



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL
2026 MAIN SESSION**

SUBJECT:	History
PAPER NUMBER:	I – Level 1-2-3
DATE:	28 th April 2026
DURATION:	2 hours 5 minutes

Answer ALL questions. Questions can be answered in either English or Maltese.

1. Study carefully the following sources and then answer **ALL** the questions.

a. Underline **TWO** immediate consequences of the Great Siege on the Order and the Maltese.

i. The Order of St John started building Valletta.

ii. The Lazzaretto was built for the wounded during the Great Siege.

iii. The Order of St John made Malta its permanent home.

iv. A water aqueduct was built.

v. The Order of St John started building Fort Ricasoli. (2)

b. Discuss **ONE** long-term consequence of the Great Siege upon the Maltese.

(4)

c. Identify the building shown in Source A built by the Order of St John in Valletta.

Source A



(<https://vassallohistory.wordpress.com/>)

(1)

d. Describe the importance of the building shown in Source A to the Order of St John.

(4)

e. Underline **TWO** of the early buildings built by the Order of St John in Valletta.

- i. Wignacourt aqueduct.
- ii. Portes de Bombes.
- iii. Auberge de Provence.
- iv. Fort Ricasoli.
- v. The Conventual Church of St John.

(2)

f. With reference to Source B, briefly discuss why the corso was very important for the Knights and the Maltese.

Source B

"...the galleys of St John maintained a regular Corso, thrice-yearly cruises in search of the squadrons of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli; they seldom failed to make prizes. The record of the Order throughout the seventeenth century showed a vast credit list of captures, firings, sinking and forcings aground. The number of Muslim slaves in Malta far outnumbered those in other lands. The profits of the Corso went to the embellishment of the huge cathedral-like churches that were built in every village..."

(Source: Roderick Cavaliero, *The Last of the Crusaders*, 1960, reprinted 2001. p. 6)

(6)

g. Briefly explain **ONE** reason why the corso declined in the eighteenth century.

(2)

h. List **TWO** other problems faced by the Order in the eighteenth century.

(2)

i. Briefly explain **ONE** way how the Inquisition operated in Malta.

(2)

(Total: 25 marks)

2. Read carefully Source C and then answer **ALL** the questions.

Source C

Orders issued by Napoleon for the collection of revenue and taxation by the government gave rise to widespread discontent. Some of the taxes were new and the Maltese soon realized that they were going to carry the burden of the new taxes on many commodities and to pay for the expense of government, the French garrison and the upkeep of streets and public places. All these were had been made good from the Order's revenues in the past.

The Commission of Government failed to issue the wages to the families of the Maltese who had joined Napoleon's army in Egypt. People who had their property damaged during the takeover of the islands were not given any compensation as promised. The Government, short of money from the start, stopped issuing pensions and to distribute charity. The interest rate of the *Monte di Pietà* was raised from 4% to 6%. This measure hit badly the lower classes who had pawned their belongings to this institution.

(Source: Raymond Spiteri, *LO 6abcde – Malta under the French, 2022. p. 5*)

a. Underline **THREE** of Napoleon's reforms made during his stay in Malta.

- i. The University of Studies was declared free for Maltese citizens.
- ii. Abolition of slavery.
- iii. Abolition of noble titles.
- iv. The Maltese were given the right to vote.
- v. Priests were given a monthly salary by the French Government.
- vi. Abolition of press censorship.

(3)

b. Discuss **TWO** effects of the revolt of the Maltese against the French from the Maltese perspective.

(4)

c. Identify and write **THREE** key facts from Source C.

(3)

d. Briefly describe **TWO** impacts of the measures mentioned in question 2c on the Maltese.

(4)

e. Briefly discuss why the measures taken by the French contributed to the rise of discontent and revolt.

(2)

f. Underline **TWO** Maltese protagonists during the revolt against the French.

- i. Dun Saver Cassar.
 - ii. Mons. Vincenzo Labini.
 - iii. Captain Alexander Ball.
 - iv. Vincenzo Borg Brared.
- (2)

g. Briefly describe the main events that occurred during the French blockade.

