

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**  
**THE MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**  
**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**

**SPANISH**

**MAY 2009**

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE**  
**EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

IM Examiners' Report – May 2009

**IM SPANISH  
MAY 2009 SESSION  
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	absent
2005 No of students 13 Percentage	0 0%	0 0%	4 31%	2 15%	3 23%	2 15%	2 15%
2006 No of students 14 Percentage	0 0%	0 0%	5 36%	2 14%	4 29%	2 14%	1 7%
2007 No of students 13 Percentage.	0 0%	3 23%	5 39%	3 23%	2 15%	0 0%	0 0%
2008 No of students 18 Percentage.	2 11%	5 28%	4 22%	5 28%	1 5.5%	1 5.5%	0 0%
2009 No of students 9 percentage	3 34%	2 22%	2 22%	0 0%	1 11%	0 0%	1 11%

The following table is set for comparative purposes with previous years since 2005. It indicates the number of students in accordance to the grade award structure, and the percentage of the total.

This year the students who applied for this exam were 9, a very and disappointing figure compared to the previous years. It is to be hoped that this does not represent a decreased interest in the subject. On the other hand, the percentage of students obtaining a Grade A increased dramatically to 34% from 11% in 2008. This is a very encouraging fact. However, when the numbers are so few, it is hard to deduce any trend. The average overall mark was 69% as against 65% last year, a positive and significant increase.

## Written Paper

### *Redacción*

The average mark in this section was 19 out of 30. Last year's average was 19. The examiners remarked that most of the students opted for themes which gave them the possibility of putting in their personal experience and expressing their own personal opinions. This seems to indicate that they heeded last year's report to spend a few minutes to organize what they intend to say and avoid rambling. There were many instances when the linguistic structure was used very correctly, and in which there was no interference of the Italian language, something which the examiners usually point out. As against last year, the remark was that this year the students organized well their essay. It appears they heeded the advice given in previous reports

### *Comprensión*

The average mark in this question was 23 out of 30, a remarkable improvement from the 19 marks of last year. The students excelled in this exercise, and they not only understood well the text, but tried to answer in their own words, something last year's report commented upon. Unfortunately, in some instances they erred, but it appeared this was more because of lack of attention and concentration, rather than a lack of understanding of the Spanish language. Their understanding was quite adequate in relation to the level of these students.

### *Textos Literarios y Cultura Hispánica*

The average mark in this exercise was 19 out of 30, the same as last year. An overwhelming majority opted for the literature rather than the Cultura Hispánica. Moreover all those who opted for the literature chose the same textbook of '*El Quijote*', and answered the same question. The majority were of a good level and showed a good grasp of the text and literary analysis. Only a few limited their answers to the superficial aspect, without going deeper and touching on other relevant themes.

### *Conversación*

The average mark was 7 out of 10, the same as last year and a creditable performance. One obtained 9 and two obtained 8.

Learning idiomatic phrases, reading Spanish newspapers and books and listen to Spanish as much as possible in their free time is of crucial importance for this component of the examination.

### *General Comments*

As regards level of answers, it is obvious that the level has improved, which augurs well for the future. The substantial drop in candidates is rather worrying and it is hoped that this was a one off and we shall see an increase next year.

Chairperson  
Board of Examiners

August 2009