L-Università ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**English**
PAPER NUMBER:	I
DATE:	29th August 2025
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE from Section B, and Section C.

SECTION A: SHAKESPEARE SET TEXTS **(33 marks)**

In Section A, essays must **NOT** be shorter than 500 words.

Essays responding to a gobbet (1a or 2a) should:
- identify the immediate context of the extract and its relation to the play as a whole;
- focus primarily on the given extract while also referring to the play as a whole;
- relate the extract to at least **TWO** of: characterisation, theme, imagery, and setting.

1. ***Romeo and Juliet***

EITHER

a. Gobbet.

LADY CAPULET Well, think of marriage now. Younger than you
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem,
Are made already mothers. By my count
I was your mother much upon these years
That you are now a maid. Thus, then, in brief:
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

NURSE A man, young lady—lady, such a man
As all the world—why, he's a man of wax.

LADY CAPULET Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

NURSE Nay, he's a flower, in faith, a very flower.

LADY CAPULET What say you? Can you love the gentleman?
This night you shall behold him at our feast.
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen.
Examine every married lineament
And see how one another lends content,
And what obscured in this fair volume lies
Find written in the margent of his eyes.
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,
To beautify him only lacks a cover.
The fish lives in the sea, and 'tis much pride
For fair without the fair within to hide.
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory
That in gold clasps locks in the golden story.
So shall you share all that he doth possess
By having him, making yourself no less.

Passage continues on the next page.

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NURSE No less? Nay, bigger. Women grow by men.

LADY CAPULET Speak briefly. Can you like of Paris' love?

JULIET I'll look to like, if looking liking move.
But no more deep will I endart mine eye
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

OR

b. Compare and contrast the characters of the two lovers, Romeo and Juliet, in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

OR

c. Discuss the significance of the Capulet's ball in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

2. ***Othello***

EITHER

a. Gobbet.

IAGO And what's he, then, that says I play the villain,
When this advice is free I give, and honest,
Probal to thinking, and indeed the course
To win the Moor again? For 'tis most easy
Th' inclining Desdemona to subdue
In any honest suit. She's fram'd as fruitful
As the free elements. And then for her
To win the Moor—were't to renounce his baptism,
All seals and symbols of redeemèd sin—
His soul is so enfettered to her love
That she may make, unmake, do what she list,
Even as her appetite shall play the god
With his weak function. How am I then a villain
To counsel Cassio to this parallel course
Directly to his good? Divinity of hell!
When devils will the blackest sins put on,
They do suggest at first with heavenly shows,
As I do now. For whiles this honest fool
Plies Desdemona to repair his fortune,
And she for him pleads strongly to the Moor,
I'll pour this pestilence into his ear:
That she repeals him for her body's lust;
And by how much she strives to do him good,
She shall undo her credit with the Moor.
So will I turn her virtue into pitch,
And out of her own goodness make the net
That shall enmesh them all.

OR

b. 'Iago's evil manipulation is only successful because he preys on Othello's deep-seated insecurities as a husband and a Moor.' Discuss this statement with close reference to Iago and Othello's characters as depicted in Shakespeare's *Othello*.

OR

c. Discuss the struggle between rationality and madness as evidenced in Shakespeare's *Othello*.

SECTION B: POETRY SET TEXTS **(33 marks)**

In Section B, essays must **NOT** be shorter than 500 words.

- Bolster your response by making reference to language use and poetic devices, rather than merely retelling the poems' content;
- Remember to include a reason for *why* the poet uses the poetic devices you identify;
- Identify all aspects of your chosen question and then address all of them directly; do not answer the question only partly.

1. **Elizabeth Bishop**

a. 'In her poetry, Elizabeth Bishop treats her human and nonhuman subjects with infinite tenderness.' Discuss this statement with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

b. 'I prize clarity and simplicity. I like to present complicated or mysterious ideas in the simplest ways possible.' Discuss Elizabeth Bishop's statement with reference to her poem 'Sandpiper' and **TWO** other poems of your choice.

2. **Carol Ann Duffy**

a. 'Carol Ann Duffy's language is forceful because it is expressed with clarity and fueled by bitterness'. Discuss this statement with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

b. 'Carol Ann Duffy's poetry often subverts power hierarchies by speaking for the vulnerable.' Discuss with reference to the poem 'Mrs Lazarus' and **TWO** other poems of your choice.

3. **Seamus Heaney**

a. Discuss how parenthood features in Seamus Heaney's poetry with reference to **THREE** poems of your choice.

OR

b. Discuss how Seamus Heaney's poetic style conveys a sense of respect towards the work of the rural Irish worker with reference to 'The Forge' and **TWO** other poems by Heaney of your choice.

Please turn the page.

SECTION C: POETRY CRITICISM **(33 marks)**

Write a critical appreciation of the poem below.

