



L-Università
ta' Malta

MATSEC
Examinations Board



Examiners' Report

IM German

First Session 2024

Examiners' Report (2024): IM German

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A. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The total number of candidates who registered to sit for Intermediate German was 57, which is 5 candidates more than in 2023.

Table 1 shows the distribution of grades for the 2024 First Session of the examination.

GRADE	A	B	C	D	E	F	ABS	Total
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	7	10	15	8	4	6	7	57
% OF TOTAL	12.3	17.5	26.3	14.0	7.0	10.5	12.3	100

Table 1: Distribution of grades for German Intermediate 2024, First Session

B. GENERAL REMARKS

General Remarks on the Written Examination

Overall, the results achieved in this session were diverse and the performance was inferior compared to 2023: 29.8% of candidates received either an A or a B (40.4% in 2023) and 10.5% of the candidates did not reach a sufficient amount of marks.

C. COMMENTS ON PAPER I AND PAPER II

Paper I Listening Comprehension

Candidates did quite well in the Listening Comprehension, in particular in relation to the multiple-choice questions (text 2). They had more difficulties with the first task, but their performance was overall rather satisfactory. Nearly one fourth of the candidates received full marks in the listening comprehension paper.

Paper II Written Paper

Essay and Letter

As in previous years, for the essay candidates had to choose between a narrative, descriptive and argumentative task. It was evident that this year many of the candidates did not have the necessary language skills to produce a coherent and comprehensible essay in German. In several cases, the candidates submitted an essay which was unrelated to the given task or produced a text which was linguistically incomprehensible. Several times no marks could be given.

Also regarding the second task in this section, where candidates had to write a letter of complaint, many struggled with basic requirements, such as choosing between formal and informal forms of address ("Sie" and "Du"), adequately opening or concluding a formal letter with an appropriate idiom.

In the preparation for the exam, more emphasis should be given to the training of writing skills and the amplification of German vocabulary. Candidates who choose the argumentative topic in the essay should make sure to discuss both advantages and disadvantages of the given topic and not only mention arguments in favour or against. Many candidates used English expressions in their texts which should be avoided.

Reading Comprehension

Compared to last year, results in the Reading Comprehension tasks were also less satisfactory. Candidates understood most of the questions and were able to answer the questions, however either by copying and pasting the respective sentences in the text or with many linguistic mistakes, which led to a reduction of

marks. Candidates should be advised to answer in full sentences and reply to the questions by using their own words and not by copying from the text. Performance in the grammar section (Sprachbausteine) was very mixed. Few candidates received full marks in this section.

Landeskunde

The marks achieved in this section were relatively low this year. As in previous years, the first section of the "Landeskunde" part, where there is only a single correct answer to a given question, proved difficult for some candidates. Concerning the open question, candidates did often not provide a sufficient answer. While most could offer some kind of answer in this section, many candidates seemed to find it difficult to cite concrete facts and specific information or could not express them in German. A better understanding and more knowledge about the culture of the German-speaking countries would be desirable.

Chairperson
Examination Panel 2024