

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
SEC SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

HISTORY

May 2007

EXAMINERS' REPORT*

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS' BOARD**

***[NOTE: The following is a summary of the examiners' full report.
The original can be consulted at the Matsec Office.]**

SEC HISTORY
May 2007 Session
Examiner's Report

Statistics

Table 1: Distribution of grades for SEC History – May 2007 session

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	Abs	Total
I+IIA	12	29	33	24	33	–	–	17	2	150
I+IIB	–	–	–	7	19	16	11	41	32	126
Total	12	29	33	31	52	16	11	58	34	276
%	4.35	10.51	11.96	11.23	18.84	5.80	3.99	21.01	12.32	100.00

A total of 276 candidates, that is 42 more than last year, registered for the examination: 150 opted for Paper IIA and 126 opted for Paper IIB. There were 2 candidates who were absent for Paper IIA while 32 candidates were absent for Paper IIB.

Option A candidates did well with 131 passes out of 150. This means that 87.2% got a pass mark while only 11.3% were unclassified.

Option B candidates did not do so well with only 26 candidates getting at least a grade 5, that is 27.6% of those who actually sat for the examination, and another 27 or 28.7% of those who actually sat for the examination, were given lower grades. A total of 58 candidates or 61.7% of those who actually sat for the examination were unclassified.

General Remarks

1. It is still the pattern for most candidates to choose to answer questions dealing with 19th Century History and for candidates to be generally better prepared for the Maltese History questions.
2. Candidates need to be repeatedly advised to read the instructions properly. There were some candidates who ignored the rubrics.
3. It is obvious that a good number of candidates come for the examination with previously-learnt material related with the syllabus topics and they tend to reproduce it as an answer without actually reading the questions.
4. Generally good candidates can write an answer in narrative style. However, many still need to develop skills to be able to construct simple historical expositions, to present reasoned arguments based on historical evidence, to indicate a clear understanding of causes and consequences, and to evaluate and interpret evidence and to develop their evaluating, comparing and judgement skills.
5. While a number of candidates indicate that they still lack basic writing skills, many, particularly from among candidates opting for Paper IIB, still lack communicative skills and are unable to express themselves in either Maltese or English. Some candidates give the impression that they did not understand the questions and quite a few others did not answer all the questions as expected by the rubrics. One candidate did not write anything at all.
6. It is important that students opting to sit for the History SEC level examination, be made aware of the whole content of the Syllabus long before deciding to register for this examination.

PAPER I

Option A Candidates: Out of 150 candidates there were two absent.

Part I

123 candidates answered Section A, 25 tried Section B, 109 opted for Section C, and 39 attempted Section D. All candidates present attempted Part I. 133 answers out of 148 were up to standard.

Section A: 112 candidates obtained at least half the marks allotted for this question. Most answers to questions set in this Section were correct but there were candidates who spelt wrongly the name of the last Grand Master, and others who did not make a distinction between leaders of the Rising of the Priests and others in the Rising against the French. There were some who could not name the constitution under which the Maltese voted for the first time in the 19th century, or to name countries which were popular with Maltese emigrants during the first half of the 19th century.

Section B: 20 candidates did well, the rest were weak. Most answers were generally up to standard but there were candidates who were rather vague regarding the effects of the Marshall Aid on Maltese politics. Quite a few were unable to indicate who was the leader of the MLP in the 1960s, and others could not explain the historical importance of 1974 and 1979.

Section C: 63 candidates gave good answers, the rest were below standard. Answers were often vague regarding the Consulate, the Congress System was often mixed up with the Continental System, many did not recall what the Pact of Plombière was all about, and quite a few candidates had no idea what 'new' energy did Swan and Edison introduce.

Section D: 25 candidates obtained at least half the marks allotted for this question. Two candidates did not get any marks at all. Only a few could indicate the name of the person behind the Balkan League or the name of the German minister who signed the Pact of Locarno. Vague definitions were given regarding 'Mandatory Governments'. Some had no idea what the Appeasement Policy was all about or who coined the term 'Iron Curtain' or whom Gorbachev succeeded as president of Russia.

Part II

123 candidates answered Section A, 25 attempted Section B, 115 answered Section C, and 33 answered Section D.