- Your essay must **NOT** be shorter than 400 words.
- Focus on theme, imagery, form and poetic language.
- You may also comment on any other literary aspects of the poem that you consider to be worthy of discussion.

'The Sunlit House'

White, through the gate it gleamed and slept
In shattered shine: the parched garden flowers
Their fallen petals from the beds unswept
Like children unloved and ill-kept
Dreamed through the hours.
Two blue hydrangeas by the blistered door, burned brown,
Watched there, and no one in the town
Cared to go past it, night or day,
Though why this was they wouldn't say.
But I, the stranger, knew that I must stay.
Pace up the weed-grown paths and down,
Till one afternoon – there is just a doubt –
But I fancy I heard a tiny shout –
From an upper window a bird flew out –
And I went my way.

by Charlotte Mew

L-Università ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**English**
PAPER NUMBER:	II
DATE:	1st September 2025
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Answer **BOTH** Section A **AND** Section B.

SECTION A: NOVEL SET TEXTS **(Total: 66 marks)**

- Answer **TWO** questions (**NOT** on the same novel) from this section.
- Essays in this section must **NOT** be shorter than 500 words.
- Avoid simply narrating the plot. Remember to provide evidence and explanation for your points.

1. ***The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood**

a. Discuss Atwood's presentation of the male characters in *The Handmaid's Tale*, exploring the extent to which they are victims of, or complicit in, the Gileadean system.

OR

b. 'Time has not stood still. It has washed over me, washed me away, as if I'm nothing more than a woman of sand.' Discuss how Atwood uses time as both a narrative device and thematic concern in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

2. ***Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens**

a. 'In *Great Expectations,* Pip struggles with questions of identity and self-knowledge.' Discuss the way Dickens explores the theme of identity through Pip's journey and relationships.

OR

b. Analyse the significance of Satis House in *Great Expectations*, considering the way it influences Pip's views on wealth and love.

3. ***Atonement*, Ian McEwan**

a. 'In *Atonement* Ian McEwan explores the theme of loss in complex and moving ways.' Discuss.

OR

b. Discuss the importance of Part 3 (London) in *Atonement,* showing how this serves as a turning point in developing the novel's main themes.

4. ***Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë**

a. Discuss the portrayal of Hareton Earnshaw in *Wuthering Heights,* exploring how his transformation reflects the novel's broader themes.

OR

b. Discuss the importance of childhood and upbringing in *Wuthering Heights*.

Question continues on the next page.

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5. ***To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee**

a. 'The trial of Tom Robinson is a pivotal moment in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, highlighting the novel's major themes.' Discuss.

OR

b. Analyse the development of Scout and Jem in *To Kill a Mockingbird,* exploring how their experiences reflect the novel's broader themes.

SECTION B: PROSE CRITICISM **(Total: 33 marks)**

Write a critical appreciation of the passage below.

- Your essay must **NOT** be shorter than 400 words.
- Focus on imagery, setting and point of view.
- You may also comment on any other literary aspect or aspects of the passage that you consider to be worthy of discussion, such as theme, style, tone and setting.

Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again. It seemed to me I stood by the iron gate leading to the drive, and for a while I could not enter, for the way was barred to me. There was a padlock and chain upon the gate. I called in my dream to the lodge-keeper, and had no answer, and peering closer through the rusted spokes of the gate I saw that the lodge was uninhabited.

No smoke came from the chimney, and the little lattice windows gaped forlorn. Then, like all dreamers, I was possessed of a sudden with supernatural powers and passed like a spirit through the barrier before me. The drive wound away in front of me, twisting and turning as it had always done, but as I advanced I was aware that a change had come upon it; it was narrow and unkempt, not the drive that we had known. At first I was puzzled and did not understand, and it was only when I bent my head to avoid the low swinging branch of a tree that I realized what had happened. Nature had come into her own again and, little by little, in her stealthy, insidious way had encroached upon the drive with long, tenacious fingers. The woods, always a menace even in the past, had triumphed in the end. They crowded, dark and uncontrolled, to the borders of the drive. The beeches with white, naked limbs leant close to one another, their branches intermingled in a strange embrace, making a vault above my head like the archway of a church. And there were other trees as well, trees that I did not recognize, squat oaks and tortured elms that straggled cheek by jowl with the beeches, and had thrust themselves out of the quiet earth, along with monster shrubs and plants, none of which I remembered.

The drive was a ribbon now, a thread of its former self, with gravel surface gone, and choked with grass and moss. The trees had thrown out low branches, making an impediment to progress; the gnarled roots looked like skeleton claws. Scattered here and again amongst this jungle growth I would recognize shrubs that had been landmarks in our time, things of culture and grace, hydrangeas whose blue heads had been famous. No hand had checked their progress, and they had gone native now, rearing to monster height without a bloom, black and ugly as the nameless parasites that grew beside them.