(3)

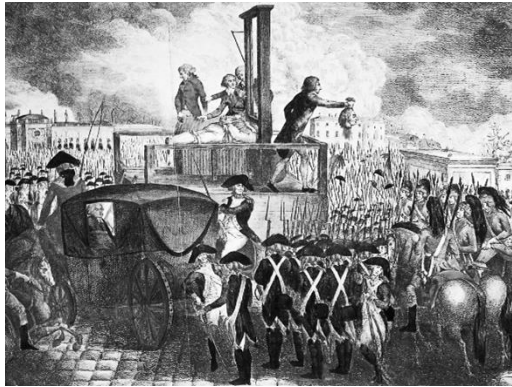
h. Briefly discuss the Maltese blockade from the point of view of the French.

(4)

(Total: 25 marks)

3. Study carefully Sources D and E and then answer **ALL** the questions.

Source D



(Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>)

Source E



(Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>)

a. Identify the key events of the French Revolution depicted in Sources D and E.

i. Source D: _____ (1)

ii. Source E: _____ (1)

b. Place these causes of the French Revolution in the correct chronological order, starting with **Number 1** given to the earliest cause.

i.	The opening session of the Estates General by King Louis XVI.	
ii.	The bad harvest that led to the bread riots in Paris and other major towns.	
iii.	The fall of Bastille.	
iv.	The ascension of Louis XVI to the French throne.	
v.	The involvement of France in the American War of Independence.	

(5)

c. Briefly explain **ONE** cause from the list in question 3b.

(4)

This question continues on next page.

Source F

(Source: <https://militaryhistorynow.com/>)

d. State what type of primary source is Source F. _____ (1)

e. Identify the person shown in the cartoon. _____ (1)

f. Why is this person sitting on an Island named 'ELBA'?

_____ (2)

g. What message does the cartoonist want to convey about the person in the cartoon?

_____ (2)

h. Discuss **ONE** major event that led to the final downfall of the person in the cartoon.

_____ (4)

Source G

"In this settlement the objects of the peacemakers were evident: to punish and retrain the aggressors; to reward the victors; to destroy Napoleon's Grand Empire and restore the old pre-revolutionary dynasties; and to re-establish something like the old balance of power."

(Source: George Rudé, *Revolutionary Europe 1783–1815*, 1977, p. 284–285).

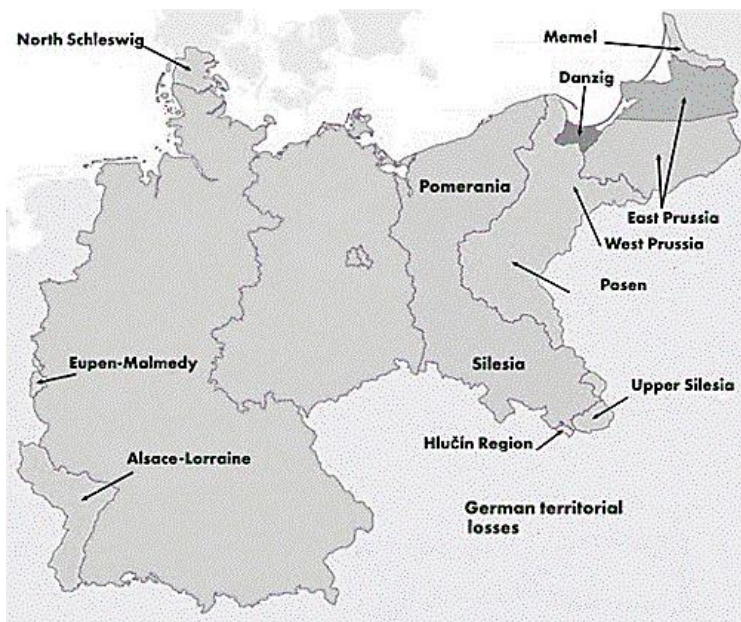
- i. Using Source G as evidence, briefly discuss **ONE** success or failure of the Congress of Vienna.

(4)

(Total: 25 marks)

4. Study carefully Source H and answer **ALL** the following questions.

Source H



(Adapted from: <https://www.facebook.com/geoallday>)

- a. List **THREE** territorial losses imposed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, specifying the recipient countries **each** area was given to. Use source H to help you.

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____ (3)

- b. Identify **ONE** weapon introduced during the First World War by underlining it.

