

AM SYLLABUS (2011)

RUSSIAN

AM 29

SYLLABUS

**Russian
Syllabus**

AM 29

(Available in September)

Paper I (2½ hrs) + Paper II, Oral ((2¼ hrs) + Paper III (3 hrs)

Aims

The aims of the syllabus are as follows:

1. to allow scope for the variety of approaches to learning and using Russian proficiently and to encourage the development of linguistic and general study skills for purposes of personal, vocational or higher education;
2. to promote the acquisition of the following receptive and productive language skills:
 - (a) the ability to understand the spoken language;
 - (b) the ability to understand and read the written language;
 - (c) the ability to write the language with accuracy and fluency;
3. to provide realistic and worthwhile objectives appropriate to the linguistic and intellectual capacities of Advanced level candidates studying the subject for the purposes specified in Aim 1;
4. to make the Advanced Level course enjoyable and to stimulate candidates' interests in the aspects of Russia.

Scheme of Examination

Paper I Essay on a General Topic and Translation	(50 marks)
Paper II Reading Comprehension and Oral Test	(75 marks)
Paper III Prescribed Texts	(75 marks)

Assessment Objectives

Paper I

The objectives in the first part of this part is to test the candidates' command of written Russian in defined situations in a variety of registers.

The objective in the second part of this paper is to test the candidates' understanding of contemporary written Russian and their ability to express their understanding by translation into English or Maltese.

Paper II

The objective in the first part of this paper is to test the candidates' understanding of an extended passage or passages of contemporary written Russian and their ability to express their understanding by answering specific questions in English or Maltese.

The objectives in the second part of this paper is to test the candidates' understanding of an extended passage or passages of contemporary written Russian and their understanding by answering specific questions in Russian.

The objective in the first part of this paper is to test the candidates' ability to communicate in Russian and to express their opinions coherently in fluent Russian.

Paper III

The objective in the first part of this paper is to test the candidates' ability to understand and appreciate original writing in Russian and to express in English or Maltese their reactions and their opinions of the texts they have studied.

The Examination

Paper I (2 hours 30 minutes)

(a) Candidates will be required to write an essay of approximately 300 words in Russian. A choice of titles will be given, which may include a letter, a dialogue, general life in Russia and in Malta. (40 marks)

(b) Translation into English or Maltese. Candidates will be required to translate into English or Maltese a contemporary passage in Russian of approximately 150 words. The translation passages may consist of narrative, description, dialogue or a mixture of any of these. (10 marks)

Paper II (2 hours 15 minutes)

(a) Reading comprehension. Candidates will be required to complete two tasks:

(i) to answer up to 10 questions in Russian on a contemporary passage or passages in Russian of 500-600 words (30 marks);

(ii) to answer up to 20 questions in English on a contemporary passage or passages in Russian of 600-700 words (20 marks);

(b) Oral Examination. Candidates will be required to complete two tasks:

(i) Picture interpretation: to show the candidates' awareness of action and feelings, as evidenced in visual stimuli (15 marks)

(ii) Role play: to show the candidates' ability to communicate in Russian in a number of every day situations, being either themselves or someone else (10 marks)

Paper III (3 hours)

Four literary texts are prescribed and three alternative questions will be set on each text, either a commentary question, or a structured question, or essay question. Candidates will be required to answer three questions in all (3 X 25 marks)

Notes for Guidance

Paper I - Essay on a General Topic and Translation

Question 1

In this part of the paper candidates will be required to write one essay from a range of a number of subjects. The subjects set for the essay may test discursive, narrative, and descriptive styles as well as formal and informal language - though not all of these will necessarily be represented in any one examination.

Question 2

The translation passages will be non-specialised in content and will cover a variety of registers including formal/informal, narrative, descriptive, imaginative, discursive, dialogue, journalistic, and philosophical.

Paper II - Reading Comprehension and Oral Test

Question 1

Reading comprehension passage(s) will be non-specialised in content and will cover a variety of registers. The questions on the reading comprehension passage(s) may include inferential as well as factual questions.

Question 2

In this part of the paper candidates will be required to complete two tasks. The first task will be to respond to visual stimuli by answering the questions and expressing opinion. A few suggestions for test material are given below.

1. The pictures selected for interpretation should be interesting (i.e. they should motivate the students to speak about them).

2. Single pictures, a series of pictures, or two different but related pictures (e.g. contrasting scenes) may be used.

3. The pictures should be within the students' knowledge and cultural understanding.

4. The pictures should provide a suitable context for language practice.

The second task will be to communicate in Russian in a number of improvised situations. The following are some suggestions for carrying out this task.

1. Establish the situation and the roles of the speakers involved.
2. Keep the situation simple and if possible try to relate it to the students' own experience.

Paper III - Prescribed Texts

Candidates will be required to have completed a detailed study of three texts chosen from a list of prescriptions. Candidates should be trained to organise the time allocated to Paper III as effectively as possible by spending equal time on each question: two very full answers cannot compensate for marks lost on a sketchy, incomplete third answer.

Candidates may answer the question in Russian if they wish, but they will not earn extra credit by doing so. Candidates will not be permitted to bring their prescribed texts with them into the examination room.

Prescribed Texts

1. A. S. Pushkin *The Snowstorm* (METEL) Hudozhestvennaya Literatura Publishers, 1925.
- 2 Ivan Turgenev *Three Sketches from a Hunter's Album, The Loner* (BIRYUK), Penguin 60s Classics, 1995
- 3 Ivan Bunin *Shadowed Path* (TYOMNAYA ALLEYA) from the book *Light Breathing and Other Stories*, Raduga Publishers, 1998
- 4 A.Chekhov *The Darling* (DUSHECHKA), Russky Yazyk publishers, 2002