

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
THE MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL

GERMAN

MAY 2011

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**AM GERMAN
MAY 2011 SESSION
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

Of the 37 candidates registered for the MATSEC Advanced Level Examination in German 1 candidate was absent. The remaining 36 achieved the following results:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
No. of candidates	10	6	11	4	2	3	1	37
Percentage	27%	16.2%	29.7%	10.8%	5.4%	8.1%	2.7%	100

All scripts were marked according to a marking scheme. Both the new and the old orthography were accepted.

The candidates achieving Grade A in Advanced Level showed a good general knowledge and proving an overall satisfying command of the German language including the handling of grammar questions. It has also to be noted that probably three candidates seemed to be native speakers of German. Generally a certain rise in correct answers of questions of **Landeskunde** could be noted, meaning that - beginning with last year's examinations - the standard of knowledge of German geographical and cultural positions and situations showed an improvement.

To quite some extent the same could be stated about some of the candidates who achieved grades B and C. However, they were not quite up to the standards required for an A grading. In a number of cases this was due to the fact, that the students did not adhere to – or overlooked - the instructions given in the titles, e.g. when the titles stipulated the replies to be phrased in complete sentences, just one or two words were chosen to make up the answers. Obviously marks are lost in such cases. Further down the scale of marking the lack of vocabulary and of grammar unfortunately merited lower grades only.

Of the six **Essay** titles offered in Paper I all were chosen by the following number of students:

- 12 candidates: "Die Welt mit und ohne Mobiltelefon (Handy)."
(The world with and without a mobile phone.)
- 10 candidates: "Eine Person, die mich in meinem Leben beeinflusst hat."
(A person who has influenced my life.)
- 8 candidates: "Ich möchte mein Leben in meinem Heimatland verbringen."
(I like to spend my life in my home country.)
- 3 candidates: "Die Verschmutzung der Weltmeere."
(The pollution of the oceans of the world.)
- 2 candidates: "Sollten Massenparties, wie z.B. Love Parade, verboten werden?"
(Should mass events like for example Love Parade be prohibited?)
- 1 candidate: "Warum braucht man einen Führerschein?"
(Why does a person need a Driver's Licence?)

By means of the above figures it could be noted that the importance of a technical device and a personal advice are practically on equal level of consequence for more than half of the students of this year.

As in former years, there were also some humorous creations like:

Essay on Pollution of the Oceans:

Wenn man neben das Meer baut, kann man die Bürtplätze der Fische zerstören.

Listening Comprehension:

... fühle zur Zähne gehörlich (zur Scene gehörig)

Gegenteil von: Eröffnung = *Ausöffnung*

vergrößern = eingrößern

Landeskunde: *Im Jahre 1989 ist der Mauer runter gefallen.*

Paper II, Section A, focuses on **Vocabulary**. Here amongst others the “opposite” (Gegenteil) of the words stated had to be named, which proved to be difficult for a number of candidates. The reason seemed to be that they did not understand the meaning of the given word, although it formed part of the “Listening Comprehension”.

Concerning **Grammar** one might state that “Passive Voice” and “Indirect Speech” generally produce the weakest replies. One common mistake within the paragraph for Passive Voice was very obvious: In many cases the object of the sentence remained forgotten, though in the following example the candidate produced the nearly correct grammar, however, without the object:

Active Sentence: Die Partner *haben* vor vielen Jahren in Hamburg eine kleine Konditorei *eröffnet*.

Passive Sentence as given by candidate:

Eine kleine Konditorei ist vor vielen Jahren in Hamburg eröffnet geworden.

Correct passive version: Vor vielen Jahren ist von den Partnern (object) in Hamburg eine kleine Konditorei eröffnet worden.

The replies to **Literature** questions showed good knowledge of the book “Ich fühl mich so fifty-fifty” by Karin König which was chosen by ALL candidates. However, some essays did not really deal with the question the individual candidate replied to. In these cases the question either was not really understood by the candidate or possibly the candidate made use of some memorised paragraphs prepared for the purpose of “fitting in”. Though the difficult situation of the residents of the two German states faced at the time of the novel might be very far removed from the understanding of an eighteen year old who – neither his/her parents – had ever been confronted with such extremely adverse conditions as the two German states were confronted with before 1989.

The **Oral Examinations** rendered again very satisfactory results: 29 candidates achieved marks between 20 and 30 (highest), only 7 under 19.

The following points are of general nature and apply to **Advanced Level** as well as **Intermediate Level** of May 2011 examinations:

- a) Candidates should be encouraged to make sure and double check that they have replied to **all** the questions to avoid getting a zero mark while in fact they would have known the answer. It would help candidates (as well as markers!) if candidates would mention the exact numbering of the question answered.

This year a new version of “mutation” occurred: Where the printed text of the Paper stated lettering like (a), (b), (c)... few candidates chose to call the replies by (1), (2), (3)... This is puzzling for the marker and might lead to wrong marking allocations.

Equally important - especially in the case of Essays - is the repeating of the title in the script book. Hereby misinterpretation may be avoided, and apart from that an essay is considered incomplete without its title.

- b) As pointed in previous reports, the provided booklets for the candidates' scripts contain an ample number of pages. Therefore, it is not necessary at all that students squeeze their answers of a Section onto *one* page, resulting in finding end and start between sections or questions sometimes very difficult for the marker. They may leave some lines of spacing at least between sections as well as the individual paragraphs.
- c) Candidates should write their answers in ball point. It is acceptable if they draft some points i.e. for essays in pencil and cross them out, just with one line, after having made use of them. No other colour should be used, especially not RED, as has occurred this year again.

Chairperson
Board of Examiners

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