Missing Component/s
of Narrowly Failed Candidates in September 2005**

Missing Component/s	Males	Females	Total
Group 1 only	10	13	23
Group 2 only	4	4	8
Group 3 only	13	15	28
Systems of Knowledge	9	18	27
Total: One Missing Component	36	50	86
Passed – not enough points	41	41	82
Total	77	91	168

Table 5.7 gives a detailed breakdown of the failed/missing components of the candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed. Most of the candidates who had one missing component either did not obtain a pass in a Group 1 or a Group 3 subject (see subjects groups on pages 3 and 4) or in Systems of Knowledge.

**Table 5.8: September 2005 Matriculation Certificate
Distribution of Grades: 1987 Cohort**

	Males	Females	Total
A	4	9	13
B	41	103	144
C	119	276	395
Passed	164	388	552
Narrowly Failed	41	65	106
Fail	118	155	273
Total	323	608	931

The data in Table 5.8 show that 59.3% of the candidates (50.8% of males and 63.8% of females) born in 1987 who sat for the Supplementary session were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the September 2005 examination session. Overall, 1.4% of these candidates obtained Grade A, 15.5.0% obtained Grade B and 42.4% obtained Grade C. There were 11.4% of the 1987 candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed after this session. Chi-squared tests showed strongly significant differences in favour of females in pass rates ($\chi^2=15.56$, $df=2$, $p<0.001$) and in the grades obtained ($\chi^2=14.96$, $df=3$, $p<0.01$).

Table 5.9: September 2005 Results of Narrowly Failed Candidates (2003 – 2004)

	Males	Females	Total
Narrowly Failed in 2003	18	17	35
Applied in May 2005	2	3	5
Passed in May 2005	1	1	2
Still Narrowly Failed after May 2005	1	2	3
Applied in September 2005	1	0	1
September 2005 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	0	0	0
Grade C	1	0	1
Passes in September 2005	1	0	1
Not awarded Certificate in 2005	0	0	0
Narrowly Failed in 2004	76	88	164
Applied in May 2005	61	63	124
Passed in May 2005	35	42	77
Still Narrowly Failed after May 2005	26	21	47
Applied in September 2005	14	17	31
September 2005 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	0	0	0
Grade C	6	7	13
Passes in September 2005	6	7	13
Not awarded Certificate in 2005	8	10	18

Table 5.9 shows that the one 2003 Narrowly Failed candidate managed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in September 2005. There were 13 of the 2004 narrowly Failed Candidates who were awarded the Matriculation Certificate in September 2005. A further 18 remained Narrowly Failed after the September 2005 session. These candidates have the opportunity to complete the certificate in 2006.

The analysis on the 1987 cohort shows that 68.2% of the candidates born in that year (1,235 out of 1,812) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2005. This means that 23.2 % of the infants born in 1987 (1,235 out of 5,314) obtained the obligatory entry requirements for University in 2005. There was a gender imbalance in this figure in favour of females: while 30.3 % of females born in 1987 (787 out of 2,594) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2005, only 16.5 % of males born in the same year (448 out of 2,720) obtained the same qualification.

The following tables indicate the percentage passes in the different subjects in 2005. Table 5.10 presents the data for the Advanced level subjects. Data for the candidates taking the Matriculation Certificate and those sitting for particular subjects as single subjects are presented separately although the overall pass rate is also given for each subject. Table 5.11 presents the data for the Intermediate level subjects.

Table 5.10: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2005 (page 1 of 3)

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Accounting	597	466	78.1
Matriculation Certificate	398	346	86.9
Single Subject	199	120	60.3
Applied Mathematics	5	2	40.0
Matriculation Certificate	3	2	66.7
Single Subject	2	0	0.0
Arabic	1	1	100.0
Matriculation Certificate	-	-	-
Single Subject	1	1	100.0
Art	109	77	70.6
Matriculation Certificate	70	51	72.9
Single Subject	39	26	66.7
Biology	500	445	89.0
Matriculation Certificate	451	410	90.9
Single Subject	49	35	71.4
Chemistry	363	274	75.5
Matriculation Certificate	329	246	74.8
Single Subject	34	28	82.4
Computing	238	205	86.1
Matriculation Certificate	161	145	90.1
Single Subject	77	60	77.9
Economics	257	208	80.9
Matriculation Certificate	210	187	89.0
Single Subject	47	21	44.7

Table 5.10: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2005 (page 2 of 3)

