

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
MAY 2014

SUBJECT: HISTORY
DATE: 26th May 2014
TIME: 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon

**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) Why was Maltese constitutional advancement under British rule up to 1921 so difficult?
- [*Or*] (b) To what extent can we say that there were political parties in Malta between 1880 and 1921?
- [*Or*] (c) Which major developments in the late nineteenth century underlined Malta's strategic value to the British?

Question 2

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

- [*Either*] (a) To what extent, and in what ways, did the French Revolution of 1789 achieve its objectives of 'liberty, fraternity and equality'?
- [*Or*] (b) How and why did the Russian Revolution of 1917 bring Tsarist rule to an end?
- [*Or*] (c) Why did a 'World War' break out in 1914?

Please turn the page.

SECTION B

Question 3

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

[*Either*] (a) Letters patent appointing Royal Commissioners Austin and Lewis, 10 September 1836

Whereas, upon representations which have been made to us of the inconveniences experienced, and the evils apprehended from the want of a fixed and defined system of civil government in the Island of Malta and its dependencies, and from the imperfection of the ancient laws and judicial practice there established, as also of the advantages which may be justly expected to result to our subjects in the said island and its dependencies, and to the British empire at large, from the introduction of a permanent and salutary system of polity, by which the prosperity of the Maltese nation may be secured, and their interests consolidated with those of Great Britain, we have thought fit to cause inquiry to be made into the grounds of the said representations, and other matters touching the same. Now know ye, that we, having especial trust and confidence in your approved wisdom and fidelity, have assigned, nominated, and appointed, and do by these presents assign, nominate, and appoint you, the said John Austin and George Cornwall Lewis, to be our Commissioners, to repair to our said Island of Malta, and by these presents do give you, and each of you, full power and authority to examine into all the laws, regulations, and usages of the said island and its dependencies, and into every other matter or thing in any way connected with the administration of the civil government, the principles and practice of the judicature, the civil and ecclesiastical establishments, the revenues, trade, and internal sources thereof, and to report to us, through one of our principal Secretaries of State, the information which you shall collect, together with your opinion whether any and what changes are necessary to be made in the administration of affairs within our said island and its dependencies, in order to fulfil our gracious intentions, and to promote the happiness and prosperity of our Maltese subjects, reducing your proceedings, by virtue of these presents, and your observations touching and concerning the premises, into writing, to be certified under your hands and seals respectively, and to be presented unto us as aforesaid. And we do hereby require our Governor or officer administering the government of our said Island of Malta and its dependencies, and all and every our officers and ministers in the said island and its dependencies, to be aiding and assisting to you, and each of you, in the due execution of this our Commission. In witness whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent.

- (i) Write briefly the historical background to the appointment of Austin and Lewis as Royal Commissioners to the Maltese islands. (5 marks)
- (ii) What were Austin and Lewis authorised to report on according to this document? (5 marks)
- (iii) Explain the following: ‘*from the want of a fixed and defined system of civil government in the Island of Malta and its dependencies*’; ‘*to promote the happiness and prosperity of our Maltese subjects*’ (5 marks)
- (iv) The document promises those measures ‘*by which the prosperity of the Maltese nation may be secured, and their interests consolidated with those of Great Britain*’. How far was this a need of the Maltese in this period? (5 marks)
- (v) What were the principal recommendations made by Austin and Lewis? (5 marks)

[Or] (b) Earl De La Warr, House of Lords debate, 29 July 1887

'Great uneasiness, great friction, and, he [De la Warr] might add, great discontent had for a considerable time prevailed among all classes of the population of Malta with regard to the existing form of government. He believed he should be borne out in this assertion by noble Lords who had held the Office of Colonial Secretary, and the question which had been for years agitated had now come to a crisis which could not be set at rest by a simple negative. He did not in any way desire to call in question the manner in which many able and distinguished men had discharged the important duties of Governor. From his own knowledge he could bear testimony to the interest which they had taken in the welfare of the population, which had most deservedly gained for them the highest esteem and respect. But it was the form of government which was called in question. It was briefly this—that Malta had been governed as a Crown colony, as though it were a conquered or uncivilized country, and not as being a people who voluntarily placed themselves under British protection, believing that their ancient rights and privileges would be confirmed to them as British subjects.'

- (i) Why was there '*Great uneasiness, great friction*' reported in the years leading to 1887, and how was this felt? (5 marks)
- (ii) Explain the reference to '*the question which had been for years agitated had now come to a crisis which could not be set at rest by a simple negative*'. (5 marks)
- (iii) Comment on the words: '*Malta had been governed as a Crown colony, as though it were a conquered or uncivilized country*'. (5 marks)
- (iv) Explain the reference to '[the Maltese] *believing that their ancient rights and privileges would be confirmed to them as British subjects.*' (5 marks)
- (v) What were the principal gains made by the Maltese in 1887? (5 marks)

Question 4

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

[Either] (a) Letter from the French ambassador in Turin to his government in Paris, dated 1860

'Several times in the course of our talk, Cavour raised the possibility of Italian unity, and what he said was this: 'I have always favoured a federal system. You, moreover, have known me long enough to be sure that I have never shrunk from the inevitable outcome of every federation, namely the establishment of a republic. After the armistice of Villafranca, however, federalism was no longer possible. That kind of arrangement was quite impossible, for Italy contained too many differences of temperament. So I came to believe that the only possibility was a unitary state, pure, simple and monarchical.'

- (i) Discuss briefly Cavour's role in Piedmont and in the unification of Italy. (5 marks)
- (ii) How strong was the republican movement in Italy, and who were its main protagonists? (5 marks)
- (iii) Between which two states at war was the armistice of Villafranca (1859) signed, and what was the main reason the armistice took place? (5 marks)
- (iv) Briefly describe the challenges those working for Italian unification had to face. (5 marks)
- (v) Trace briefly the main stages in the unification of Italy between 1860 and 1870. (5 marks)

[Or] (b) Excerpt from the memoirs of Major-General B. Mirkovich, a Serb nationalist militant

‘At the Congress of Berlin in 1878 the great powers gave to Austria-Hungary a mandate to occupy and rule Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the thirty years of her rule Austria-Hungary tried to destroy the Serbian character of the province by creating a Bosnian nationality, by converting the Serbs to Roman Catholicism, by prohibiting the celebration of St Sava’s Day, the great Serbian Saint, and the singing of Serbian epic folk songs. These songs reminded Serbs of their glorious past when, under Emperor Dusau (1331-55), Serbia was a great European power. On 6 October 1908 Austria-Hungary made an arbitrary decision to incorporate into her empire the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The annexation was accepted by the Serbian government but not by the Serbian people.

At the time I was a student at the Military College. We, the young cadets, were all excited and inspired by patriotic feelings ... but after the annexation the army split into two. One group accepted the government policy, the other did not ... In 1911 a secret movement, later called the ‘Black Hand’ was set up. Its aim was the liberation of all Serbs under foreign occupation and their incorporation into the Kingdom of Serbia.’

- (i) Comment briefly on the opening statement of the passage: *‘At the Congress of Berlin in 1878 the great powers gave to Austria-Hungary a mandate to occupy and rule Bosnia and Herzegovina.’* (5 marks)
- (ii) Explain the author’s claim that *‘Austria-Hungary tried to destroy the Serbian character of the province’* (5 marks)
- (iii) What were Austria-Hungary’s reasons for annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908? (5 marks)
- (iv) Comment briefly on Austria-Hungary’s membership of international alliances in this period. (5 marks)
- (v) What role did Serb nationalism play in the outbreak of war in 1914? (5 marks)