

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION  
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL  
MAY 2013

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	HISTORY
<b>DATE:</b>	21st May 2013
<b>TIME:</b>	9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

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**Answer ALL FOUR questions, the TWO in Section A and the TWO in Section B.  
All questions carry equal marks.**

**SECTION A**

**Question 1**

**Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b), OR part (c).**

- [Either]** (a) 'Malta's constitutional development between 1800 and 1921 was marked by periodic improvements, but also by serious setbacks.' Discuss.
- [Or]** (b) Discuss the impact which periods of conflict had on Malta's fortress economy between 1800 and 1914.
- [Or]** (c) What were the main findings reported by commissioners Austin and Lewis in the Maltese islands, and what changes were carried out as a result of their work?

**Question 2**

**Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b), OR part (c)**

- [Either]** (a) Describe and assess the transformations taking place in France in the period 1789-1799.
- [Or]** (b) Discuss the reasons for the setting up of the 'Concert of Europe'. To what extent did it reach its objectives?
- [Or]** (c) 'The First World War was largely the responsibility of Germany.' How fair is this assessment?

## SECTION B

## Question 3

Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b).

[*Either*] (a) Speech by Sigismondo Savona in Council, 1895.

*Sir, I beg to move, "that an address be presented to the Queen, praying that Her Majesty may be pleased so to alter the Constitution of the Council of Government of Malta that all the members of the Executive Council may be selected from among the Representatives of the People and be made responsible to the Legislature of this country, in all matters concerning the administration of the civil affairs of the population and the expenditure of the public money." At the last meeting at which I was present the honourable and learned gentleman, the Crown Advocate, stated that the question of a Responsible Government or a Permanent Government is the first party question that has arisen in the political annals of this Island. I cannot quite agree with that statement, but I must say, at the same time, that this is a most important question, perhaps the most important question ever brought before this Council. It is a question in substance between Responsible Government and government on garrison principles. What I mean by Government on garrison principles is that the final decision concerning any question concerning the civil affairs of the population rests with the Head of the Government, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the fortress. That is what I mean by Government on garrison principles. That description has not been invented by me. I found it in a dispatch of 1811 in which it was stated that the people of these islands were governed on garrison principles. That was a straightforward and honest way of saying things.*

- (i) What constitutional progress had been achieved by the Maltese by the time of this document? (5 marks)
- (ii) Give a brief account of the political career of the speaker. (5 marks)
- (iii) Explain the following phrases: 'Responsible Government'; 'Commander-in-Chief of the fortress'. (5 marks)
- (iv) What does the speaker mean by the reference to the fact that 'the people of these islands were governed on garrison principles'? (5 marks)
- (v) Were the Maltese satisfied in constitutional terms by what they had achieved up to 1895, and why? (5 marks)

[*Or*] (b) Extract from a Debate in the House of Commons, 1 August 1879.

*No more astonishing way of raising an income had ever been discovered, though the case of Malta was somewhat analogous to that of the Ionian Islands, where advantage having been taken of our English ignorance of the language, it had now and then happened that extreme severity had marked the proceedings of the authorities. In a Parliamentary Paper of the year 1878, Mr. Rowsell had said, that the Maltese upper and middle classes paid 10s. 10d. per head per annum in taxes, while the working classes contributed as much as 15s. 7d. The incidence of the wheat tax was such, that the richer classes paid 5s. and the poorer 10s. per head per annum. The beggars paid more per head than those who rode in carriages. People who swept the streets, and went without shoes and stockings, paid more per head for the making of those streets and the sweeping and cleaning than the noblemen and gentlemen who swept past them, in their carriages. An Englishman might imagine, judging from the absolute amount of taxation per head, that it was so trifling that it could not possibly have the crushing effect complained of by the Natives; but it was to be remembered that wages were very low in Malta, the daily average being, perhaps, not much more than 1s. Mr.*

*RowSELL's schedule of wages showed that to be the case; and the American Consul, who had long personal experience of the Island, had mentioned that the great number of the poor was the effect of the high price of bread. Consequently, the amount of mendicity in Malta was something appalling. The poor seldom had more than the bare means of relieving their hunger, and they had the additional misery of living in dwellings that were utterly unfit for habitation. He could speak on that point from his own personal observation, as, in his curiosity to know how men could possibly live on the current small wages, he had visited the houses of the poorer classes.*

- (i) Comment on the role of *Mr Rowsell* in connection to Malta mentioned in the passage. (5 marks)
- (ii) What was the situation in Malta at the time where taxes were concerned? (5 marks)
- (iii) Comment on Maltese social and economic conditions mentioned in this document. (5 marks)
- (iv) Explain the following references: *the high price of bread; dwellings that were utterly unfit for habitation*. (5 marks)
- (v) Were the shortcomings noted in the document addressed successfully, and why? (5 marks)

#### **Question 4**

**Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b).**

**[Either]** (a) Proclamation issued by the provisional government established in Paris in February, 1848.

*A reactionary and oligarchical government has just been overthrown by the heroism of the people of Paris. That government has fled, leaving behind it a trail of blood that forbids it ever to retrace its steps.*

*The blood of the people has flowed as in July; but this time this noble people shall not be deceived. It has won a national and popular government in accord with the rights, the progress, and the will of this great and generous nation...*

*Frenchmen, it is for you to give to the world the example which Paris has given to France; prepare yourselves by order and by confidence in your destiny for the firm institutions which you are about to be called upon to establish.*

*The provisional government wishes to establish a republic, - subject, however, to ratification by the people, who shall be immediately consulted.*

- (i) What led to revolution in France in February 1848? (5 marks)
- (ii) When and in what context had the '*reactionary and oligarchical government*' come to power in France? (5 marks)
- (iii) Explain the statement '*The blood of the people has flowed as in July; but this time this noble people shall not be deceived*'. (5 marks)
- (iv) What form did the '*ratification by the people*' take, and what were its immediate results? (5 marks)
- (v) Why, in your opinion, was the Second French Republic shortlived? (5 marks)

*Please turn the page.*

[Or] (b) Declaration made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Spartan Forces in the Peloponnese, Greece, 23 March 1821.

*Reduced to a condition so pitiable, deprived of every right, we have, with unanimous voice, resolved to take up arms, and struggle against the tyrants... In one word, we are unanimously resolved on Liberty or Death. Thus determined, we earnestly invite the united aid of all civilized nations to promote the attainment of our holy and legitimate purpose, the recovery of our rights, and the revival of our unhappy nation.*

*With every right does Hellas, our mother, whence you also, O Nations, have become enlightened, anxiously request your friendly assistance with money, arms, and counsel, and we entertain the highest hope that our appeal will be listened to; promising to show ourselves deserving of your interest, and at the proper time to prove our gratitude by deeds.*

- (i) The declaration states that the Greeks have '*resolved to take up arms, and struggle against the tyrants*'. Give briefly the background to this '*struggle against the tyrants*'. (5 marks)
- (ii) The text states: '*We are unanimously resolved on Liberty or Death*'. How far did the Greeks stay united in their cause? (5 marks)
- (iii) Explain the following phrases: '*our holy and legitimate purpose*'; '*Hellas, our mother, whence you also, O Nations, have become enlightened*'. (5 marks)
- (iv) How did the *tyrants* react to Greek demands? (5 marks)
- (v) In what ways did the *Nations* respond to the Greek request for *friendly assistance*? (5 marks)