



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION LEVEL
2026 FIRST SESSION**

SUBJECT: **Classical Studies**
DATE: 18th May 2026
TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

Answer **ALL** sections. Each section carries 20 marks.

SECTION A: HISTORY

Answer **EITHER** Question 1 **OR** 2.

1. Write an essay of around 350 words on the political situation in the Western Mediterranean before the Punic wars. (20)

OR

2. In around 350 words, discuss the military campaigns of Alexander the Great. (20)

(Total: 20 marks)

SECTION B: LANGUAGE

Answer **BOTH** questions.

1. Translate all of these sentences from Latin to English.
 - a. barbari belli pericula amant. (2)
 - b. pictura est bona. (2)
 - c. consilium Romanum laudamus. (2)
 - d. oppidi puella tabulas portat. (2)
 - e. mensam magnam spectas. (2)
2. Translate all of these sentences from Greek to English.
 - a. την κακήν μάχην παύομεν. (2)
 - b. ἡ Ἀθηνη ἀνθρώπους παιδεύει. (2)
 - c. το τῆς τιμῆς δῶρον θηρεύεις. (2)
 - d. ἡ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ νίκη ἐστὶ καλή. (2)
 - e. ἵππους ἐν τῷ ποταμῷ λύω. (2)

(Total: 20 marks)

Please turn the page.

SECTION C: MYTHOLOGY

Answer **EITHER** Question 1 **OR** 2.

1. In around 350 words, compare and contrast **TWO** Greek heroes of your choice with reference to relevant myths. (20)

OR

2. How did Zeus and his siblings overthrow the Titans and rise to power? Answer the question in around 350 words. (20)

(Total: 20 marks)

SECTION D: LITERATURE

Answer **ALL** questions.

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, lines 359-369

Oedipus: What did you say? Speak again, so I may learn it better.

Teiresias: Did you not understand before, or are you talking to test me?

Oedipus: I cannot say I understood fully. Tell me again.

Teiresias: I say that **you are the killer of the man whose slayer you seek**.

Oedipus: Now you will regret that you have said such dire words twice.

Teiresias: Should I tell you more, that you might get more angry?

Oedipus: Say as much as you want: it will be said in vain.

Teiresias: I say that **you have been living in unguessed shame with your closest kin**, and do not see into what woe you have fallen.

Oedipus: Do you think that you will always be able to speak like this without smarting for it?

Teiresias: Yes, if indeed there is any strength in truth.

1. Explain the context of the lines above within the whole play. (3)
2. Who are Oedipus and Teiresias? Answer the question in reference to the play. (4)
3. Comment on the significance of the following **TWO** claims made by Teiresias:
 - i. 'you are the killer of the man whose slayer you seek'; (3)
 - ii. 'you have been living in unguessed shame with your closest kin'. (3)
4. How does Oedipus' anger towards Teiresias affect the literary character of this passage? (3)
5. In around 60 words, identify and briefly explain **THREE** characteristics of Greek tragedy. (4)

(Total: 20 marks)

SECTION E: ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Answer ALL questions.



Figure 1

(Source: Wikimedia Commons, 2021)

1. From Figure 1 identify:
 - i. the building shown in the picture; (1)
 - ii. the emperor under whom it was built; and (1)
 - iii. the century of its construction. (1)
2. Why was this building constructed? (4)
3. Describe the depictions on the interior relief panels of this building. (6)
4. What was the function of this kind of building in ancient Rome? (4)
5. Explain the historical importance of inscriptions on Roman buildings such as the one in Figure 1. (3)

(Total: 20 marks)