On and on, now east now west, wound the poor thread that once had been our drive. Sometimes I thought it lost, but it appeared again, beneath a fallen tree perhaps, or struggling on the other side of a muddied ditch created by the winter rains. I had not thought the way so long. Surely the miles had multiplied, even as the trees had done, and this path led but to a labyrinth, some choked wilderness, and not to the house at all. I came upon it suddenly; the approach masked

by the unnatural growth of a vast shrub that spread in all directions, and I stood, my heart thumping in my breast, the strange prick of tears behind my eyes. There was Manderley, our Manderley, secretive and silent as it had always been, the grey stone shining in the moonlight of my dream, the mullioned windows reflecting the green lawns and the terrace. Time could not wreck the perfect symmetry of those walls, nor the site itself, a jewel in the hollow of a hand.

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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
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ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL
2025 SECOND SESSION

SUBJECT:	**English**
PAPER NUMBER:	III
DATE:	2nd September 2025
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Answer **ALL** sections.

SECTION A: LANGUAGE ESSAY **(Total: 33 marks)**

Write an essay of NOT less than 500 words on ONE of the following topics:

1. Journey through the wasteland.

2. Dusk.

3. Begin an essay with the following sentence: "Sometimes, I feel sad."

4. Tattoos should be completely acceptable in all workplaces as long as they are not offensive. Discuss.

5. In the future, online learning will completely change the traditional classroom. Discuss.

6. It has been estimated that over 300 million tonnes of plastic is produced annually. Too much of this plastic ends up in landfills or the oceans, contaminating both land and sea with plastic debris. How may this serious global issue be tackled?

7. Many feel that ChatGPT can be a problem because 'it gives students answers they once had to study for and is able to write their homework for them'. How can learners use rather than abuse AI chatbots?

8. Researchers continually prove the links between social media usage and poor mental health. Write about some of the reasons some people persist in using social media daily, if not constantly.

Please turn the page.

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SECTION B: SUMMARY **(Total: 15 marks)**

Write a summary of the following passage in between 150 and 200 words.

The Secrets to a Happy Life, from a Harvard Study

Surveys show that most young adults believe that obtaining wealth and fame are keys to a happy life. But a long-running study suggests that one of the most important predictors of whether you age well and live a long and happy life is not the amount of money you amass or notoriety you receive. A much more important barometer of long-term health and wellbeing is the strength of your relationships with family, friends and spouses.

These are some of the findings from the Harvard Study of Adult Development, a research project that since 1938 has closely tracked and examined the lives of more than 700 men. The study has revealed some surprising – and some not so surprising – factors that determine whether people are likely to age happily and healthily, or descend into loneliness, sickness and mental decline.

The study's current director, Robert Waldinger, outlined some of the more striking findings from the long-running project. "We publish our findings in academic journals that most people don't read," said Dr Waldinger, a clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "And so we really wanted people to know that this study exists and that it has for 75 years. It's important that more people know about this besides academics."

The study began in 1930s Boston with two very different groups of young men. In one case, a team of researchers decided to track Harvard college students through adulthood to see what factors played important roles in their success. The study recruited 268 Harvard students and followed them closely, with frequent interviews and health examinations. In recent years the study has also incorporated brain scans, blood draws, and interviews with the subjects' spouses and adult children. At around the same time the study began, a Harvard Law School professor named Sheldon Glueck started to study young men from some of Boston's poorest neighbourhoods, including 456 who managed to avoid delinquency despite coming from troubled homes. Eventually the two groups were merged into one study.

Over the decades, the men have gone into all walks of life. They have become lawyers, doctors, businessmen and — in the case of one named John F. Kennedy — president of the United States. Some became alcoholics, had disappointing careers, or descended into mental illness. Those who remain alive today are in their 90s. Through the years, the study has produced many notable findings. It showed, for example, that to age well physically, the most important thing you could do was to avoid smoking. It found that alcohol was the primary cause of divorce among men in the study, and that alcohol abuse often preceded depression.

The study has had several directors. Dr Waldinger, who took over in 2003, is its fourth. He expanded the study so it focused not just on the men but also on their wives and children. The researchers began videotaping the couples in their homes and interviewing them separately about nearly every facet of their lives, even day-to-day spats. As the researchers looked at the factors throughout the years that strongly influenced health and wellbeing, they found that relationships with friends, and especially spouses, were a major one. The people in the strongest relationships were protected against chronic disease, mental illness and memory decline – even if those relationships had many ups and downs. Some of the octogenarian couples in the study could bicker day in and day out, but as long as they felt that they could really count on the other when the going got tough, those arguments did not take a toll on their memories.

(adapted from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2020)

SECTION C: LINGUISTICS **(Total: 33 marks)**

Choose **ONE** question from this section.