- i. Fighter aircraft.
- ii. Military tank.
- iii. The atomic bomb. (1)

This question continues on next page.

c. List **TWO** problems faced by Weimar Republic between 1919 and 1933.

- i. _____
- ii. _____ (2)

d. Briefly outline **ONE** key event from Hitler's rise to power in Germany.

_____ (3)

e. Underline from the list below **FOUR** features associated with the Nazi dictatorship in Germany:

- i. the Gestapo secret police.
ii. concentration camps.
iii. free multi-party elections.
iv. the rule of law.
v. press censorship.
vi. widespread unemployment.
vii. constitutional reforms.
viii. anti-Semitism.

(4)

Source I



(Source: Recruitment Poster of the Wehrmacht, 1943. Source: LeMO Bestand - Objekt - Anwerbeplakat der Wehrmacht, 1943)

f. What type of source is Source I? _____ (2)

g. Briefly discuss **TWO** features of the Nazi dictatorship.

(6)

h. Discuss **ONE** cause for the outbreak of the Second World War.

(4)

(Total: 25 marks)

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MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
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**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL
2026 MAIN SESSION**

SUBJECT:	History
PAPER NUMBER:	II – Level 1-2
DATE:	28 th April 2026
DURATION:	2 hours 5 minutes

Answer ALL questions in Sections A and B and TWO questions from Section C. Questions can be answered in either English or Maltese.

SECTION A – SHORT QUESTIONS

Answer ALL questions.

1. Underline the **TWO** factions which made up the Triple Alliance and the Triple Éntente.

- a. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- b. Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy.
- c. Greece, Montenegro and Serbia.
- d. Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.
- e. Britain, France and Russia.

(2)

2. State which of these statements about the Language Question are true or false.

- a. Pari passu meant learning English and Italian concurrently.
- b. Gerald Strickland wanted to exclude Italian from the Law Courts.
- c. The Partito Nazionale was in favour of the Maltese language.

(3)

3. Briefly explain **THREE** effects which the opening of the Suez Canal had on Malta's economic and social development.

(6)

Please turn the page.

4. Differentiate **TWO** major facts between 'integration' and 'dominion status'.

(4)

5. Briefly describe **THREE** events which led Martin Luther to initiate the Protestant revolt against the Roman Catholic Church.

(6)

6. Tick **THREE** building projects undertaken by the Order in Valletta.

a.	Saint Elmo.		b.	Grand Master's Palace	
c.	Royal Opera House		d.	Saint John's Conventual Church	
e.	Verdala Barracks		f.	The Law Courts	

(3)

7. Explain **THREE** instances how the Congress of Vienna redrew the map of Europe on the principles of legitimacy and balance of power.

(6)

(Total: 30 marks)

SECTION B – SOURCE QUESTIONS

Answer **ALL** questions.

8. Study Sources A, B and C and answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

Source A



Map showing the division of Europe during the Cold War.

(Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>)

Source B



West Germans in the 1960s showing new-borns to relatives in East Berlin.

(Source: <https://www.oerproject.com/en/oer-materials/oer-media/html-articles/origins/unit8/cold-war-an-overview>)

Source C



Construction workers supervised by military personnel in Berlin in August 1961.

(Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/>)

This question continues on next page.

a. With reference to Source A, explain **TWO** causes which led to the division of Europe between East and West after the Second World War.

i. Cause 1:

(4)

ii. Cause 2:

(4)

b. Provide **ONE** reason to explain why Sources B and C are primary sources.

(1)

c. Using Sources B and C as an aid, identify **TWO** consequences of the building of the Berlin Wall.

i. Consequence 1:

(3)

ii. Consequence 2:

(3)

(Total: 15 marks)

9. Study Source D and answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

SOURCE D

"The contagious disease had spread in the Southern Mediterranean littoral, and in July, Malta reported its first cases. Restrictive precautions were put into place. The government committee set up to deal with this medical emergency, worked incessantly to deal with an average of seven new cases a day, 60% of which proved fatal.....The epidemic experience of 1887 had revealed the lack of sanitation and health hazards in Malta."