Section A:

Question 1: This question was well answered with 107 candidates getting a pass mark or more and another 15 candidates scoring full marks. The main difficulties encountered were with question (e) where they had to indicate the King to whom the Islands were given, and questions (g) and (h) which concerned the Treaty of Amiens.

Question 2: The same candidates scored a slightly lower average for this question with 108 candidates gaining a good mark and another six candidates obtaining full marks. Some candidates simply copied parts of the sources given to give an answer to question (f).

Section B:

Question 1: Only one candidate out of 25 obtained full marks. There were another 14 who obtained a pass mark or more. Answers given indicate that not much importance was given to protagonists involved in the events and that candidates still find it difficult to explain certain phrases found in the sources.

Question 2: Again, only one candidate obtained full marks while another 21 scratched a pass mark or more. The main issue here was that most candidates consider the sources as a 'comprehension' exercise where they can find the answer in the text and copy it.

Section C:

Question 1: Candidates attempting this question, found it a bit difficult, in fact the average scored was the lowest for questions in Part II: only five candidates out of 115 obtained full marks while another 79 candidates got a pass mark or more. Though quite a few could define 'feudal system', many seem not well informed on the Civil Constitution of the Clergy.

Question 2: Candidates did slightly better here, though some betrayed total lack of knowledge of the Industrial Revolution. There were 11 candidates who obtained full marks and another 83 who got a pass mark or more. Some candidates found it difficult to contrast the views presented in the sources or to give an evaluation, but most disappointing was the fact that many apparently cannot distinguish between 'cities' and countries.

Section D:

Question 1: Candidates attempting this question fared worst with 24 candidates obtaining a pass mark, most of them almost scraping through. Many had no idea who the German politician was and were not aware of the details concerning 'colonialism'.

Question 2: The same number of candidates succeeded in obtaining a pass mark or slightly more. Many were not aware of the difference between the EEC and the EU. Many did not understand what 'predecessor' in (b) meant and some are not so sure of the historical stages of development of the EU or the number of its member states on its establishment.

Option B Candidates: Out of 125 registered candidates, 32 were absent and only 94 turned up for the examination.

Part I

74 candidates attempted Section A with only 19 preferring to answer Section B. 55 candidates attempted to answer Section C and 32 candidates attempted Section D. One candidate did not attempt a single section while seven candidates attempted only one section from Part I. On the whole, candidates gave very weak answers sometimes indicating that they had no knowledge of what they were supposed to write about.

Section A: This was the best answered question. 40 candidates obtained a pass mark or more with another single candidate obtaining full marks. Many candidates could only name one Maltese leader among those who fought against the French, while many had great difficulties in trying to explain the Declaration of Rights, the effects of the plague and the importance of the Suez Canal.

Section B: Only six candidates got a pass mark. Candidates had no idea what the Marshall Aid was all about though some good answers were provided for question 4. Very weak answers were given to other questions in this Section.

Section C: One single candidate scraped a pass mark. Most candidates could not define the 'Ancien Regime' or explain what was the 'Consulate'. Though some candidates gave good answers to question 10, the rest of the questions seem to have been beyond them.

Section D: One single candidate got a pass mark. All other candidates produced very weak answers. Candidates could not give any good reasons for the Allied Victory in World War I and had no idea what other historical terms implied. Most candidates also mixed up the 'Iron Curtain' with the Berlin Wall. This was in fact the worst answered question.

Part II

A number of candidates did not attempt two Sections as expected by the rubrics, in fact there were also six candidates who attempted only one section and one candidate who did not produce a single answer. The answer distribution was as follows: Section A 1 - 72 answers, Section A 2 - 69 answers, Section B 1 - 19 answers, Section B 2 - 22 answers, Section C 1 - 59 answers, Section C 2 - 55 answers, Section D 1 - 23 answers and Section D 2 - 22 answers. Many answers, except for Section A, were below average with no less than 21 zeros spread out among the eight questions.

Section A

Question 1: This was the best answered question with 50 candidates obtaining a pass mark. Many missed the point that Napoleon appreciated Malta's geographical-strategic position and its fortifications and few if any could explain the Maltese reaction to the Treaty of Amiens ignoring the Declaration of Rights altogether.