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Engineering Drawing	6	5	83.3
Matriculation Certificate	4	4	100.0
Single Subject	2	1	50.0
English	790	596	75.4
Matriculation Certificate	552	453	82.1
Single Subject	238	143	60.1
French	100	90	90.0
Matriculation Certificate	88	83	94.3
Single Subject	12	7	58.3
Geography	65	56	86.2
Matriculation Certificate	58	53	91.4
Single Subject	7	3	42.9
German	39	34	87.2
Matriculation Certificate	18	15	83.3
Single Subject	21	19	90.5
Graphical Comm.	22	19	86.4
Matriculation Certificate	18	17	94.4
Single Subject	4	2	50.0
History	110	92	83.6
Matriculation Certificate	80	74	92.5
Single Subject	30	18	60.0
Home Economics	100	88	88.0
Matriculation Certificate	86	80	93.0
Single Subject	14	8	57.1
Information Technology	78	73	93.6
Matriculation Certificate	70	67	95.7
Single Subject	8	6	75.0
Italian	341	255	74.8
Matriculation Certificate	265	225	84.9
Single Subject	76	30	39.5
Latin	2	2	100.0
Matriculation Certificate	-	-	-
Single Subject	2	2	100.0
Maltese	353	321	90.9
Matriculation Certificate	286	272	95.1
Single Subject	67	49	73.1
Marketing	420	366	87.1
Matriculation Certificate	255	243	95.3
Single Subject	165	123	74.5
Music	7	7	100.0
Matriculation Certificate	5	5	100.0
Single Subject	2	2	100.0
Philosophy	164	124	75.6
Matriculation Certificate	134	109	81.3
Single Subject	30	15	50.0

Table 5.10: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2005 (page 3 of 3)

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Physics	475	381	80.2
Matriculation Certificate	433	358	82.7
Single Subject	42	23	54.8
Pure Mathematics	656	417	63.6
Matriculation Certificate	574	379	66.0
Single Subject	82	38	46.3
Religious Knowledge	172	148	86.0
Matriculation Certificate	91	88	96.7
Single Subject	81	60	74.1
Russian	4	3	75.0
Matriculation Certificate	-	-	-
Single Subject	4	3	75.0
Sociology	302	245	81.1
Matriculation Certificate	251	218	86.9
Single Subject	51	27	52.9
Spanish	39	35	89.7
Matriculation Certificate	20	20	100.0
Single Subject	19	15	78.9

Table 5.10 shows that in Advanced level subjects, the overall pass rate was:

- *over 90% in seven subjects:*
Arabic, French, Information Technology, Latin, Maltese, Music and Spanish.
- *between 80-89% in thirteen subjects:*
Biology, Computing, Economics, Engineering Drawing, Geography, German, Graphical Communication, Home Economics, Marketing, Physics, Religious Knowledge and Sociology.
- *between 70-79% in seven subjects:*
Accounting, Art, Chemistry, English, Italian, Philosophy and Russian.
- *between 60-69% in one subject:*
Pure Mathematics.
- *between 40-49% in one subject:*
Applied Mathematics.

Table 5.11: Passes in Intermediate Level Subjects in 2005

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Accounting	135	117	86.7
Applied Mathematics	101	85	84.2
Arabic	-	-	-
Art	72	51	70.8
Biology	215	189	87.9
Chemistry	19	13	68.4
Computing	145	121	83.4
Economics	95	77	81.1
Engineering/Graphical	88	42	47.7
English	1355	1114	82.2
Environmental Studies	611	551	90.2
French	106	94	88.7
Geography	101	80	79.2
German	33	30	90.9
History	55	49	89.1
Home Economics	41	35	85.4
Information Technology	359	346	96.4
Italian	320	284	88.8
Maltese	708	671	94.8
Marketing	171	156	91.2
Music	4	4	100.0
Philosophy	696	608	87.4
Physics	522	413	79.1
Pure Mathematics	570	453	79.5
Religious Knowledge	485	416	85.8
Sociology	345	270	78.3
Spanish	13	9	69.2
Systems of Knowledge	2460	2042	83.0

Table 5.11 shows that in Intermediate level subjects, the overall pass rate was:

- *over 90% in six subjects:*
Environmental Science, German, Information Technology, Maltese, Marketing and Music.
- *between 80-89% in fourteen subjects:*
Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Biology, Computing, Economics, English, French, History, Home Economics, Italian, Philosophy, Pure Mathematics, Religious Knowledge and Systems of Knowledge.
- *between 70-79% in four subjects:*
Art, Geography, Physics and Sociology.
- *between 60-69% in two subject:*
Chemistry and Spanish
- *between 40-49% in one subjects:*
Engineering/Graphical Communication.

SECTION 6.0: GENERAL STATISTICS

This section gives an overview of the general statistics of the Matriculation Certificate from 1997 to 2005. These data allow one to observe the trends that have been developing since this system of examinations was introduced in the Maltese Islands.

Table 6.1 shows the numbers of candidates that have qualified for the Matriculation Certificate annually and by session.

