

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

**RUSSIAN**  
**MAY 2016**

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

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

**SEC RUSSIAN  
MAY 2016 SESSION  
EXAMINERS' REPORT**

**1. Statistics**

Twenty three candidates registered for this examination. Twenty two candidates registered for Paper IIA, and one candidate for Paper IIB. The table below outlines the candidates' grades.

**Table 1: Distribution of Grades**

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
No of Candidates sitting for Paper A	6	8	3	4	0			1	0	22
No of Candidates sitting for Paper B				1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total No of Candidates	6	8	3	5	0	0	0	1	0	23
% of Total	26.09	34.78	13.04	21.74	0	0	0	4.35	0	100

**2. Candidates' Performance**Paper I

*Reading and Conversation.* Some of the candidates were exceptionally fluent in spoken Russian.

*Listening Comprehension.* Candidates did well in this component.

*Dictation.* This component was tackled very well.

*Cultural Question.* The candidates' performance could have been better in this component.

Paper II

*Reading Comprehension.* On the whole the candidates performed well. The candidates did well in a number of questions requiring facts from the passage. Inferential questions were tackled less competently. As regards the grammar section in Paper IIA, overall the candidates' performance could have been better.

*Composition.* In this component, the candidates demonstrated quite a good grasp of grammar, spelling and syntax. Nevertheless, there were several punctuation mistakes, as well as some errors in the use of Cases, such as Dative, for example. There were also instances of limited lexical knowledge.

**3. General Conclusions and Recommendations**

The candidates had quite a good command of spoken and written Russian, and were quite well acquainted with Russian culture and history. As regards language, candidates need to practise essay writing further, with particular emphasis given to Cases, sentence structure and lexical knowledge. A wider variety of reading skills, such as skimming, scanning, and analytical reading, is also required. Extensive practice in oral/aural skills should contribute to more confidence in self-expression. Lastly, the results of this session are encouraging: fourteen out of twenty-three candidates demonstrated a good command of the language. The general standard of Russian in Maltese secondary schools is satisfactory.

*Chairperson  
2016 Examination Panel*