Question 2: This was the next best answered question with 43 getting a pass mark or more including two candidates who scored full marks. Few candidates mentioned the Keenan Report and most candidates did not identify the professional class and the clergy as the domineering classes. Many found it difficult to tackle questions where historical terms were to be explained.

Section B:

Question 1: Only two candidates got a pass mark. Some candidates seem to be totally ignorant of the Sette Giugno, the 1921 Constitution and other topics raised in the questions under this Section.

Question 2: Six candidates scraped a pass mark. Candidates indicated that they had no idea of the dimension of World War II and what the British base consisted of. Most candidates do not have the least idea of what were the effects of the war on the population, what the 'deportation' issue was all about and some apparently do not even know what 'airfield' means.

Section C:

Question 1: None of the candidates got a pass mark: many could not define 'feudal system' or give any examples of taxes. Moreover, they give the impression that they lack knowledge regarding the progress of the French Revolution or what the Civil Constitution of the Clergy was all about. This question had the lowest average mark.

Question 2: 8 candidates got a pass mark, but the majority obtained very low marks. Some candidates did not even realize that the sources referred to the Industrial Revolution and, again, many candidates apparently do not differentiate between countries and 'cities'.

Section D:

Question 1: Only two candidates scraped a pass mark. Though some candidates could give a fairly good definition of 'scramble for Africa', most candidates could not deal with the rest of the questions in this Section.

Question 2: Only one candidate scraped a pass mark. Candidates have no idea of the origins of the Common Market and how the EU developed. Many produced puerile definitions.

PAPER IIA

Three candidates, out of 150 registrations, were absent for this paper.

Section A

Question 1: This proved to be the most popular question. 67 candidates attempted this question, 14 of whom were awarded 12 marks or less for their answer. The answers of the majority of the candidates were satisfactory and 14 obtained 20 marks or over from a total of 25 marks. Candidates who obtained 12 marks or less failed to explain properly the causes that led to the insurrection of the Maltese against the French.

Question 2: 28 candidates attempted this question, 4 of whom obtained 20 marks or more. 4 candidates were awarded 12 marks or less as their answers left much to be desired. These candidates hardly knew anything about Maitland and the reforms that he carried out. A number of candidates, even among those who were awarded 13 marks or more, failed to mention the Mortmain Law of 1822.

Question 3: 26 answers. All candidates who answered this question succeeded to obtain 13 marks or more. 12 candidates wrote very good answers and were awarded 20 marks or more. Extra marks were awarded to those candidates who were able to compare and contrast as they were asked to do in the question. Those who obtained low marks failed to show enough knowledge of Malta's constitutional history under British rule up to 1887.

Question 4: 39 candidates answered this question which dealt with Church and State relations during the 19th century. 9 candidates wrote excellent answers and were awarded 20 marks or over from a maximum of 25 marks. On the other hand, 12 candidates wrote very poor answers and were awarded 12 marks or less. A number of candidates did not give any importance to the aspect of why it was important for the British authorities to maintain cordial relations with the Church and to the aspect of how far they were successful.

Question 5: 33 candidates chose to answer this question which dealt with Malta's economy during the first sixty-nine years of the 19th century. Only six candidates were awarded 20 marks or more. Another 6 candidates were awarded 12 marks or less and their answers were unsatisfactory. A number of candidates

digressed and gave unnecessary details of the plague of 1813/14 and of the Crimean War. They hardly made any effort to answer the question. Others gave details of Malta's economic situation after 1869.

Question 6: This was the second most popular question from Section A. There were 47 candidates who answered this question, 31 of whom were awarded 13 marks or more. 7 candidates wrote excellent answers and were awarded 20 marks or more. On the other hand 13 candidates did not obtain a pass mark. A number of candidates did not even mention the effect of the Language Question on the political and constitutional situation of Malta.

Section B

Question 1: 22 candidates answered this question, one of whom was awarded 20 marks for the answer. In general the answers were satisfactory, and only 2 candidates obtained less than 13 marks. It is obvious that these candidates lacked basic information to be able to answer the question which dealt with Malta's contribution to the war effort during World War I. A number of candidates emphasized Malta's role as a hospital base but failed to evaluate its role as a coaling station or as a naval base.

