

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

ART
MAY 2017

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**IM ART
MAY 2017 SESSION
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

Thirty-seven candidates registered for the examination. The breakdown of the Grades obtained by the candidates was as follows:

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Number of Candidates	1	2	11	9	9	4	1	37
% of Total	2.70	5.41	29.73	24.32	24.32	10.81	2.70	100

Grade	No of Candidates	% of Candidates
A - C	14	37.8
A - E	32	86.5
FAIL	4	10.8

Part I A – Coursework

A number of candidates did not show the necessary commitment required throughout their course of study and failed to reach the expected level. Candidates should present original work as although copies may reveal technical skill, they fail to show the creative process.

In their majority, candidates adhered to the regulations stipulated by the syllabus and submitted their work with the various sections duly marked and filed in sub-folders within the main folder.

Candidates adhered to the regulations and did not include material that might disclose their identity or material which might create health hazards. However, a number of candidates included works on stretched canvas or thick boards – this fringes the rules stipulated by the syllabus.

Prospective candidates are urged to read carefully the syllabus early during their course of studies so that the works produced would be in conformity with the regulations.

Candidates should avoid work in very heavy impasto or executed at the eleventh hour, as even acrylic paints, although dry to the touch, have a tendency to stick together under pressure.

The work presented should show sustained personal research and development of analytical and technical skills in visual representation. A number of candidates loaded their portfolio with photographs and other material downloaded from internet. Downloads may serve as a visual aid and as a springboard for the candidate's personal creative process; these should be inserted to show the candidate's use of secondary sources but should be kept to the minimum.

A(i) Portfolio

A good percentage of candidates presented a good portfolio and obtained a high mark, while the majority of the remaining candidates presented works that got them a lower pass.

This section is intended to show a cross-section of the work carried out during the two year course. It is recommended that candidates should use the allotted sheets to the maximum and be selective in their works. It has been noted that in several instances the selected works were of an inferior or poor quality.

A(ii) Personal Study

In this section, the mark obtained by the great majority the candidates reflects that of the Portfolio.

The number of sheets allotted for this section should be utilized to the maximum so as to show the candidates' personal investigation and preparatory work. In this section, candidates are required to communicate their understanding and thinking process through integrated images and annotations. Some candidates presented a series of downloads while others a number of finished works on the selected theme which failed to demonstrate a focused investigation and critical analysis of the theme selected- the prime requisites in this section.

A(iii) Visual Journal

Only a small percentage of candidates managed to get a high mark in this section. It seems that candidates are not fully informed how to use a work journal. A good number of candidates presented a sketchbook rather than a journal. A well-kept journal should reflect a continuous process, recorded by sketches, drawings, cuttings and art-historical references, accompanied by annotations and personal reflections.

Part I B Thematic Project Work

In this section, the mark obtained by the great majority of the candidates reflects the mark obtained in the Portfolio.

Some candidates presented their work in clear-cut sections marked "investigation", "experimentation", "development" etc. Although a good presentation is recommended, such neat divisions, often lack to show the ongoing and overlapping processes of investigation, experimentation and development as an integral part of creativity.

Part II – Section A – Work from Observation

A very small percentage of candidates produced good work or of a satisfactory standard, the rest of work was of a lower pass quality. It is felt that work from observation needs to be given more importance during the two-year-course of study. Many candidates showed a lack of basic observation and drawing skills.

Part II – Section B – History of Art

As in several occasions in recent years, the large majority of answers were largely descriptive. It is unfortunately noted that yet again, many candidates do not discuss the context of the work of art. Many times there is no mention of style or the iconography or of the period's salient characteristics. There is rarely a discussion of the artist himself and works of art are not placed within the *oeuvre* of the artist.

It is regrettable to note that there is extensive evidence of lack of study and preparation.

*Chairperson
Examination Panel 2017*