



**L-Università
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**MATSEC
Examinations Board**

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From: Dario Pirotta
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To: College Principals
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Subject: Further Changes to MATSEC Syllabi

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The MATSEC Examinations Board recognises that the conditions imposed by the resurgence of Covid-19 cases in Malta is posing new challenges to schooling and education. In recognition of this, the MATSEC Examinations Board is revising the mitigation measures and recommendations that were published earlier this year on the 2nd September in view of the missed teaching and learning time for the scholastic year 2019/20.

The MATSEC Examinations Board has been in continuous discussions with all school sectors and has used its discretion and expertise to create a balance between maintaining the validity and quality of its programmes and assessment while safeguarding the health and safety of learners and educators. In following with the recommendations made by the Health Authorities and as a means of addressing the complex logistical realities that are affecting Maltese schools, the MATSEC Examinations Board has taken a number of decisions.

These decisions are driven by the logistical constraints all schools are facing as a result of the new operational procedures which had to be implemented in order to reopen schools following the advice and guidelines for the educational sector issued by the Health Authorities. Therefore, the principle adopted for revising the syllabi and how they are assessed was to evaluate the impact of the changes in the schools. Changes were made as a result of limited physical space, restrictions on group outings, lesson length, number of lessons per subject, mode of delivery of subjects, among others.

By focussing on how assessment for Examinations Sessions 2021 will be impacted, the MATSEC Examinations Board, in close consultation with the different sectors, is introducing additional mitigation measures. These measures for 2021 will free up teaching and learning given the new conditions that schools are operating in for scholastic year 2020/21. It is imperative to highlight that although some of the assessment components will be removed, it does not mean that these parts are not important to the subjects affected. The MATSEC Examinations Board reiterates that these are measures that are being recommended for

2021 to mitigate the negative effect the pandemic has had and will continue to have on education while it is still in the community.

Subject panels for all subjects will be called as from 2nd October 2020 in order to review again the 2021 assessment syllabi keeping in mind working operations of schools. We target to issue a final document listing changes in all subjects in the coming days.

The MATSEC Examinations Board is committed to reassess the situation for 2022 at the end of scholastic year 2020/21 as it is aware that similar measures might be implemented by the schools for Years 9 and 10 and first year sixth form. It became clear from the discussions held that oral sessions, lab work and other activities of a practical nature will be difficult to organise; hence the decision to reassess later in the year.

LEVEL	SUBJECT	CHANGES ALREADY AGREED IN ASSESSMENT COMPONENT (ADDENDA SUMMARY INCLUDING CONTENT, COURSEWORK AND PAPER)	FURTHER CHANGES
SEC	Arabic	The culture component has been omitted from the syllabus	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Biology	Coursework: Candidates are to present 10 practicals covering particular sections as stated in the addendum.	Year 11 - Candidates will not be expected to present any coursework. They will be awarded full marks.
SEC	Business Studies	No changes to project. Non-assessment of some identified content and more options offered in Paper 1 and Paper 2A and 2B.	Removal of project, full marks assigned to all.
SEC	Chemistry	Coursework: Candidates are to present 8 experiments (Or 6 experiments + 1 investigation) from any section but maximum of 2 experiments from same section.	Year 11 - Candidates will not be expected to present any coursework. They will be awarded full marks.
SEC	English Language	A reduction in the types of writing tasks that may feature in Paper IIA and IIB.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Environmental Studies	No changes to project. Changes to conditions of project to allow social distancing. More options offered in exam papers.	Removal of project, full marks assigned to all.
SEC	European Studies	No change to project. Non-assessment of some content. Removal of restrictions in the options present in the paper.	Removal of project, full marks assigned to all.
SEC	French	The Pluperfect, the Subjunctive and the Conditional will not be tested. The Dictation Exercise has been removed from the paper.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Geography	Reduction of fieldwork from 2 to 1. Non-assessment of parts of Topic 1 and of all content from topics 8, 16 and 18. Removal of restrictions in the options present in the paper.	Removal of project, full marks assigned to all.

SEC	German	<p>The Conditional will not be tested.</p> <p>The Oral:</p> <p>Section A Part II - Role-play will be removed.</p> <p>Section C Part IV – Sentence building will be removed from this paper.</p> <p>Paper IIA</p> <p>Section B Part II– The report (Bericht) will be removed from this Paper and replaced by another email.</p>	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Italian	<p>Candidates will not be assessed on these items:</p> <p>Modi di dire</p> <p>Verbs - Futuro anteriore;</p> <p>Condizionale composto; Trapassato prossimo.</p> <p>The summary (Paper IIA) and riordinare (Paper IIB) will not feature in the 2021 exam.</p>	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Malti	<p>L-eżami tal-Oral</p> <p>Il-lista giet imnaqqsa.</p> <p>It-Tieni Karta A u B</p> <p>Il-lista ta' poeziji u lista ta' novelli li jista' juża l-eżaminatur għar-referenza għall-kuntest mill-antoloġija giet imnaqqsa.</p> <p>It-titli li se jiġu ppreżentati fil-komponenti letterarji se jkunu miftuħa u mhux marbutin ma' testi letterarji partikulari.</p>	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	P.E.	<p>Changes to restrictions in choices within swimming and athletics.</p> <p>Changes to project conditions to allow for social distancing.</p>	<p>Practical component: removal of Area 1 games. Practical to remain 45% but 2 Areas instead of 3 to be chosen by candidate.</p> <p>Changes to restrictions in choices within swimming and athletics. Removal of project, full marks assigned to all.</p>
SEC	Physics	<p>Coursework: Candidates are to present 10 practicals (or 8 experiments + 1 investigation) covering particular sections as stated in the addendum.</p>	Year 11 - Candidates will not be expected to present any coursework. They will be awarded full marks.
SEC	Russian		The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Spanish	<p>The following components have been omitted from the syllabus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subjunctive - Direct Speech 	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
SEC	Vocational Subjects		Candidates will be awarded full marks for one identified application criterion.

