

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
MAY 2017

SUBJECT: HISTORY
DATE: 5th May 2017
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

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) To what extent did the constitution of 1903 turn the clock back to 1849 in Malta's constitutional history, and in what way?

[*Or*] (b) Which principal issues divided political parties in Malta in the period from 1880 to 1921?

[*Or*] (c) What was the role of Malta in the Crimean War, and what impact did the Crimean War have on Malta?

Question 2

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

[*Either*] (a) What was the main achievement of the 'Concert of Europe', and why did it fail in the long run?

[*Or*] (b) 'A liberal revolution in 1848 failed to unify Germany, but German unification was eventually achieved 'by blood and iron'.' How and why was this so?

[*Or*] (c) What were the main causes of the 'Paris Commune' of 1871, and why did it collapse so rapidly?

Please turn the page.

SECTION B

Question 3

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

[*Either*] (a) Debate in the House of Commons, 1836.

Mr Ewart said, that he rose to present a petition from the clergy, nobility, and other inhabitants of Malta, praying for a redress of the grievances under which they laboured. As the subject was one of importance, he felt it his duty to state as briefly as he could the grievances of which the petitioners complained, and the remedies for which they prayed. The grievances that affected the Maltese were pretty well known in that House, as they had been the subject of several former debates there, and he trusted that the period was at length arrived, beyond which the correction of those grievances would not be delayed. There had been many instances of colonial misgovernment on the part of this country, but he would venture to say, that the hitherto ill-conducted government of Malta had been pre-eminent for its mismanagement. In no one of our colonies was to be found such a number of highly-salaried officials, whose remuneration was generally in the inverse ratio of the duties which they had to perform. The petitioners complained that they had long wanted a Council or Legislative Assembly, and that under the old Constitution of Malta they had an assembly of that description. They stated, that they petitioned the Crown some years ago for such a Council, and that a Council was established, consisting, however, of only eight persons, the majority of them holding office under the Government, and the whole of them being under Government influence and control. They stated, that this was a mere mockery of the assembly that they had sought for, and they now prayed that such a Legislative Assembly, constituted upon the principles of the British Constitution, would be granted to them. The next prayer of the petitioners was, that they should, for the benefit of the population there, get a well-digested and properly compiled code of laws, the decisions under it to be propounded, not in secret, but before the public, and open to public inspection and animadversion. The next prayer of the petition was, that they should enjoy the advantage of a free press in Malta. ... The next prayer was, that a system of general and popular education should be introduced into Malta. Under a former Government a University had been established at Valetta, but it was conducted on exclusive principles, and had not given satisfaction to the people at large.

- (i) Name **ONE** Maltese representative who was behind the ‘petition’ presented by Mr Ewart in this speech in the House of Commons, and write briefly about his role. (5)
- (ii) Which factors were indicated by the author as contributing to the state of affairs where an “ill-conducted government of Malta had been pre-eminent for its mismanagement”? (5)
- (iii) What arguments did the Maltese make to justify their demand for representation? (5)
- (iv) When was “such a Legislative Assembly, constituted upon the principles of the British Constitution” actually granted to Malta, and in what way? (5)
- (v) The speaker refers to the need to introduce “a system of general and popular education”. Who else made the same recommendation in this period, and how was this measure to be implemented? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

[Or] (b) Navy Estimates, House of Commons, 1912.

In regard to the particular item of withdrawing the Mediterranean Fleet to Gibraltar. I hope this First Lord will remember that we have a very important naval establishment at Malta, and that a very large number of people may be dependent on the work done at that establishment. Immense sums of money have been spent there, and work can be done there, as cheaply, perhaps more cheaply, than at any other ports. I do hope it will be possible for some of the ships which are to have Gibraltar as their base to be repaired at Malta. The First Lord did not tell us whether any cruisers will still be based at Malta.

Mr Churchill - There will be a cruiser squadron permanently based at Malta, with destroyers and submarines, and the Malta Dockyard will be, I hope, kept in a regular state of activity.

Mr Pretzman - The right hon. Gentleman did not say how many ships will be based at Malta.

Mr Churchill - A whole squadron.

...

