



SUBJECT:	History
DATE:	28 th April 2026
TIME:	9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Answer **ALL FOUR** questions, the **TWO** in Section A and the **TWO** in Section B.
All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A**Question 1**

Answer **EITHER** part (a), **OR** part (b), **OR** part (c).

- [Either]** (a) In what way did Malta's role as a British fortress colony overshadow its constitutional development in the period between 1814 and 1921?
- [Or]** (b) How and why did Maltese politicians start to organize themselves into parties in the late nineteenth century?
- [Or]** (c) How was Malta's role as a British fortress colony shaped by international developments in the 1800s?

(Total: 25 marks)

Question 2

Answer **EITHER** part (a), **OR** part (b), **OR** part (c).

- [Either]** (a) Did Europe's 'Year of Revolutions' of 1848 really produce any lasting changes?
- [Or]** (b) How and why was Russia so deeply involved in the 'Eastern Crisis' of the 1870s?
- [Or]** (c) To what extent were rival European alliances and alignments a major cause of World War I?

(Total: 25 marks)

Please turn the page.

SECTION B

Question 3

Answer **EITHER** part (a), **OR** part (b).

[Either] (a) Governor Sir William Reid, February 1854

I am preparing for the Russian storm - the first portion of 10,000 men from England having just now entered the [Malta] harbour. I must in charity believe the Czar to be mad, thus to compel mankind to begin anew to destroy each other.

- (i) Write briefly the background to 'the Russian storm' referred to in the passage above. (5)
- (ii) Why was Britain involved? (5)
- (iii) Governor Reid was a British army colonel who administered Malta and was promoted to major-general in 1856. Comment briefly on the characteristics of military rule in Malta. (5)
- (iv) What role did the harbour of Malta play in this period? (5)
- (v) Explain the strategic value of Malta as a British fortress. (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

[Or] (b) Fortunato Mizzi, 1901

MALTESE,

By this time, you all know that a grand meeting is to be held on Sunday next, at 9am, outside Porte des Bombes, mainly on the question of taxation. The festivities in connection with the Royal Visit and the Holy Week have rendered it impossible for us to choose any other day or hour for this meeting; but I hope that all classes of citizens, the clergy, which has always been the bulwark of the people's rights, the nobility, the learned professions, the commercial community, the arts and industries, and the whole people, will co-operate in rendering this meeting numerous and imposing, in order to place the Government in the impossibility of lessening its importance by means of its photographic cameras ...

- (i) Who was Fortunato Mizzi? (5)
- (ii) Write briefly about the constitutional situation of Malta in this period. (5)
- (iii) Why did early political parties form in Malta? (5)
- (iv) Explain the reference to 'the question of taxation'. (5)
- (v) Comment briefly on constitutional developments after 1901. (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

Question 4**Answer EITHER part (a), or part (b).****[Either]** (a) Napoleon Bonaparte to the Directory, 1799

What have you done with that France which I left so flourishing in your hands? I left you peace, I find you at war. I left you victories, I find nothing but reverses. I left you the millions of Italy, I find nothing but plundering laws and misery. What have you done with the hundred thousand Frenchmen whom I knew my companions in glory. They are dead. This state of things cannot last, in less than three years it would lead us to despotism.

- (i) Write briefly about the situation in France in the period mentioned above. (5)
- (ii) Why did Napoleon Bonaparte criticize the Directory? (5)
- (iii) Comment on the following words: 'I left you victories'. (5)
- (iv) Explain the reference to despotism in the context of the French Revolution. (5)
- (v) To what extent did Napoleon's later actions contradict his words? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)**[Or]** (b) Otto von Bismarck, 1871

The enormous sacrifices, both in men and money, which the German people have made in this war and all our victories would be in vain if the power of France to attack were not weakened and Germany's capacity of defence not strengthened. The German people have a right to demand this. If we contented ourselves with a mere change of dynasty, or with a contribution, no substantial improvement in our condition would ensue. Nothing would prevent this war from being the first of a series of wars, and especially the sting of the present defeat would drive the pride of the French to revenge the German victories.

- (i) What is the background to Bismarck's reference to France? (5)
- (ii) Comment on Bismarck's argument in the first sentence of the passage above. (5)
- (iii) Which 'German victories' were won under Bismarck's leadership? (5)
- (iv) How was 'Germany's capacity of defence' strengthened? (5)
- (v) How did Bismarck keep in check 'the pride of the French'? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)