Table 6.1: Candidates qualified for the Matriculation Certification 1997-2005

Year	Candidates N	Qualified in May		Qualified in Sept		Total Qualified	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
1997	1309	775	59.2	197	15.0	972	74.3
1998	1630	787	48.3	255	15.6	1042	63.9
1999	1721	878	51.0	238	13.8	1116	64.8
2000	1862	950	51.0	275	14.8	1225	65.8
2001	1981	1043	52.7	247	12.5	1290	65.1
2002	2018	1106	54.8	280	13.9	1386	68.7
2003	2059	1089	52.9	306	14.9	1395	67.8
2004	2233	1063	47.6	319	14.3	1382	61.9
2005	2455	1136	46.3	333	13.6	1469	59.8

This table shows that the overall percentage pass rate was highest in the first year of operation. Around three fourths of the candidates passed in 1997. For the next four years, the pass rate stabilised around 65%. In the following two years, the pass rate was around 68.0%. In 2004, the pass rate was lower, reaching 61.9%. In 2005, it was the lowest so far, at 59.8%. It is also worth pointing out that each year, around 15% of the candidates have qualified for the Matriculation Certificate because of the Supplementary Session. In 2005, this percentage was lower, reaching 13.6%.

Table 6.2 below gives a breakdown of the statistics concerning the Supplementary session. This table shows how many candidates applied for the September session each year and how their performance in this session affected the overall grade of their certificate.

Table 6.2: Supplementary Sessions 1997-2005: Changes in Overall Grade

Year	Candidates	No Change in Certificate Grade		Upgraded Certificate Grade		Upgraded / Qualified for Certificate		Upgraded / F → N	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1997	646	326	50.5	54	8.4	197	30.5	69	10.7
1998	937	509	54.3	46	4.9	255	27.2	127	13.6
1999	836	461	55.1	20	2.4	238	28.5	117	14.0
2000	914	482	52.7	40	4.4	275	30.1	117	12.8
2001	1016	587	57.8	46	4.5	247	24.3	136	13.4
2002	970	538	55.5	53	5.5	280	28.9	99	10.2
2003	1006	527	52.4	45	4.5	306	30.4	128	12.7
2004	1151	633	55.0	35	3.0	319	27.7	164	14.3
2005	1310	730	55.7	77	5.9	333	25.4	170	13.0

Over the years, around half of the candidates who applied for the Supplementary session did not improve the grade of their certificate after sitting the September session. A relatively small number of candidates who had already obtained an overall pass in May improved their grade after the September session. This subgroup was less than 5% over an eight year period, up to last year. In 2005, it rose to 5.9%. Each year, between 25-30% upgraded their overall grade in September and consequently qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. Also, each year, between 10 and 14% of the candidates were classified as Narrowly Failed (N) after the Supplementary session.

Table 6.3 gives a detailed breakdown of the four categories presented in the previous Table.

Table 6.3: Supplementary Sessions 1997-2005: Details of Changes in Overall Grade

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Reg. Candidates	646	937	836	914	1016	970	1006	1151	1310
No Change in Grade	326 50.5%	509 54.3%	461 55.1%	482 52.7%	587 57.8%	538 55.5%	527 52.4%	633 55%	730 56%
A → A	10	3	3	4	3	2	2	0	5
B → B	20	33	31	28	40	47	37	35	47
C → C	105	168	119	158	208	194	199	201	219
F → F	191	305	308	292	336	295	289	397	459
Upgraded	54 8.4%	46 4.9%	20 2.4%	40 4.4%	46 4.5%	53 5.5%	45 4.5%	35 3.04%	77 5.9%
B → A	14	7	3	3	7	3	8	8	6
C → A	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
C → B	40	39	16	36	39	5	36	27	71
Upgraded/Qualified for Certificate	197 30.5%	255 27.2%	238 28.5%	275 30.1%	247 24.3%	280 29.0%	306 30.4%	319 27.7%	333 25.4%
F → A	4	1	3	7	2	3	3	1	4
F → B	25	29	24	35	35	38	27	36	39
F → C	168	225	211	233	210	240	276	282	290
Upgraded to Narrowly Failed	69 10.7%	127 13.6%	117 14.0%	117 12.8%	136 13.4%	99 10.2%	128 12.7%	164 14.3%	170 13%
F → N	69	127	117	117	136	99	128	164	170

This table shows that over the years Grade C has featured prominently in the different categories. Among those candidates who had no change in grade after the September session, the largest category (among those who had passed) remained with a Grade C. Amongst the candidates who had passed in May and improved their overall grade in September, the largest category has always been from Grade C to Grade B. Furthermore, among the candidates who upgraded their overall grade from a Fail to a Pass, the largest category upgraded to a Grade C. It is interesting to point out that the trends in the Matriculation Certificate results have remained very stable over the past seven years.

SECTION 7.0: CONCLUSION

This report has been produced with the intention to provide important, valid information about various aspects of the Matriculation Certificate examination of 2005 in particular. The emphasis is on both the presentation of the information as well as on important analyses that are possible as a result of this information. However, it is possible for individuals and institutions to carry out further analyses on the data presented in this report. This report may be used as a basis of an evaluation of the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations that has been in operation for eight years to date.

Comments on this report and recommendations on improving this or similar documents published by the MATSEC Support Unit are welcome. These are to be addressed to Dr. Grace Grima, Principal Research and Development Officer, Academic Section, MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta, Msida MSD 06. Tel: 2340 2814 and Email: grace.grima@um.edu.mt.

APPENDICES