Mr Churchill - ... The intention to base the battleships for the Mediterranean Fleet at Gibraltar does not imply any neglect of the Malta Dockyard. We shall endeavour to keep that supplied with a proper share of the refitting and repairing work of the Navy, and the cruiser squadron, which will be based at Malta, together with the smaller vessels attached to the Mediterranean Fleet and the flotilla of destroyers and submarines, will, of course, continue to be based at Malta, and will be available for all the usual purposes of diplomacy in the Mediterranean. So far as the action of the battle squadron and the cruiser squadron attached to it is concerned, for both will be based at Gibraltar, I say it will be dictated by the main situation, but no doubt it will frequently be in the Mediterranean, and it will be available to act there whenever circumstances render its presence there necessary or desirable.

- (i) Why did Britain keep “a very important naval establishment” in Malta? (5)
- (ii) Describe briefly the naval reorganization undertaken by Churchill as mentioned in this text, and suggest reasons why this decision was made. (5)
- (iii) Which principal events in the nineteenth century had proven the strategic importance of Malta? (5)
- (iv) The text refers to “immense sums of money” spent in Malta. Give at least **TWO** examples of British expenditure on projects related to Malta’s naval and defence infrastructure in the period to 1912, with a short description of each case. (5)
- (v) The debate of 1912 refers to concerns about the Malta Dockyard. What role would this institution play in World War I? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

Question 4

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

[Either] (a) A letter by Percy B. Shelley, 1821.

The Prince Ypsilanti, a Greek nobleman, who had been aide-de-camp to the Emperor of Russia, has entered the Northern boundaries of European Turkey, with a force of 10,000 men, levied from among the Greeks inhabiting the Russian Empire, and has already advanced to Bucharest. His proclamation has produced a simultaneous insurrection throughout Greece... The Greeks dispersed over Europe, whether as mercenaries or students at the Universities, are hastening to join the army... The Turks have been completely driven from the Morea, and Revolutionary movements have taken place in several of the Islands. Every circumstance seems to combine to promise success to an enterprise, in which every enlightened mind must sympathize, not less from the hopes than the memories with which it is connected.

This question continues on next page.

- (i) Why did the Greeks revolt in 1821? (5)
- (ii) Why did the Greek revolt present a test for the European powers of the 'Concert of Europe'? (5)
- (iii) How did the Ottoman empire react to the Greek insurrection? (5)
- (iv) Comment on Shelley's statement regarding the "enterprise, in which every enlightened mind must sympathize, not less from the hopes than the memories with which it is connected". (5)
- (v) Explain how the Ottoman empire would soon become a subject of major divergence for the European powers who had jointly supported the Greek cause. (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

[Or] (b) Lenin, 'Call to power', 1917.

The situation is critical in the extreme. In fact it is now absolutely clear that to delay the uprising would be fatal.

With all my might I urge comrades to realize that everything now hangs by a thread; that we are confronted by problems which are not to be solved by conferences or congresses (even congresses of Soviets), but exclusively by peoples, by the masses, by the struggle of the armed people.

The bourgeois onslaught of the Kornilovites show that we must not wait. We must at all costs, this very evening, this very night, arrest the government, having first disarmed the officer cadets, and so on.

We must not wait! We may lose everything!

Who must take power? That is not important at present. Let the Revolutionary Military Committee do it, or "some other institution" which will declare that it will relinquish power only to the true representatives of the interests of the people, the interests of the army, the interests of the peasants, the interests of the starving.

All districts, all regiments, all forces must be mobilized at once and must immediately send their delegations to the Revolutionary Military Committee and to the Central Committee of the Bolsheviks with the insistent demand that under no circumstances should power be left in the hands of Kerensky and Co.... not under any circumstances; the matter must be decided without fail this very evening, or this very night.

History will not forgive revolutionaries for procrastinating when they could be victorious today (and they certainly will be victorious today), while they risk losing much tomorrow, in fact, they risk losing everything.

If we seize power today, we seize it not in opposition to the Soviets but on their behalf.

The seizure of power is the business of the uprising; its political purpose will become clear after the seizure....

...It would be an infinite crime on the part of the revolutionaries were they to let the chance slip, knowing that the salvation of the revolution, the offer of peace, the salvation of Petrograd, salvation from famine, the transfer of the land to the peasants depend upon them.

The government is tottering. It must be given the death-blow at all costs.

- (i) