

IM SYLLABUS (2026)

MUSIC

IM 24

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Syllabus

(Available in September)

Aural (30 minutes) + 1 Paper Written (2 ¼ hrs) + Performance (15 mins)

The examination will consist of three parts.

Part I – Musicianship

All exercises to be answered.

Section 1:

(6+4 marks)

Candidates will be expected to:

- i) sing three intervals on a given key-note. Augmented, diminished and compound intervals will not be given.
- ii) clap the rhythm of a short melodic phrase in simple or compound time.

Section 2:

(10+10 marks)

Candidates will be expected to:

- i) write down the occasional missing notes with the relative time-values, marked by an asterisk, in a given passage. The excerpt will be played four times.
- ii) identify the modulation of a two-part melodic phrase in a major or minor key. The excerpt will be played twice and will be preceded by the tonic chord.

Part II – Harmony, Counterpoint, History, Analysis

(20+20+30+25 marks)

All exercises to be answered.

- (i) SATB harmonisation of a given soprano or bass, including use of non –harmonic tones.
- (ii) Completion of a passage in 2-part counterpoint in eighteenth-century style. One part will be given.

Candidates should be familiar with independence of parts and their proper harmonic basis, i.e., triads and their inversions, the chord of the Dominant seventh, Secondary dominants, their resolutions and inversions.

- (iii) A set of questions designed to assess the candidate's grasp of outlines of general music history from Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods will be set. Candidates are to comment in brief on any one of the given topics.
- (iv) Candidates are expected to prepare any one of the following works and answer the relative given question in short essay form.

Sonata in E Major Kirkpatrick 380 – Lango 23 (17547) – Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Spanish Dance "Minueto" from "Danzas Espanoles", Op. 5 – Enrique Granados¹
Golliwog's Cake-walk (From "Children's Corner" – Claude Debussy

Candidates should use unmarked scores of the prescribed works provided during the examination.

¹ In order to avoid ambiguity, kindly note that this refers to *Dance No 1 "Minueto" from "12 Danzas Españolas"* – Enrique Granados.

Part III – Performance / Composition

(25 marks)

Candidates are to choose one section only

Section A: Performance

Candidates will perform a short recital of approximately 15 minutes duration. The choice of programme is at the discretion of the candidate and marks will be awarded on the choice of programme. With the exception of the piano, candidates are required to bring their own instruments. In the case of the electric guitar, candidates must bring their own amplifier, for both the electric guitar and drums a backing track is required for the performance exam and not piano accompaniment. Candidates are to bring their own recorded backing track and device with a media player to the examination centre. Candidates must provide their own live accompanist when needed for the performance examination, in the case of drums a recorded accompaniment is permitted.

Section B: Composition

Candidates are to compose a short piece of music of a duration of 3 minutes for any solo instrument. Originality, clarity, the correct handling of the chosen instrument and structural coherence are expected.

Two copies of the composition must then be submitted to the MATSEC Offices, University of Malta, these are to be handed in by the date listed on the timetable.

Candidates will be asked to present themselves for an interview relating to the content of the submitted works and/or their musical interests.

Recommended texts:

- Grout, Donald Jay and Claude V Palisca. A History of Western Music
5th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 1996.
Piston, Walter. Harmony. Revised Edition. London: Victor Gollancz, 1989.
Jannery, Arthur. Workbook for Piston/Devoto Harmony. 5th Edition New York: W.W. Norton, 1987.
Piston, Walter. Counterpoint. New York: W.W. Norton, 1947.
Berkowitz, Sol, and Gabriel Fontrier and Leo Kraft. A New Approach to Sight Singing. New York, W.W. Norton 1960.
Bach, Johann Sebastian. Inventionen Sinfonien. Munchen – Duisburg: G. Henle Verlaq, S.D.
Cook, Nicholas. A Guide to Musical Analysis. Deit 1987.
Piston, Walter. Orchestration. New York: W.W. Norton 1987.
Palisca, Claude V. (Ed). Norton Anthology of Western Music. 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 1989.