



L-Università  
ta' Malta

MATSEC  
Examinations Board



**Examiners' Report**  
SEC Spanish

**Main Session 2019**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	STATISTICAL INFORMATION .....	2
B.	GENERAL REMARKS .....	2
	General Remarks on Oral Conversation .....	2
	General Remarks on the Written Examination .....	2
C.	COMMENTS ON PAPER I AND PAPER II .....	2
	Paper I.....	2
	Listening Comprehension.....	2
	Part 2 .....	2
	Paper IIA and Paper IIB.....	3
	Section A: Reading Comprehension .....	3
	Section B: Essay Task.....	3
	Section C: Guided Dialogue .....	3
D.	CONCLUDING COMMENTS .....	3

## A. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The total number of candidates who registered to sit for Spanish was **360**, which is **65** candidates more than in 2018. This shows a marked increase in candidate registrations for this subject. Of these registrations, **239** opted for Paper IIA and **121** opted for Paper IIB. **3** candidates requested a revision of paper this year.

Table 1 shows the distribution of grades for the Main 2019 session of the examination

GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABS	TOTAL
PAPER A	34	39	49	41	36	-	-	24	16	239
PAPER B	-	-	-	24	22	17	12	29	17	121
TOTAL	34	39	49	65	58	17	12	53	33	360
% OF TOTAL	9.4	10.8	13.6	18.1	16.1	4.7	3.3	14.7	9.2	100.0

*Table 1: Distribution of grades for SEC Spanish 2019 Main Session*

## B. GENERAL REMARKS

### General Remarks on Oral Conversation

**310** candidates out of a total of **360** registered candidates sat for the oral conversation exam. Many candidates obtained more than 10 out of a total of 15 marks in this section.

### General Remarks on the Written Examination

In general, most candidates did not find any questions in the exam paper(s) this year which were particularly problematic for them. Spelling, verb conjugation and correspondence between article, number, nouns, gender and adjectives remain weak in many candidates. There were some very good essays this year.

## C. COMMENTS ON PAPER I AND PAPER II

### Paper I

#### Listening Comprehension

Most candidates did well in both the long text and the short text. There were no problems with any particular question in this section.

#### Part 2

Most candidates did well in Section A (Grammar), Section B (Culture) and Section C (Gap Filling). There were no problems with any particular questions in this part.

## Paper IIA and Paper IIB

### Section A: Reading Comprehension

Most candidates did well in this section in Paper IIA. Some candidates sitting for Paper IIB seemed to have problems in answering questions 7 and 8 where they had to find words similar and opposite in meaning to words in the text.

### Section B: Essay Task

Candidates sitting for Paper IIA sat for a variety of essay titles from the choice provided. There were some very good quality essays in Paper IIA (with hardly any mistakes).

Very few candidates from Paper IIB chose the essay that was based on the pictures. Most candidates sitting for this paper chose either "Un viaje inolvidable" or "Mi familia". Some Paper IIB candidates wrote much less than the requested 150 words which may indicate a lack of practice in writing essays. Problems with verb conjugation and correspondence between article, number, nouns, gender and adjectives were very common in Paper IIB papers. The use of words from English, Italian, Maltese and other languages was also extremely common such as the use of "raccontar" instead of "contar" or "quando" instead of "cuando".

### Section C: Guided Dialogue

Most candidates did well in this section in Paper IIA. Some candidates sitting for Paper IIB lacked knowledge in basic greetings in Spanish such as "Buenos días" or "Gracias". Some other candidates left substantial sections of the Guided Dialogue empty.

## D. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The examiners note that candidates need more drilling in verb conjugation and correspondence between article, number, nouns, gender and adjectives. The use of words from English, Italian, Maltese and other languages remains widespread. The examiners recommend that candidates be made more aware of this issue and that they be exposed much more to Spanish language conversations and texts to reduce this problem.

Chairperson  
Examination Panel 2019