

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**  
**SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION**

**ARABIC**  
**MAY 2015**

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

**MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE**  
**EXAMINATIONS' BOARD**

**SEC ARABIC  
MAY 2015 SESSION  
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

**Statistics**

Forty-three (43) candidates registered for this examination – thirty-two (32) for Paper A and eleven (11) for Paper B. The table below outlines the candidates' distribution of grades:

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	5	4	9	2	2			5	5	32
PAPER B				2	2	2	2	3	0	11
TOTAL	5	4	9	4	4	2	2	8	5	43
% OF TOTAL	11.63	9.30	20.93	9.30	9.30	4.65	4.65	18.60	11.63	100

**Comments**

In general, the candidates demonstrated a very good performance. That being said, all candidates should be encouraged to read the rubric carefully.

**Listening and Dictation**

Examiners noted particular recurring errors especially in the following areas: tanwin, the article (in particular when proceeded by li + article), the use of short/long vowels, the use of hamza, and letter-sound correspondence (failing to distinguish between emphatic and non-emphatic letters and mixing up sounds such as *ق/ك، ح/خ*). In some cases, words, phrases or whole sentences were left out.

**Translation from & into Arabic**

Most Paper A candidates scored an average mark in this section. A good command of varied vocabulary was demonstrated. Some candidates struggled to express themselves in good English. In Paper B, when candidates failed to convey the original meaning, marks were deducted.

All candidates should be encouraged to improve their idiomatic usage of Arabic and English and to pay more attention to orthography.

**Essay**

Marks were awarded for creativity. However, marks were lost due to grammatical and orthographic mistakes.

**Culture**

It was noted that a number of candidates avoided tackling the cultural component.

**Oral**

Many candidates managed to handle both the standard and dialect varieties of Arabic in a satisfactory way.

*Chairperson  
2015 Examination Panel*