

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**

**CLASSICAL STUDIES
MAY 2013**

EXAMINERS' REPORT

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL STUDIES
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Statistics

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Number	6	3	9	4	7	9	0	38
% of Total	15.8	7.9	23.7	10.5	18.4	23.7	0.0	100.0

The Exam Paper

This paper consisted of two parts: language (A and B) (60%) and Culture and Civilization (C) (40%). The language part was subdivided into two parts, translation (A) (30%) and comprehension (B) (30%), while the translation part was yet subdivided into Latin (A1) (15%) and Greek (A2) (15%). Section C consisted of a choice of either one essay, or two shorter essays of a wider scope.

Of the 38 candidates, 29 passed (76.32%) and 9 failed (23.68%). Of those who passed, 6 got an A (76+) (15.79%), 3 got a B (65+) (7.9%), 9 got a C (53+) (23.68%), 4 got a D (49+) (10.53%) and 7 got an E (43+) (18.42). Thus, 60.53% fall into the category of 43%-67%, while only a quarter of that amount (15.79%) fall in the other category of 76%-100%. Of the six who got an A, one got 94% (4006) and another got 93% (4016). Of the nine who failed, two got 40% (4001 and 4025), five were the category of 30-39% (4004, 4007, 4011, 4030 and 4032), while two were in the category of 20%-29% (4026 and 4027). The lowest mark was that of 21% (4026). The average mark was 54% (C).

One candidate did not attempt Sections A and B, the whole of the language section (2.63%); two did not attempt the comprehension (B) (5.26%); five did not attempt both the Latin and the Greek translations (A) (13.16%); ten did not attempt the Latin translations (A1) (26.32%), and another ten did not attempt the Greek translation (A2) (26.32%). Only twelve passed in both A and B (31.58%); eight passed in the whole of Section A (21.05%); seven passed in the Latin translation (18.42%), eight passed in the Greek translation (21.05%), but 21 passed in the Comprehension Section (55.26%). Of those who attempted the Comprehension Section (B), only half passed the Latin translation required of them (Be) which carried 18/30 marks (50%).

All candidates passed the Essay Section. Half of them chose the single longer essay, and half the two shorter essays. Of those who attempted the single longer essay, 14 chose the essay on mythology (36.84%), three the essay on Socrates (7.9%), one that on Julius Caesar and Augustus (2.63%), and one that on the Roman Republic (2.63%). Of those who chose the two shorter essays from the only three titles, only four attempted the essay on the connection between the journalist and the Classicist (10.53%). One student (4014) was given full marks for the essay (40/40), four were given 39/40 and one 38/40. Two candidates got the lowest mark (20/40), and one got 21/40. 11 students got a mark below 30 (28.95%), one, as already mentioned, got 40/40 (2.63%), the rest fall the category of 30-39/40 (68.42%).

The teachers should be aware that this subject was introduced to serve as a bridge between Classical Culture and Civilization, which is all in translation, and Classics, being Greek and Latin Language and Literature. It is clear from the above analysis that these students lacked sufficient preparation in both Latin and Greek. Some, as said above, knew nothing. Perhaps students should be made to carry out more regular home-works in the two languages.

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Also, it appears from the essay titles attempted that more attention was given to mythology than to the other topics. Also, the fact that half of the students attempted the two shorter essays, appealing to the wider knowledge of the students, shows the need for a better preparation for more specific topics.

It is imperative that in the very near future a better text-book be published which would be available to **all** centres of learning where Classical Studies would be offered. This text-book would narrow down for all students the vast repertoire that exists at present for their study.

Conclusion

One concludes this report on two remarks. Only 38 students out of the original 65 that registered for Classical Studies at the Junior College in 2011 attempted the examination (58.46%). Perhaps the Principal of the Junior College could probe into the reasons for the extraordinary drop-out. Finally, the mere fact that 76.32% of the candidates passed is a compliment to the two lecturers in the subject at the Junior College. This has been the first in-take, and the first attempt at both syllabus preparation and execution. It is hoped that this report will help them improve on their own effort, methodology and completion of the syllabus programme.

Chairperson

Examination Panel 2013