1. Answer tasks a, b, c **AND** d.

a. For each of the descriptions below, give a single-word answer. Each of your single-word answers must be a word made up of two morphemes. Write:

i. A compound word.
ii. A word with a derivational prefix that does not change the word class/part of speech of the free morpheme.
iii. A word with a derivational prefix that changes the word class/part of speech of the free morpheme.
iv. A word with an inflectional morpheme.
v. A word with a derivational suffix that does not change the word class/part of speech of the free morpheme.
vi. A word with a derivational suffix that changes the word class/part of speech of the free morpheme.

(6)

b. Name the word class/part of speech of the **TWO** underlined words as used in the sentences. There is **no** need to copy the sentences, only the underlined words to identify their word class.

i. There was a <u>court</u> case because of <u>that</u> accident.
ii. <u>How</u> are you feeling <u>today</u>?
iii. He <u>must</u> have seen <u>something</u>.
iv. She stumbled, <u>but</u> did <u>not</u> fall.
v. The <u>poor</u> became <u>poorer</u>.
vi. *For <u>Whom</u> the Bell Tolls* is a novel <u>by</u> Ernest Hemingway.
vii. <u>Running</u> may lead to <u>knee</u> injuries.

(7)

c. One of the reasons the sentences in the paragraph below hang together is the use of cohesive devices. Select any **FIVE** cohesive devices used in the paragraph.
- Name the **FIVE** cohesive devices you select, **AND**
- explain how **each** of these five cohesive devices helps link ideas together.

"Language is what makes us human. It is one way in which we communicate. Mastering this system means you can use a complex system of words, structure and grammar to effectively engage with others. But more than just being a set of rules, language has a social function because it helps us learn how to become part of society, how to build relationships, and create a sense of community."

(10)

d. Copy the complete subject or subjects in each of these sentences.

i. Should we sell the old coins that are in the old chest?
ii. It rained heavily all day yesterday.
iii. The old wooden fence collapsed, and the fox attacked the chickens.
iv. Doing extreme sports is not everyone's idea of fun.
v. Blue and yellow make green, yellow and red make orange, and red and green make brown.
vi. The girls were tired, yet they still wanted to go out.

(10)

Questions continue on the next page.

OR

2. In an essay of about 400 words, explain what we mean when we say that speakers of a language know more than just the dictionary meaning of a word (denotation). Your answer needs to include examples and use of the correct terminology.

(33)

OR

3. In about 400 words, discuss the article on the following page (page 5) by Nada Farhoud from the *Daily Mirror*, highlighting its characteristics as a tabloid article. You are expected to analyse its particular stylistic features in terms of:

   - Graphology
   - Headlines
   - Tone
   - Grammar
   - Vocabulary
   - Structure

   The text of the article is reproduced on page 6 for ease of reading.

(33)

Ditch mega farms to hit Cop target

BY NADA FARHOUD
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR IN BAKU

Plea for greener food production

MEGA farms must be phased out if the government is serious about meeting its new greenhouse gas target, experts warn.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer set a target of reducing our emissions by 81% by 2035 earlier this week.

But Tricia Croasdell, CEO of World Animal Protection, says this will be impossible unless we end our reliance on factory farms at home and abroad.

The agriculture industry accounts for a third of direct greenhouse gas emission – more than all the world's planes, trains and cars put together.

The Mirror revealed this year there are 1,176 mega farms in the UK, a 20% rise since 2016. Compassion in World Farming says 85% of UK farm animals live in overcrowded barns.

At the Cop29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, Ms Croasdell told the Mirror: "The UK must seek to phase out factory farming and shift toward an equitable, humane and sustainable food system that places animals, people and communities at its heart."

A report from World Animal Protection issued at Cop29 warns that factory farming also drives widespread destruction of forests, grassland and other habitats to grow crops to feed industrially farmed animals.

Ms Croasdell added: "The simple truth is that we cannot tackle climate change or protect human rights without addressing industrial factory farming."

Anthony Field, from Compassion in World Farming, said: "It is vital that we shift towards nature-friendly farming. People in countries like the UK need to reduce their consumption of meat and dairy."

MORE than 880,000 people in Azerbaijan live within 5km of a gas flaring site, analysis found. One in every 12 Azeri is likely exposed to powerful pollutants linked to health issues like asthma and cancer.

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(Source: https://www.pressreader.com/uk/daily-mirror)

Please turn the page for the text of the article.

Ditch mega farms to hit Cop target

Plea for greener food production

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@NadaFarhoud

i. **RELIANT** The UK has 1,176 mega farms, the Mirror found this year
ii. **85** Percentage of UK farm animals live in overcrowded barns
iii. **MORE than 880,000 people in Azerbaijan live within 5km of a gas flaring site, analysis found. One in every 12 Azeri is likely exposed to powerful pollutants linked to health issues like asthma and cancer**.