

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

**GERMAN**

**MAY 2011**

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

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

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

Of the 29 candidates registered for Intermediate Level Examination all were present and achieved the following results:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
No. of candidates	8	6	7	5	3	0	29
Percentage	27.6%	20.7%	24.1%	17.2%	10.3%	0	100%

All scripts were seen by three markers. A marking scheme was used. Both the new and the old orthography were accepted.

Generally it might be said, that this year's Intermediate Paper shows a slight improvement concerning factual knowledge / understanding compared to previous years, even though lack of expression skills, spelling and grammar mistakes were unfortunately equally common. Of those candidates who achieved a Grade A few apparently had a German speaking background and the others gave a fairly good presentation.

The candidates achieving lower grades, however, lacked vocabulary and showed gradual weakness in the grammar questions. Unfortunately there are always some candidates obviously misunderstanding the questions and thus giving irrelevant replies losing their marks in the process.

It might be pointed out that the factual knowledge in **Landeskunde** (*culture, history, geography*) has improved. The total marks for Landeskunde were 25 points, and only three candidates were given 13 marks or less.

Some misunderstanding as regards the **Bodensee** (Lake Constance) needs to be clarified. The candidates who opted to answer that particular (choice) question were asked to state two lakes in Bavaria (e.g. Ammersee, Chiemsee, Starnberger See, Königssee....) However, 17 candidates named the Bodensee, thus losing 0.5 point.

Lake Constance borders several countries, but in Germany it is manifested to belong to the *Federal State of Baden-Württemberg*. Excluded of this "ownership" is the City of Lindau, which is situated on an island *in the lake*, connected with a street bridge and a train bridge to a tiny part of Bavaria, thus being a Bavarian city (since 1805).

Of the six titles for essays only five were chosen, namely

- 14 Candidates: Mein bester Freund / meine beste Freundin.  
(*My best friend*)
- 10 Candidates: Wie ich das Wochenende verbringe.  
(*How I spend the weekend*)
- 02 Candidates each: Ein Sommerjob, den ich gerne machen möchte.  
(*A summer job which I would like to carry out*)  
Mein Hobby ist Malen.  
(*My hobby is painting*)
- 01 Candidate: Ein Museumsbesuch.  
(*A visit at a museum.*)

The Oral Examinations, for which fully obtainable marks were 15, showed the following results:

- 11 candidates achieving under 10 marks (Last year: 3 candidates under 10 marks),
  - 15 candidates between 10-13 marks,
  - 03 candidates between 14 – 15 marks. (Last year 20 candidates between 10-15 marks)
- This keeps approximately within the same result frame as last year.

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** questions to avoid getting a zero mark while in fact they would have known the answer. It would help students (as well as markers!) if students 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), and (3)... This is puzzling for the marker and might lead to wrong marking allocations. Equally important - especially in the case of Essays - is repeating 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 out over and again in reports of previous years, 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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