Question 2: There was a total of 16 answers. This question dealt with the Sette Giugno disturbances. 2 candidates were awarded 20 marks or more while another 2 were awarded less than 13 marks each. One candidate mixed up the Sette Giugno riots with those commonly known as 'The Rising of the Priests'. A number of candidates gave details regarding the actual riots but did not give due importance to the causes or to the consequences of the event.

Question 3: Only 2 candidates chose to answer this question and they were awarded 14 marks and 18 marks respectively. One candidate did not give enough importance to the 'Split' of 1949 which divided the Labour Party into two factions, thus causing the Government to lose parliamentary majority.

Question 4: 10 candidates chose to answer this question which dealt with the reasons for the failure of the Integration proposal of the 1950s. Answers to this question were not very satisfactory and 3 candidates were awarded less than 13 marks. A number of candidates failed to mention the opposition of the Catholic Church and of the political parties to the proposal of Integration. Moreover, few were those who mentioned the referendum and its inconclusive results.

Question 5: Only 2 candidates chose to answer this question, one was awarded 10 and the other 14 marks respectively. The answers were not very satisfactory, and in one case at least, the candidate did not deal with the Government's efforts to tackle the political, economic and social issues of the time.

Question 6: Only 2 candidates chose to answer this question, obtaining 14 and 16 marks respectively. The answers indicate that students still have to learn to be more objective in their evaluation of past events.

Section C

Question 1: This was the most answered question from this Section, yet a good number of candidates lost marks: they explained how the French Revolution led to terror but did not discuss how it led to war and dictatorship. A good number of candidates just gave a list of the cause for this Revolution without concentrating on the events between 1792 and 1795. Others narrated Napoleon's Italian and Egyptian campaigns. Few referred to the Brunswick Manifesto or the creation of the Directory and eventually the Empire. Overall achievement was poor with the question scoring the lowest average in European and International History: there were 56 answers of whom 12 got a pass mark or more with two candidates obtaining 20 and 21 marks respectively.

Question 2: There was a total of 43 answers with the question scoring the highest average, 12 candidates getting a pass mark or more and five candidates obtaining 20 or more marks. The question was generally well answered though there were some candidates who just concentrated on Napoleon's foreign policy making only a brief reference to his home policy. Moreover, many candidates overlooked the organization of local government and the reorganization of the education system when dealing with internal affairs.

Question 3: A total of 26 answers, with 15 candidates scoring a pass mark or more, 3 candidates obtaining 20 more marks. Most candidates, however, concentrated on Napoleon III's foreign policy making little reference to the internal reforms he attempted. Most candidates managed to bring out the idea that his reign was one of contradictions and how in trying to please everyone, he had managed to please none.

Question 4: A total of 40 answers with only 9 candidates obtaining a pass mark or more and just one candidate getting 20 marks or over. This occurred because most candidates did not really attempt to answer the question. Few sought to explain how and why Mazzini was the champion of Italian republicanism and how in spite of unity all his republican ideas were defeated. Some candidates even mixed Mazzini with Garibaldi.

Question 5: In all there were 29 answers, with ten candidates getting a pass mark or more and only one candidate obtaining 20 marks. Though many candidates dealt with Bismarck's struggle with the Catholic Church and the Social Democrats, few really gave any details of the internal reforms he undertook and which resulted in his losing the sympathy of the younger generation that considered him too conservative. As in the previous question, achievement was below average.

Question 6: A total of 23 answers. Most of the candidates concentrated on the development of nationalist movements in Belgium and Greece, giving little or no importance to the events that occurred in Poland. However, overall achievement was good with 17 candidates getting a pass mark or more and one candidate obtaining over 20 marks.

Section D

Question 1: In all, 10 answers with only 4 candidates obtaining a pass mark or more. Though a few candidates gave a good account of how the Balkan Wars led to World War I, many just narrated what happened without explaining why the settlement was not seen as permanent and why tension was always on the increase. A number of candidates just concentrated on the alignments that led to World War I.

Question 2: Only 4 candidates attempted this question with two getting a pass mark or more, one obtaining over 20 marks. Candidates generally gave a good account of the social and economic conditions prevailing in Spain in the years prior to the civil war. However, few candidates gave a good background of the crushing of the 1917 strike by the army or the takeover and subsequent resignation of De Rivera. Many gave a good account of the country was divided into two camps and how these got foreign support. Further, some candidates failed to explain how the Russian change of policy led to the Fascist dictatorship.