(Source: Gabriel Farrugia, Evelyn Pullicino, *Let's do History A Reader on the social-political history of Malta and Europe from the Renaissance to Modern Times*, Midsea Books 2025)

a. Write the names of the infectious diseases; cholera or trachoma, in column A to match the measures used to combat them. (4)

	Column A: Disease	Measures
i.		Doctors had to notify department of health.
ii.		Children were not to attend school if infected.
iii.		Restrictions were enforced.
iv.		A government committee was set up.

b. List **TWO** developments in public health and sanitation.

 _____ (2)

c. Explain the causes of the following three infectious diseases and the measures taken to combat them.

i. Plague:

 _____ (2)

ii. Smallpox:

 _____ (2)

This question continues on next page.

iii. Tuberculosis:

(2)

d. Provide **ONE** reason to explain why Source D is a secondary source.

(1)

e. Describe **ONE** development in public health and sanitation.

(2)

(Total: 15 marks)

SECTION C – ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer **ONE** question from European History and **ONE** question from Maltese History.

SECTION C: European History

EITHER

10. a. Explain **THREE** reasons for the origin of the Renaissance in Italy.

i. Reason 1:

(4)

ii. Reason 2:

(4)

iii. Reason 3:

(4)

b. List **FOUR** important inventions at the time of the Renaissance.

i. Invention 1: _____ (1)

ii. Invention 2: _____ (1)

iii. Invention 3: _____ (1)

iv. Invention 4: _____ (1)

c. Identify **TWO** Italian Renaissance artists and **for each** name **ONE** of their respective works.

i. Artist 1: _____

Work: _____ (2)

ii. Artist 2: _____

Work: _____ (2)

(Total: 20 marks)

OR

11. a. Explain these terms about the Roman Catholic Church in the Late Middle Ages:

i. Nepotism: _____

(2)

ii. Simony: _____

(2)

This question continues on next page.

iii. Pluralism: _____

 _____ (2)

iv. The sale of indulgences: _____

 _____ (2)

b. Identify **ONE** key event in Martin Luther's revolt against the Roman Catholic Church.

 _____ (2)

c. Use the word bank provided below to identify the **THREE** correct agents resorted to by the Catholic Counter-Reformation in Europe.

The Jesuit Order	End of clerical celibacy	The Council of Trent
Martin Luther	The Roman Inquisition	Catechism for the Lutheran Church

i. Agent 1: _____ (2)

ii. Agent 2: _____ (2)

iii. Agent 3: _____ (2)

d. List **TWO** consequences of the Reformation on Europe.

i. Consequence 1:

 _____ (2)

ii. Consequence 2:

 _____ (2)

(Total: 20 marks)

SECTION C: Maltese History**EITHER**

12. a. Identify **THREE** important economic and social developments in the nineteenth and early twentieth century Malta.

i. Development 1: _____ (1)

ii. Development 2: _____ (1)

iii. Development 3: _____ (1)

b. Identify **FIVE** events that led to economic booms in nineteenth century Malta.

i. Event 1: _____ (1)

ii. Event 2: _____ (1)

iii. Event 3: _____ (1)

iv. Event 4: _____ (1)

v. Event 5: _____ (1)

c. Explain the decline of **TWO** of the economic and social developments mentioned in question 12a.

_____ (4)

d. Explain **FOUR** causes for emigration in the nineteenth and twentieth century Malta.

_____ (8)

(Total: 20 marks)

OR

13. a. Identify **FOUR** main features of the Defence Agreements of 1972.

(4)

b. List **FOUR** implications of Malta's neutral foreign policy.

(4)

c. Explain integration in the context of its historical background.

(4)

d. Explain dominion status in the context of its historical background.

(4)

e. Comment on aspects from the character, leadership and political aims of **ONE** of these Maltese leaders: Ġorġ Borg Olivier **or** Dom Mintoff.

(4)

(Total: 20 marks)

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2026 MAIN SESSION**

SUBJECT:	History
PAPER NUMBER:	II – Level 2-3
DATE:	28 th April 2026
DURATION:	2 hours 5 minutes

Answer ALL questions in Sections A and B and TWO questions from Section C. Questions can be answered in either English or Maltese.

SECTION A – SHORT QUESTIONS

Answer ALL questions.

