



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2026 FIRST SESSION**

SUBJECT:	Geography
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	20 th May 2026
TIME:	4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

Answer **FOUR** questions in total. Questions carry 25 marks each.

1. A field survey along the coastline of north-west Scotland identified a sequence of raised beaches (Figure 1), while recent global tide-gauge and satellite records show a clear upward trend in sea level over the last century.



Figure 1: Raised beach deposits related to isostatic rebound in Gruinard Bay, northwest Scotland.
(Source: Geomorphological Features Social Media Page; Photo Credit: © F. Gutiérrez)

- (a) Define the terms (i) eustatic, and (ii) isostatic sea-level change and discuss how **both** can contribute to the formation of raised beaches as illustrated in Figure 1. (10)
- (b) Describe **TWO** causes of present and future sea-level rise and discuss **THREE** main impacts they may have on the Maltese Islands from a physical and socio-economic point of view. (15)

(Total: 25 marks)

Please turn the page.

2. Rocks are often classified in ways that reflect both their origin and their physical behaviour in landscapes.

- (a) Explain how rocks can be classified into **THREE** major groups according to their origin. In your answer, describe the key processes responsible for the formation of **each** group and outline how rocks can be transformed from one group to another over time. (15)
- (b) With reference to the rock types of the Maltese Islands, assess how rock properties (such as hardness, permeability and structure) can influence the type and rate of weathering. Use **ONE** clearly located example to support your answer. (10)

(Total: 25 marks)

3. On a hillside, soils differ noticeably between upper, middle and lower slope positions, even where the parent material is similar.

- (a) With the help of an annotated diagram, explain how slope angle and slope position influence soil drainage and key soil properties such as depth and organic content. (15)
- (b) Analyse why these variations are important to consider for land management and discuss **TWO** implications for agriculture and vegetation patterns. (10)

(Total: 25 marks)

4. In response to the devastating floods that hit Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand in 2025, the European Union released €2.4 million in emergency assistance for the most affected areas. This funding will serve to provide essential relief to the most vulnerable communities.

- (a) To what extent does urban growth and land-use change influence the risks of flood hazards, especially in developing countries? Give **THREE** reasons for your answer. (11)
- (b) Explain the importance of flood hazard assessments and analyse how such a tool can help authorities to better prepare communities for these hazards. (14)

(Total: 25 marks)

5. (a) Explain how beaches form as constructional landforms, focusing on sediment sources and coastal physical processes. (10)

- (b) Discuss how and why beach profiles change over time, with particular emphasis on the short, medium and long-term changes in beach profiles. (15)

(Total: 25 marks)

6. (a) With reference to a specific region in the world, explain **TWO** physical and **TWO** socio-economic causes of tropical rainforest destruction. (14)

- (b) Discuss the most important environmental consequences of rainforest destruction at local and global scales. In your answer, state which consequence is the most difficult to reverse and why. (11)

(Total: 25 marks)



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**ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2026 FIRST SESSION**

SUBJECT: **Geography**
PAPER NUMBER: II
DATE: 22nd May 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Answer **FOUR** questions in total. Questions carry 25 marks each.