Question 3: There was a total of 16 answers, with 8 candidates obtaining a pass mark or more, and two candidates scoring over 20 marks each. Many candidates gave a good account of the causes leading to revolution in Russia but quite a few failed to deal with the earlier disturbances of 1905 and the humiliation that Russia suffered in the war against Japan. Candidates gave a good account of how Lenin and the exiled Bolsheviks demanded peace and social reform and how these demands were supported by the people leading ultimately to the October Revolution.

Question 4: There was a total of 26 answers, with 12 candidates obtaining a pass mark or more. Few candidates explained that though the economic crisis was a very important cause, it was not the only one. Few managed to explain how the immediate years after World War I were characterized in Germany by governments of weak coalitions which were unable to deal effectively with the economy and unemployment and how this led the Germans to seek refuge in extremist movements. However, many of the candidates dealt well with the process of how Hitler took over power in Germany. A few candidates also dealt with Hitler's later foreign policy, which was superfluous to the question.

Question 5: There were 13 answers in all, with 8 candidates getting a pass mark or more. Though candidates provided a good explanation of the peace treaties, they tended to concentrate only on the ensuing confrontation in Germany giving little attention to the ideological differences that were to generate mistrust and the ensuing atomic arms race. NATO and the Warsaw Pact were generally sidetracked.

Question 6: Only two candidates attempted this question, with one getting a pass mark. The question scored the lowest average in the European and International History sections. It is evident that candidates were not well prepared to answer this question.

PAPER IIB

Out of 126 candidates who registered for Paper IIB, 35 candidates were absent.

Section A

Question 1: A total of 59 candidates chose to answer this question which dealt with the rising of the Maltese against the French, the Blockade and the Treaty of Amiens. 4 candidates were awarded 20 marks or more for their answers while 27 were awarded 12 marks or less, thus indicating that answers left much to be desired. The majority of the candidates answered correctly the first part of the question, that is why the Maltese revolted against the French. Many, however, did not tackle part (d) of the question which dealt with the Treaty of Amiens and Maltese sovereignty. It is evident that a number of candidates do not know the meaning of the term 'sovereignty'.

Question 2: In all there were 22 answers. The question was about Sir Thomas Maitland and the reforms he carried out in Malta. Answers to this question were very poor and only 4 candidates were awarded 13 marks or more. Nearly no one could answer part (d) of the question which asked candidates to 'indicate one of his reforms and explain why it was necessary' to be carried out.

Question 3: Only 3 candidates chose to answer this question and they were awarded 10, 17, and 19 marks respectively. Part (e) of the question proved to be the most challenging and the candidates did not do very well in their answers to this part of the question. They gave details of the 1887 Constitution but failed to specifically explain the 'gains' the Maltese had made.

Question 4: A total of 23 candidates chose to answer this question which dealt with Malta's economy during the first three quarters of the 19th Century. One candidate was awarded 20 marks and 9 candidates were awarded 12 marks or less. As a general rule the answers to this question were not very satisfactory. A number of candidates could not answer the first part of the question dealing with the Continental System, nor could they give an answer on the effects of the opening of the Suez Canal on Malta's economy.

Question 5: There were 27 answers to this question. It dealt with emigration during the 19th Century. One candidate was awarded 20 marks while 17 candidates were awarded 12 marks or less. In general the answers to this question were not satisfactory. In a number of cases candidates mixed up emigration during the 19th Century with that of the 20th Century and mentioned Australia, the United States and Britain as the destinations of Maltese emigrants.

Question 6: Only 10 candidates answered this question which dealt with the importance of different personalities in Maltese history. One candidate was awarded 23 marks and another 18 marks. The answers of the other candidates were very poor indeed. Candidates gave wrong information about the personalities they chose and failed completely to indicate their importance in Maltese history.

Section B

Question 1: A total of 16 candidates chose to answer this question which dealt with the Sette Giugno Riots of 1919. No candidate was awarded twenty marks or more, while 10 candidates were awarded 12 marks or less, indicating that the answers to the question were rather poor. A number of candidates missed the connection between the riots and the social-political conditions at the time.

