



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATSEC
Examinations Board



MATSEC Regulations

Matriculation Examination Regulations

2025

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Matriculation Examination Regulations

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by articles 74 (5) and 75 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by articles 75 (3) and 79 (b) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These regulations are cited from the Matriculation Examination Regulations, 2013 (published as L.N. 133 of 2013) with amendments as articulated in Matriculation Examination (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (published as L.N. 330 of 2013), Matriculation Examination (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (published as L.N. 316 of 2014), Matriculation Examination (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (published as L.N. 111 of 2018), Matriculation Examination 2022(Amendment) (published as . L.N. 147 of 2022), Matriculation Examination 2023(Amendment) (published as . L.N. 133 of 2023) and Matriculation Examination 2024(Amendment) (published as . L.N. 246 of 2024)
- (2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires –
“the Certificate” means the Matriculation Certificate;
“the Examination” means the Matriculation Examination; and
“the MATSEC Board” means the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board.
- (3) The MATSEC Board retains to itself the interpretation of the regulations and syllabuses relating to its examinations.

Applicability

2. (1) These regulations shall be applicable for examinations held from January, 2024 or later.
- (2) The Examination shall also be subject to the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Regulations, 2013.

Levels and Sessions of the Examination

3. (1) The Examination shall be held at two levels: Advanced (AM) Level and Intermediate (IM) Level.
- (2) There shall be two sessions of the Examination: The First Session shall be held during the period April to June, and the Second Session shall be held in September of each year.

Subjects of the Examination

4. (1) The Examination is offered in a wide range of subjects as follows:

Group 1: Maltese, Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Spanish;
Group 2: Accounting, Classical Studies*, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Psychology*, Religious Knowledge, Sociology;
Group 3: Applied Mathematics (Mechanics), Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Environmental Science*, Physics, Pure Mathematics;
Group 4: Art, Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication*, Graphical Communication, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education*, Theatre and Performance,
Systems of Knowledge*.

* offered at Intermediate Level only

(2) No subject may be taken at both Advanced and Intermediate Levels, and SEC Levels in the same session of examinations.

(3) In the Second Session candidates shall be allowed to sit for a maximum of six subjects as follows: one subject at Advanced Level and a maximum of five subjects at Intermediate Level restricted to one subject from each of Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and Systems of Knowledge.

Award of the Certificate

5. (1) To qualify for the Certificate, candidates must pass the examinations taken within a period of five years from the first sitting of any examination offered within the Examination.

(2) The Certificate shall be awarded to candidates who:

(a) sit for:

- (i) one subject chosen from each of Groups 1, 2, 3 and Systems of Knowledge and two other subjects chosen from Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 indicated in regulation 4; and
- (ii) two of the six subjects must be at Advanced Level, three other subjects at Intermediate Level and Systems of Knowledge; and

(b) obtain:

- (i) a pass in at least one of the subjects offered from each of Groups 1, 2 and 3, and a pass in Systems of Knowledge; and
- (ii) a minimum of 44 grade points obtained as a total from the results awarded in six subjects as indicated in paragraph 2 (a) of this regulation, and calculated as indicated in paragraph (5) of this regulation.

(3) The following restrictions apply for the award of the Certificate:

- (a) No subject may be presented at both Advanced and Intermediate Levels;
- (b) Environmental Science may not be presented with IM and AM Biology, Chemistry, or Physics;
- (c) Computing may not be presented with Information Technology;

(d) Engineering Drawing may not be presented with Graphical Communication (At Intermediate Level the two subjects become one: Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication); and
(e) Classical Studies may not be presented with Latin or Greek.

(4) (a) Candidates who satisfy all the criteria in this regulation shall be awarded the Certificate on the basis of the best results obtained.
(b) Candidates who sit for three or more subjects at Advanced Level shall be entitled to have one or more of the results of these subjects considered as substitutes for one or more of the Intermediate Level subjects required by paragraph 2 (a) (ii) of this regulation. In such cases, the subject or subjects that are substituted shall be considered as Intermediate Level passes, grade for grade, for the purpose of calculating the number of grade points as indicated in paragraph (5) of this regulation. Candidates shall be required to inform the MATSEC Board in writing which subject/s they wish to be substituted.
(c) The Certificate shall be issued once only and it shall indicate that the candidate has satisfied the criteria for the award. Candidates shall also receive a transcript of the results obtained in individual subjects as established in regulation 6 below.

(5) Grade points shall be awarded for all subjects passed, up to a total of 100 grade points, as follows:

| Advanced Level | Intermediate Level |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Grade A – 30 grade points | Grade A – 10 grade points |
| Grade B – 24 grade points | Grade B – 8 grade points |
| Grade C – 18 grade points | Grade C – 6 grade points |
| Grade D – 12 grade points | Grade D – 4 grade points |
| Grade E – 6 grade points | Grade E – 2 grade points |

provided that in applying these grade point equivalences, regulation 4 (b) is followed for those candidates who present one or more Advanced Level subjects instead of Intermediate Level subjects.

