

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

GERMAN

MAY 2017

EXAMINERS' REPORT

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD

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

The results achieved by the candidates are as indicated hereafter:

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
No. of candidates	6	4	7	4	1	2	0	24
% of Total	25.0	16.7	29.2	16.7	4.2	8.3	0	100

All scripts were seen by two markers.

The overall level of the Intermediate Paper shows a basic knowledge of German language and culture. A good number of candidates therefore showed an above-average performance. The most frequently awarded mark was a C.

The following is an overview on the performance in the different sections of the written examination:

Listening comprehension

As in previous years, the candidates performed well and attained high marks in the questions on text 1 of the listening comprehension section; most of the questions were answered correctly by the vast majority of candidates. More difficulties arose in the questions on text 2, where candidates were asked to answer in complete sentences. The most common mistakes were spelling mistakes and mistakes in the sentence structure. Some spelling mistakes led to a completely different meaning of the words written (e.g. *tauschen* – *tauchen*), and others were grievous to a point that words were illegible. Furthermore, not all candidates answered the questions on text 2 “in a full sentence” as required.

Essay/Letter writing

Most candidates achieved more points in the letter writing than in the essay writing. The vast majority of the candidates showed a good understanding of how a letter needs to be structured but some still had difficulties choosing a correct salutation and an appropriate ending. Although four content items had been specified in the letter writing task, not all candidates wrote a short paragraph about each content item. These are mistakes that can be avoided easily.

The most popular type of essay was the descriptive. Common language mistakes could be identified in relation to syntax, especially with regard to word order, to the declension and to orthography.

Reading comprehension/Sprachbausteine

The candidates' overall performance in the reading comprehension shows evidence of a good understanding of the general content of texts on this level, although the answers which had to be given in complete sentences relatively often contained grammar mistakes and/or missing details. In the exercise on *Sprachbausteine*, i.e. in the grammar exercise, mistakes were mainly made in the declension of adjectives although prepositions and pronouns were also a frequent source of errors.

Landeskunde/German culture

Unfortunately, as in the previous years, the candidates did not show evidence of a firm general knowledge on German culture required for the Landeskunde/German culture section despite the fact that the syllabus gives quite a clear indication on the possible areas and topics covered in the examination. This section of the paper should not be neglected.

The following points are of a general nature:

a) Candidates should be encouraged to double check that they have replied to all the questions. Furthermore, candidates should make sure to reply in full sentences where required. Candidates should include the number of the question answered.

b) In the section on communicative writing, candidates should be reminded not to sign the letter using their real names or to write down their real postal or email address in the letter head. Candidates are meant to sign with the name indicated in the respective section or should sign with XXX.

*Chairperson
Examination Panel 2017*