

IM SYLLABUS (2026)

SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE

IM 32

SYLLABUS

Systems of Knowledge Syllabus	(Available in September) One Paper (3 hours) + One Project
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Systems of Knowledge is an integral part of the Matriculation Certificate programme of studies. It is an interdisciplinary course during which candidates will:

- develop a body of knowledge that they need in order to acquaint themselves with the chosen fields of human experience within the Euro-Mediterranean context;
- inculcate an awareness and application of values in particular areas within a civic, cultural and historical framework;
- go beyond the traditional boundaries of particular disciplines and gain insight into different fields of knowledge;
- develop their ability to view ideas and situations from an interdisciplinary perspective and react to them;
- develop a set of skills necessary to transform acquired knowledge into practice;
- acquire critical and creative thinking and communication skills;
- inculcate sensitivity and sensibility towards diverse social and political contexts.

Subject Content

The Systems of Knowledge subject content is divided into four modules.

Module 1: Democratic Values and Responsible and Active Citizenship

This module aims to develop the following knowledge:

- The development of the concept of democracy from Ancient Athens to Modern times: direct and indirect forms of democracy
- The value of the Constitution: the legislative, executive and judicial powers
- Democratic structures: regional, national, supra-national and international political democratic structures
- The impact of globalisation
- Human Rights: civil, political, socio-economic and cultural
- The role of an active citizen in a democracy
- The role of the Mass Media and Social Media

This module aims to explore the following attitudes and values:

- Individualism, Communitarianism and Diversity
- Rights, Duties and Freedoms
- Justice, Fairness, Equity and Equality
- The Value of Life
- Participation, and Active and Responsible Citizenship
- Conflict, Tolerance and Respect

Module 2: Culture, Art and Aesthetic Values in Western Civilisation

This module aims to develop the following knowledge:

- The development of the concept of aesthetics from the Primitive to Modern times: description, analysis, form, expression, interpretation and judgment.
- The relationship between Art and: Culture, Morality, Politics, and Religion.
- Art through the ages: Primitive, Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-Classical, Romantic, Modern and Post-Modern.

This module aims to explore the following attitudes and values:

- Creativity
- Innovation
- Expression

Module 3: The Environment and Sustainable Development

This module aims to develop the following knowledge:

- The inter-relationship of the environment with natural, political, social, economic, and cultural factors
- The concept of sustainable development: the nine principles
- Environmental issues: bio-diversity, climate change, impact of tourism, land degradation, pollution, the sea, urbanization, waste management and water resources

This module aims to explore the following attitudes and values:

- Sustainable development as an appropriate way of dealing with environmental issues
- Concern and responsibility for the environment
- Commitment to actively participate in initiatives aimed at protecting the environment

Module 4: Scientific Values and Technology

This module aims to develop the following knowledge:

- The development of Science and Technology through time
- The development of scientific methods: inductive and deductive reasoning, positivism and post-positivism, objectivity and subjectivity
- Ethics and values in Science and Technology
- Science, technology and the economy

This module aims to explore the following attitudes and values:

- Moral and ethical issues
- Respect for multiplicity of ideas
- Responsibility in Science and Technology

The four modules aim to develop the following skills:

- Debating and argumentation skills
- Information seeking
- Understanding different attitudes and beliefs
- Decision making
- Handling controversial issues
- Participation and mediation
- Cooperation
- Analytical and critical thinking and evaluation
- Creativity

- Moral and ethical reasoning
- Communication
- Cultural and social skills
- Appreciation and interpretation of art

Scheme of Assessment

Systems of Knowledge is assessed by means of two components: a three (3) hour written paper and a project.

The written paper is divided into four sections, one for each module. Each section carries equal marks. Candidates are to answer one question from each section. A choice of one question out of two is provided within each section. The questions will be set in both Maltese and English.

The final grade will be based on the combination of marks obtained in the written paper and the Project, as follows:

- (i) The Project carries 40% of the total mark; and
- (ii) The three-hour written paper carries 60% of the global mark.

Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the written paper to qualify for Grade A to E.

Candidates are expected to present their work in legible handwriting. Communicative competence will be taken into consideration. Answers containing material that is irrelevant to the question will be totally ignored.

Systems of Knowledge Project

Candidates are to present a project.

The Project involves an exercise that reflects a concrete application of at least one of the first three modules. An aspect of the experience needs to be related to a scientific principle. Care must be taken to move beyond describing a particular process to explaining the underlying scientific principle.

The Project involves a hands-on task which should span over a substantial period of time. In total the task should comprise a minimum of **20 hours**.

The Project should include:

1. a duly filled project booklet
2. a reflective journal about the activity/ies carried out which should include a minimum of **eight** (8) entries and a maximum of **ten** (10) (250-300 words each)
3. an essay (1000 words +/-100)
4. concise scientific research (400 words +/-100)
5. a general bibliography and
6. evidence which may include an artefact.

The written component of the Project has to be an individual effort.

In the case of School Candidates:

1. The Project is to be approved by the Head of School or his/her delegate.
2. Systems of Knowledge tutors will assess the project by means of the marking scheme in the MATSEC project booklet and will record the marks on the same booklet.
3. Supervision of the project by the Systems of Knowledge tutor is to at least contain three official meetings:
 - a. First meeting: discussion of objectives and proposed tasks.
 - b. Second meeting: monitoring and reviewing of progress.
 - c. Third meeting: final presentation of the project.
4. Candidates may use either English or Maltese for their projects.
5. It is highly recommended that schools carry out internal moderation of projects.
6. School-based projects may be moderated by the MATSEC Board of Examiners. The Board may call a candidate for an interview in order to moderate the quality of the Project.
7. A copy of the Systems of Knowledge tutor's comments and the marks will be passed on to MATSEC as indicated by MATSEC.
8. The mark will be finalised after moderation by the MATSEC Board of Examiners.

Private candidates are to follow the same procedures and regulations as School candidates, except for the following:

1. Prior approval is not required.
2. Private candidates are to have a tutor who is knowledgeable in the subject and is familiar with the requirements of the syllabus to guide them in the process. Private candidates and their tutor are to fill in an authentication form which can be obtained from the MATSEC website.
3. Projects are to be presented in the folder approved by MATSEC which can be obtained from MATSEC, University of Malta, or the Examinations Department, Victoria, Gozo.
4. All private candidates are to present the project as instructed by MATSEC on its official website.
5. Projects will be graded by the MATSEC Board of Examiners.
6. All private candidates are to sit for an interview.