Results

6. (1) The results obtained in the individual subjects shall be given as grades A, B, C, D, and E in descending order of merit. F indicates Fail and 'abs' indicates Absent for the examination.

(2) The results sent to candidates shall show the subjects in which a pass grade had been awarded as well as the subjects in which the standard required for the lowest grade was not reached.

(3) The MATSEC Board shall issue certificates for each session showing the subjects in which a pass grade has been awarded.

(4) An authenticated copy of the results may be obtained from the MATSEC Board against a fee as determined by the University.

Registration

7. (1) Registration for the examinations online or on the appropriate application form and accompanied by the relevant fee, must be made by the closing date as published in the notice for registration. Applications submitted after the closing date but by the published date for late applications shall be accepted if an additional fee is paid.

(2) Applications for registration for the First and Second Sessions at a later date may be accepted at the Executive Director's discretion against the payment of a further additional fee.

(3) Alterations to the application form may only be made by the candidates' subject to the same conditions and additional fees applicable for late registration.

(4) Private candidates must submit their project proposals as specified in the syllabus.

Enquiries upon Results

8. The marking of papers and the results shall be final and binding on all candidates and the MATSEC Board shall not, except in its absolute discretion, enter into correspondence about results with candidates or their parents or any other person.

Candidates with Special Needs

9. (1) Candidates with special needs may be given the option to be exempted from being examined in a particular component of the examination, such as an oral or a practical examination. When candidates accept the option and their work is prorated to compensate for the missing component, their Certificate shall be endorsed as follows:

'Special arrangements were made to enable the candidate to be assessed in this subject. Details may be obtained from the Executive Director.'

(2) Such certificates shall only be issued as a last resort when ways cannot be found of supporting candidates with special needs to satisfy examination requirements.

(3) Applications requesting special arrangements shall be made on the appropriate form, within the date stipulated by the MATSEC Board, and must be endorsed by the Head of the candidate's school and supported by appropriate medical or other professional evidence issued within the period/periods specified in the Guidelines to MATSEC Examinations Access Arrangements - 2011 published by the Access – Disability Support Committee and approved by the Senate.

Coursework

10. (1) All coursework is to be available at the candidates' schools for moderation by the Markers' Panel.

(2) The school assessments must reach the MATSEC Support Unit by the date specified by the MATSEC Board.

(3) Private candidates are required to submit their coursework as established by the MATSEC Board, with a dated endorsement showing where it was carried out, by the date specified by the MATSEC Board.

(4) Candidates may be called for an interview relating to their coursework.

(5) Coursework assessment marks may also be retained for subsequent sessions of the Examination for a period of up to five years, but the candidates may, at their option, present new or revised coursework.

Oral/Aural Components of the Examination

11. Oral/aural examinations shall be held in both the First and the Second Sessions of the Examination.

Examination Work

12. (1) Candidates are expected to bear in mind the necessity for good expression and orderly presentation in their examination answers.

(2) All work submitted in connection with the Examination, including written work and coursework, shall remain the property of the MATSEC Board, but may be returned to the candidates at the discretion of the MATSEC Board.

Structure of Examination Papers

13. Each Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examination has its own particular structure.

Examination Materials

14. (1) No texts or dictionaries are permitted in the examination room unless specifically indicated in the syllabus.

(2) The use of non-programmable electronic calculators is permitted in Mathematics, science subjects, and related subjects, unless indicated otherwise in the syllabus.

(3) A booklet with mathematical formulae shall be supplied by the MATSEC Board where appropriate.

Revision of Examination Scripts

15. (1) In terms of the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Certificate Examinations Regulations, 2013, candidates who are not satisfied with the grade awarded to them in any of the subjects for which they sat, may request a revision of their examination scripts, within the period specified by the MATSEC Board and against a fee as determined by the University.

(2) The revised result shall be final.

Language of Examination

16. Candidates are required to answer in the language the questions are set, unless otherwise specified in the examination paper.

Conduct during the Examination

17. (1) Candidates shall not be allowed into an examination room after the first half hour of the examination, and they shall not be allowed to leave the examination room, temporarily or permanently, during the first half hour and during the last quarter of an hour of an examination.

(2) Mobile phones, books, note-books, and any other unauthorized aids to the examination (including electronic aids) must be left outside the examination room or delivered to the invigilator before the examination questions are distributed.

(3) Candidates shall be provided with one or more examination booklets, which must be filled in accordance with the directions printed on the cover of the booklet. No part of an examination booklet may be torn off, and no examination booklet or part thereof may be taken outside the examination room.

(4) When an index number is used, candidates must not write their name on any part of the examination booklet or make any mark thereon calculated to disclose their identity to a marker.

(5) Candidates caught cheating, or attempting to cheat, during an examination or in any way caught taking, or attempting to take, an unfair advantage over other candidates shall be subject to disciplinary procedures as established in the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Certificate Examinations Regulations, 2013.

Repeal

18. The Matriculation Certificate Examination Regulations, 2005, published as Legal Notice 189 of 2005, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 31st August 2012.