

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION INTERMEDIATE
LEVEL**

**CLASSICAL STUDIES
MAY 2017**

EXAMINERS' REPORT

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS BOARD**

**IM CLASSICAL STUDIES
MAY 2017 SESSION
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Part 1: Statistical Information

Table 1 shows the distribution of grades for May 2017 session of the examination.

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	TOTAL
NUMBER	2	3	3	5	6	17	3	39
% OF TOTAL	5.1	7.7	7.7	12.8	15.4	43.6	7.7	100

This year, 39 candidates sat for the Intermediate Level in Classical Studies. This was an increase from last year by 11.

The examination paper consists of three sections, A, B, and C.

Part 2: Comments regarding candidates' performance**Section A**

This Section comprises Greek and Latin translation, consisting of five sentences to translate into Latin (15%), and five other sentences to translate into Greek (15%). They involve no syntactical problems, like purpose or consecutive clauses, but simple grammar: active and passive voices, all the conjugations of verbs in Latin, and all declensions of nouns and adjectives in Latin. No pronouns are examined, and only vowel-stemmed verbs in Greek (the simplest and easiest to remember).

8 candidates got zero marks for this section, many of them having not attempted the translations. Only 4 candidates did well in this Section. As was observed in previous years, Greek answers were better – but one reason for this is the considerable presence of the relatively-simple Greek article, which carries a good percentage of the overall mark.

Section B

This Section is a comprehension test lifted from the Greek and Latin passages in the syllabus (30%). Each candidate is expected to have studied those passages, not only in terms of meaning, but also of their application to author, genre and historical background. One question (out of five) is a translation. 11 candidates scored a good mark in the section.

Section C

In the civilization and culture section, candidates have a choice of either a long essay on a topic (40%) , or two short essays in general topics (20% each). 19 candidates answered the long essay, the majority of whom attempted either of the two essays on Mythology, with mostly decent responses. Questions on Alexander, the Peloponnesian War, and Augusts received fair answers, but a question on ancient slavery received poor answers. None of the candidates attempted the question on Plato.

The shorter essays were decent, but suffered from much repetition of the same artists and writers (e.g. Percy Jackson and Harry Potter). The level of English was fair.

Chairperson

Examination Panel 2017