1. Briefly explain **THREE** effects which the opening of the Suez Canal had on Malta's economic and social development.

(6)

2. Explain **THREE** instances how the Congress of Vienna redrew the map of Europe on the principles of legitimacy and balance of power.

(6)

Please turn the page.

-
3. Discuss **TWO** major consequences of the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. in 1991.

(6)

4. Compare and contrast **ONE** feature of the Maltese Constitutions of 1835 and 1849.

(3)

5. Briefly evaluate **ONE** argument for and against Malta's membership in the European Union during the referendum campaign of 2003.

(3)

6. Discuss **ONE** important facet of the corso from the Order's point of view.

(3)

7. Discuss **ONE** major cause leading to the defeat of the Axis powers during the Second World War.

(3)

(Total: 30 marks)

SECTION B – SOURCE QUESTIONS

Answer **ALL** questions.

8. Study Sources A, B and C and answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

Source A



Map showing the division of Europe during the Cold War. (Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/>)

Source B



West Germans in the 1960s showing new-borns to relatives in East Berlin.

(Source: <https://www.oerproject.com/en/oer-materials/oer-media/html-articles/origins/unit8/cold-war-an-overview>)

Source C



Construction workers supervised by military personnel in Berlin in August 1961. (Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/>)

This question continues on next page.

-
- a. With reference to Source A, briefly discuss **THREE** causes which led to the division of Europe as a result of the Cold War.

i. Cause 1:

(3)

ii. Cause 2:

(3)

iii. Cause 3:

(3)

- b. Sources B and C are primary sources. Explain the difference between primary and secondary sources.

(2)

- c. Identify **TWO** reasons why West Germans had to communicate in the manner shown in Source B with relatives in East Berlin.

(4)

(Total: 15 marks)

9. Read Source D and answer **ALL** the questions that follow.

SOURCE D

"The contagious disease had spread in the Southern Mediterranean littoral, and in July, Malta reported its first cases. Restrictive precautions were put into place. The government committee set up to deal with this medical emergency, worked incessantly to deal with an average of seven new cases a day, 60% of which proved fatal.....The epidemic experience of 1887 had revealed the lack of sanitation and health hazards in Malta."

(Source: Gabriel Farrugia, Evelyn Pullicino, Let's do History A Reader on the social-political history of Malta and Europe from the Renaissance to Modern Times, Midsea Books 2025.)

a. Describe **THREE** developments in public health and sanitation.

(6)

b. Discuss **ONE** major cause of cholera.

(3)

c. Discuss **TWO** measures taken to eradicate cholera.

(6)

(Total: 15 marks)

Please turn the page.

SECTION C – ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer ONE question from European History and ONE question from Maltese History.

SECTION C: European History**EITHER**

10. a. Explain **TWO** reasons for the origin of the Renaissance in Italy.

i. Reason 1: _____

_____ (4)

ii. Reason 2: _____

_____ (4)

b. Explain the importance of the following features of the Italian Renaissance:

i. Portraiture: _____

_____ (4)

ii. Rediscovery of the dome: _____

_____ (4)

iii. Perspective in painting: _____

_____ (4)

(Total: 20 marks)

OR

11. a. Explain these terms about the Roman Catholic Church in the Late Middle Ages:

i. Nepotism: _____

_____ (2)

ii. Simony: _____

_____ (2)

iii. Pluralism: _____

_____ (2)

iv. The sale of indulgences: _____

_____ (2)

b. Discuss the impact of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation on Europe.

This question continues on next page.

[illegible]

(Total: 20 marks)

SECTION C: Maltese History

EITHER

12. a. Explain **FOUR** causes for emigration in the nineteenth and twentieth century Malta.

[illegible]

- b. Discuss **TWO** positive and/or negative consequences of emigration in the nineteenth and twentieth century Malta.

_____ (6)

c. Discuss the major patterns of economic boom and recession in nineteenth century Malta.

_____ (6)

(Total: 20 marks)

OR

13. a. Explain integration in the context of its historical background.

b. Explain dominion status in the context of its historical background.

(4)

This question continues on next page.

c. Briefly discuss **TWO** arguments in favour of Independence.

(4)

d. Compare and contrast the character, leadership and political aims of Maltese leaders: Ġorġ Borg Olivier and Dom Mintoff.

[illegible]

(Total: 20 marks)

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