1. Figure 1 shows the number of births and deaths each year in Malta from 1950 to 2023.

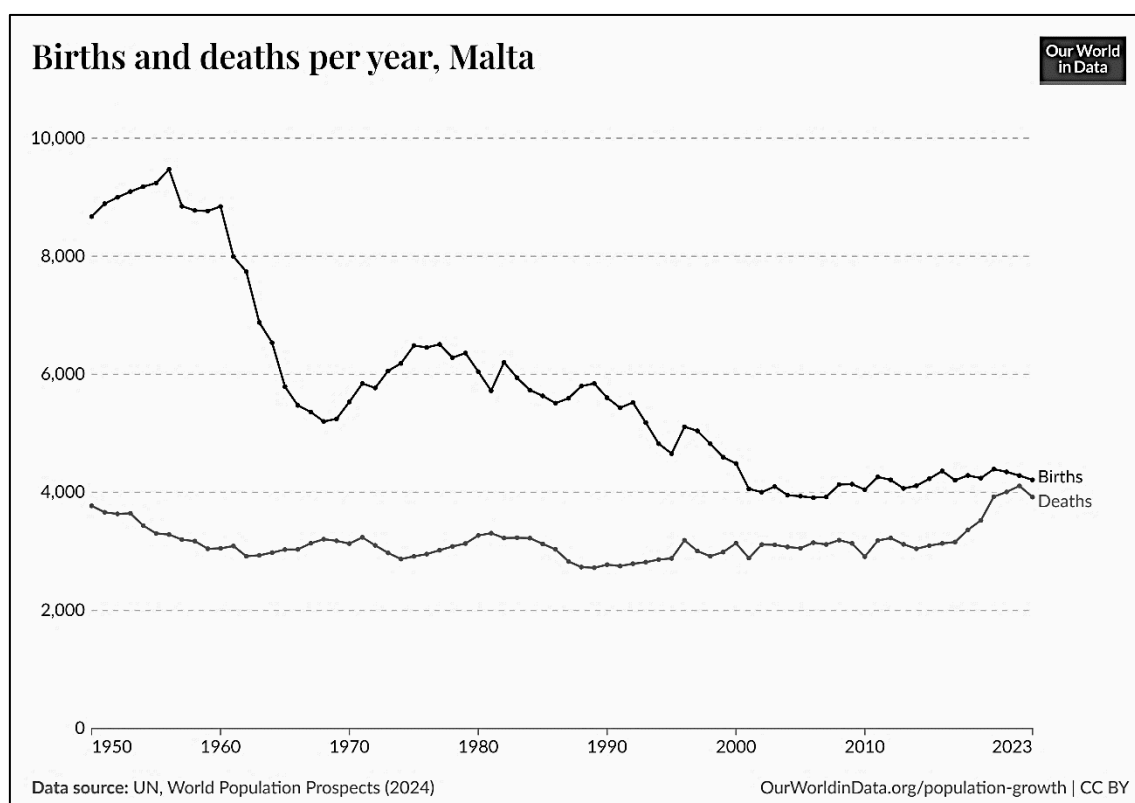


Figure 1. Births and deaths per year in Malta from 1950-2023.

(Adapted from: <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/>)

- (a) Explain the main findings from the graph shown in Figure 1. (6)
- (b) Table 1 on page 2 shows the total population across the six districts of the Maltese Islands in 2024.
- Briefly describe the purpose of a Lorenz Curve and how it can be used with reference to the data in Table 1. (4)
 - Work out the rank, number of people percentage and cumulative percentage of the data in Table 1. Show all your workings. (8)
 - Using the result obtained for the cumulative percentage in part b(ii), plot the Lorenz curve, and comment on the results. (7)

Please turn the page.

Table 1. Population in Malta in 2024 by district.

District	Total population (number of people) in 2024
Southern Harbour	90,156
Northern Harbour	182,673
South Eastern	83,235
Western	69,569
Northern	107,364
Gozo and Comino	41,253

(Adapted from: <https://nso.gov.mt/population/>)**(Total: 25 marks)**

2. Table 2 shows the largest ten companies in the world ranked by earnings as of 19th November 2025, all of which can be referred to as multinational companies (MNCs).

Table 2. Largest ten companies in the world ranked by earnings.

Rank	Company	Country	Industry	Earnings
1	Saudi Aramco	Saudi Arabia	Oil & Gas Operations	€167.13 billion
2	Alphabet (Google)	USA	IT Software & Services	€131.87 billion
3	Apple	USA	Technology, Hardware & Equipment	€115.09 billion
4	Microsoft	USA	IT Software & Services	€110.42 billion
5	NVIDIA	USA	Semi-conductors	€87.27 billion
6	Amazon	USA	Retail & Wholesale	€82.37 billion
7	Meta Platforms (Facebook)	USA	IT Software & Services	€73.61 billion
8	Berkshire Hathaway	USA	Insurance	€70.58 billion
9	JPMorgan Chase	USA	Banking	€62.98 billion
10	ICBC	China	Banking	€51.03 billion

(Adapted from: <https://companiesmarketcap.com/most-profitable-companies/>)

- (a) Describe the main findings of Table 2. (5)
- (b) Define a multinational company (MNC). (3)
- (c) Analyse **TWO** advantages and **TWO** disadvantage of MNCs. (8)
- (d) Explain **THREE** key factors that determine the location where multinational companies choose to site their organisation. (9)

(Total: 25 marks)

3. Understanding how technology, environmental perspectives and resource availability interact is key to analysing resource use and the challenges faced by resource-limited regions.

- (a) Describe **THREE** ways how technology has affected resource use. (6)
- (b) Explain the main views of the Club of Rome and Lovelock's Gaia Theory on resource use. (10)
- (c) Examine the lack of natural resources in Malta, with specific reference to energy resources, and comment on the consequences of such a reality. (9)

(Total: 25 marks)

4. The Brandt Report (1980) used the Brandt Line to show the divide between the rich North and the poorer South, stressing unequal trade — an issue that is still central to World Trade Organisation (WTO) discussions.

- (a) Describe the Brandt Line and explain how it separates countries by development. (9)
- (b) Explain the relevance of the North-South divide in the contemporary world. (5)
- (c) The Brandt Report highlighted the importance of expanding trade between the North and the South to reduce inequality and support development. Elaborate on the trade relations between the North and the South. (7)
- (d) Outline the role of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). (4)

(Total: 25 marks)

5. (a) Explain **THREE** environmental impacts caused by agricultural activities. (9)

- (b) Discuss **THREE** ways how the impacts of agriculture on the environment can be mitigated. (9)

- (c) Irrigation in arid and semi-arid regions supplies water to crops where rainfall is too low or unreliable to support agriculture naturally.

- (i) Outline the importance of irrigation in arid and semi-arid regions. (3)

- (ii) Briefly describe **TWO** problems related to irrigation in arid and semi-arid regions. (4)

(Total: 25 marks)

6. Urban models such as the Burgess Concentric Model and the Hoyt Sector Model have been devised to explain the spatial organisation of cities, illustrating how land-use patterns and socio-economic segregation emerge as urban areas expand.

- (a) Define the term segregation, and list **TWO** factors that cause segregation in urban areas. (5)

- (b) With the use of **TWO** labelled sketch diagrams, describe **TWO** similarities and **TWO** differences between the Burgess Concentric Zone Model and the Hoyt Sector Model. (14)

- (c) Explain **THREE** limitations of **either** the Burgess **or** the Hoyt model, with particular reference to their applicability in the contemporary world. (6)

(Total: 25 marks)