Question 2: Only 4 candidates attempted this question which dealt with the Labour Party following the General Elections of 1947. Only one candidate was awarded a pass mark. Candidates were not aware of the

reforms of the 1947-49 Legislature and they hardly knew anything about the 'Split'. It is apparent that the candidates were not well prepared to answer this question.

Question 3: One candidate answered this question and was awarded 11 marks. The knowledge presented regarding the 1964 Constitution and the closing down of the British military base in 1979 was poor. Moreover, the candidate did not explain their importance in Maltese history.

Question 4: Five candidates answered this question which dealt with the issue of Integration. Except for one case, the answers given were satisfactory. However, the candidates were not well prepared to answer parts (b) and (d) of the question, generally failing to explain why the Labour Party advocated Integration and why the proposal failed.

Question 5: Three candidates answered this question which dealt with the efforts of the Maltese Government to deal with aspects of the economy, employment and international relations following the granting of Independence in 1964. Answers to this question were very poor indeed, with the answers getting the lowest average mark in the Maltese History section. Candidates produced irrelevant information and showed that they were not all prepared to answer this question.

Question 6: Only 2 candidates chose to answer this question which dealt with different Maltese personalities. They were awarded 4 and 14 marks respectively. Candidates have to learn to choose wisely the information they present. At times they give many details but miss out on what is really substantial - for example, giving a lot of information about Sir Anthony Mamo and failing even to mention that he was the first President of the Republic.

Section C

Question 1: Though 52 candidates chose to answer this question, the overall achievement was well below average. Only 3 candidates obtained 12 marks or more. Practically none of the candidates managed to explain how the French Revolutionary Wars were one of the immediate effects of the French Revolution. Only a few candidates attempted to give an account of the Reign of Terror and the subsequent rise of Napoleon to power.

Question 2: A total of 35 answers, with 3 candidates getting 12 marks or more and one candidate scoring 17 marks. The question scored the lowest average in this Section. Candidates generally wrote about Napoleon's policy and gave little attention to Napoleon's home policy.

Question 3: A total of 8 answers, with 3 candidates obtaining a pass mark or more and the question scoring the highest average in this Section. Some candidates gave a good account of Napoleon III's intervention in the Italian Unification. The accounts of his intervention in Mexico and the Franco-Prussian War left much to be desired.

Question 4: In all, 13 answers with three candidates obtaining a pass mark or more. Candidates generally knew what to write about Garibaldi and Cavour but only briefly referred to Mazzini's role.

Question 5: A total of 6 answers with just one candidate obtaining a pass mark. Few could give any relevant explanation regarding Bismarck's struggle with the Catholic Church and the Socialists. His social policy was generally ignored or only briefly referred to.

Question 6: In all, 8 answers with none of the candidates gaining a pass mark. Though some candidates had some knowledge of the process leading to Belgian independence, their knowledge of the Greek movement towards independence was very limited.

Section D:

Question 1: There was a total of 7 answers with none of the candidates gaining a pass mark. A few candidates just had an inkling of the alliances that developed during the late 19th and early 20th century.

Practically none of the candidates could give an account of how the Balkan Wars led to the outbreak of World War I.

Question 2: A total of 3 answers with candidates scoring very low marks. In fact this question had the lowest average mark in the whole paper. Candidates were evidently not prepared to formulate any answer to this question.

Question 3: No one attempted this question.

Question 4: There was a total of 22 answers. This was the most popular question in this Section, but only two candidates obtained a pass mark or more. Most of the candidates did not really deal with question but tried to write about Hitler in general or give some information about his dealing with the Jews.

Question 5: In all, 6 answers with one candidate getting a pass mark. It seems that the writing of paragraphs on various topics was an opportunity for candidates to score some marks. Yet the average score was well below the pass mark. The most familiar topics with the candidates were the Cold War, the Marshall Plan and the NATO.

Question 6: A total of 15 answers with none of the candidates gaining a pass mark. Though candidates indicated that they had a gleaning of the results of World War II and the ensuing division of Europe, their knowledge of events in German history was very poor.

**The Chairperson
Board of Examiners
July 2007**