



L-Università  
ta' Malta

MATSEC  
Examinations Board



## Examiners' Report

IM Classical Studies

First Session 2021

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## A. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

A record of **74** applications have been registered for this session. However, only 2 candidates, of the 59 who sat for the paper, obtained an A.

The examination paper consists of five sections: A, B, C, D, and E. Each section carries a maximum of 20 marks.

Table 1 shows the distribution of grades for the June 2021 Session of the examination.

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
NUMBER	2	6	15	8	12	16	15	74
% OF TOTAL	2.7	8.1	20.3	10.8	16.2	21.6	20.3	100

*Table 1: Distribution of grades for IM Classical Studies, June Session 2021*

## B. GENERAL REMARKS

### General Remarks on the Written Examination

Many candidates only focused on specific sections of the paper, enabling them to obtain top marks in one section but obtained low marks in other sections.

## C. COMMENTS ON PAPER I

### Section A: History

A choice of two essay questions was set for the candidates from which they had to choose one in around 350 words. No real preference was shown between the two questions, both titles were nearly equally attempted. While some essays were good, most answers were generic rather than specific to the contents of the question.

### Section B: Language

In this section, candidates were required to translate into English five sentences from Latin and five sentences from Greek. Some candidates did not follow the rubric of the paper and only attempted translations in one language. Nonetheless, the attempted translations were generally correct. The most common grammatical mistakes in the translations were: confusing singular and plural nouns, and the incorrect use of the past tense and the passive voice.

### Section C: Mythology

Candidates were required to answer one essay question from a choice of two. The first question on Heracles' death and apotheosis provided some poor responses mainly because that answers focused on the life of the hero rather than on his death and its aftermath. The answers to Question two were generally above-average. Candidates were able to successfully draw comparisons between classical heroes and modern fictional heroes.

### **Section D: Literature**

This question comprised of a comprehension test based on one of the extracts from Classical Literature found in the syllabus. In this session, candidates were required to answer five questions on a translated passage from Sophocles' tragedy Oedipus the King. Answers were poor for question 4 (the association between the first performance of the tragedy and the contemporaneous Great Plague of Athens) but, overall, answers demonstrated knowledge of the myth and the tragedy.

### **Section E: Art and Architecture**

This section which was compulsory. It consisted of a comprehension test on the reproduction one of the classical set pieces listed in the syllabus. This year's paper tested candidates on the famous Doryphoros by Polyceitos. For the most part, candidates were able to identify and comment on the sculpture. Unfortunately, some responses misdated the sculpture entirely.

Chairperson  
Examination Panel 2021