SEAC	Vocational Subjects		Candidates will be awarded full marks for two identified application criteria. Controlled assessment will not be held and all knowledge and comprehension criteria will be assessed in the two assignments.
IM	Arabic	The text of the listening comprehension will be reduced by 10%.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	French	List of themes for the oral component was reduced. The two questions set on the reading passage will be removed. Titles given for the composition task will be less specific.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	German	Work and work environment, environmental issues and technology were removed from the list. Part II Communicative Writing- The letter of complaint will be removed and no task of this genre will be set. Candidates will be presented with two letters (a letter of application and a newspaper contribution) to choose one. The subjunctive II (in syllabus) will not be tested.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	Italian	No changes	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	Malti	L-intervista se titneħħa mill-eżami. Taqsima Ċ – It-titli li se jiġu ppreżentati fl-eżami se jkunu miftuħa u mhux speċifiċi.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	PE	In Module 1 candidates are to be assessed by a means of a video analysis on ONE sport (badminton) instead of the customary two. No changes to practical.	The practical component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	Russian		The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
IM	Spanish	The Subjunctive (except for Present Subjunctive) and Passive Voice will be omitted from the syllabus. A 'Direct and Indirect Speech' exercise will not feature in the exam. The Imperative tense will be omitted from the syllabus.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
AM	Arabic	Pages 76 onward from the book titled 'Malta' will not be covered. The dictation exercise will not feature in the exam.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.

AM	Biology	Coursework: Practical workbook should consist of 20 experiments. Fieldwork is not obligatory. Exam Paper: Paper IV questions will be based on particular sections as stated in the Addendum.	No practical. Paper IV to be replaced with a written paper.
AM	Chemistry	Subject Content: Some sections mentioned in the addenda were removed. Exam Papers: Paper III should consist of 1 question - titration, duration- 1.5 hours	No practical. Paper III to be replaced with a written paper.
AM	Computing	The customary dates of practical tasks were moved.	To discuss with the panel possible replacement of tasks.
AM	English	Paper I section B - Poetry: Questions will not be set about specific poems. Therefore, the questions may still be answered by those students who have managed to cover 80% of the set poems. Paper I section A - Drama: The gobbet question will be replaced by an essay question. Oral: The oral exam will not be held and the global mark of the exam will be 94%. Paper I section B - Poetry: An additional question will be set in order to increase variety.	Full marks will be awarded for the Oral component.
AM	French	Paper I The texts chosen for the Analyse d'un texte non littéraire will be non-abstract. 10 Marks will be deducted; therefore, the exercise will now carry 50 instead of 60 marks. Paper II Candidates will be offered 5 titles to choose from. Paper III Section B- Questions based on the prescribed text of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, Concerto à la mémoire d'un ange, will ask the candidates to refer only to any two short stories. While candidates can still refer to the Journal d'écriture in their answers, no specific questions will be set on it. The Oral Exam In the questions set on the culture et civilisation, candidates will be offered four texts from which to choose three.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.

AM	Geography	In each paper, candidates are required to answer FOUR questions out of EIGHT instead of the customary six. No changes to coursework except for change of tools and methods used to allow social distancing.	The fieldwork component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
AM	German	Oral Arts and Culture and technology were removed from the list. Paper II The Reading Comprehension- Exercise 2 will be removed. 5 marks will be deducted. Paper III Part I – Literature. Three questions will be provided on each book and the candidates have to choose two from the questions given. Part II –Candidates will attempt questions as per usual. But candidates will attempt 3 questions from 3 different themes but the 4th answer can be from any of the 4 themes.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
AM	Italian	A number of literary works were removed from the list of set works. The essay titles assessing the Romanzo component will be guided therefore, each essay title will be made up of a number of questions/prompts. Questions about the historical context of literary works will carry less marks in the exam. More marks will be allotted to the other questions in this section.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
AM	Malti	L-eżami tal-Oral ● Il-qari b'vuċi għolja se jibqqa' kif inhu. Madanakollu minflok 8 marki din il-parti issa se jkollha 10 marki. ● L-intervista se titneħħa mill-eżami. 12-il marka se jitneħħew mill-eżami. It-Tieni Karta ● Taqsima A – It-titli li se jiġu ppreżentati fl-eżami se jkunu miftuħa u mhux speċifiċi. ● Taqsima B – It-titli li se jiġu ppreżentati fl-eżami se jkunu miftuħa u mhux speċifiċi.	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.

AM	Music	<p>Removal of Section 2: Aural Perception; part (iv). Only one exercise in the Counterpoint – the eighteenth century style format and will be allotted 20 marks Marks will be shared equally to SATB harmonisation of a figured bass (20 marks) SATB harmonisation of a given soprano part (20 marks), this therefore is in keeping with the original 60 marks allocated to Part II – Harmony and Counterpoint.</p>	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
AM	Russian		The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.
AM	Spanish	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Subjunctive (except for Present Subjunctive) and Passive Voice will be omitted from the syllabus. 2. No Direct and Indirect Speech exercise will feature in the exam. 3. The Latin American context in culture topics 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 will be removed and only the Spanish context will be emphasized. 	The oral component will not be assessed. Full marks will be awarded.

