

**MATSEC EXAMINATIONS
ADVANCED LEVEL**

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**THE MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
ADVANCED LEVEL**

ACCOUNTING

May 2012

EXAMINERS' REPORT

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

STATISTICS

**Table 1: MATSEC Advanced Level Accounting, May 2012
Distribution of Grades**

Grades	A	B	C	D	E	F	Absent	TOTAL
No. of candidates	24	59	133	61	56	106	52	491
Total %	4.9	12.0	27.1	12.4	11.4	21.6	10.6	100

PAPER 1

Question 1

This first question in Section A, carrying 28 marks, tested the candidates' knowledge on statements of cash flows. It was, by far, the least preferred question in Section A and was attempted by only 14% of the students. Those candidates who chose this question showed a fair understanding of the topic and the average mark obtained was 56%.

Question 2

Question 2, which examined the topic of manufacturing and transfer pricing, was attempted by 86% of the students, implying candidates prefer a topic which is also covered at SEC level. The overall average mark was a very satisfactory 62%, and the highest average mark obtained in this paper.

Question 3

The first question in Section B, focused on the financing side and students were required to prepare journal entries and a revised Statement of Financial Position for a number of transactions dealing with the various components of equity. A high percentage of students (88%) chose this question. The overall average mark was 52%.

Question 4

The same high level of candidates, 88%, attempted question 4 which tested the candidates' knowledge on the preparation of the final accounts of a limited liability company with a number of year end adjustments. The topic features frequently and the average mark of 58% is satisfactory.

Question 5

This question focused on accounting concepts, and as in previous papers it turned out to be unpopular with the students. Only 39% attempted it and the overall mark was just 36%, implying that a higher level of preparation may be needed in this area.

Question 6

The last question of Paper 1 tested the students' knowledge on accounting for non current assets and was attempted by 69% of the candidates. Given that students start being exposed to this topic at SEC level, the average mark of 42% is somewhat disappointing.

PAPER 2

Question 1

The first question of Section A examined the topic of cash budgets. It was the lesser preferred question of Section A and was attempted by 38% of the candidates. Students' responses were generally weak and the average mark attained was only 38%. This may be indicative of inadequate preparation and/or poor understanding of this topic.

Question 2

The second question of Section A was attempted by 62% of the candidates. This question tested the candidates' knowledge of marginal and absorption costing. The average overall mark was a satisfactory 61%.

Question 3

The first question of Section B was the least preferred question of this section and tested the candidates' knowledge of overhead recovery rates. It was attempted by 59% of the candidates and the overall mark was 43%.

Question 4

Question 4 focused on variance analysis, always a favourite topic, possibly due to the structured way this topic is examined. It was attempted by 77% of the candidates and a fairly satisfactory average mark of 47% was achieved.

Question 5

Question 5 which focused on valuation of stock, another favourite topic, was attempted by 84% of the candidates. The average mark of 60% is very satisfactory.

Question 6

The last question of Paper 2 tested the area of investment appraisal techniques and was the preferred question in this sitting. 85% of the candidates who attempted this question appear to have been very well prepared on this topic. The overall average mark was a very satisfactory 72%, the highest average mark of this sitting.

Chairperson

Examination Panel 2012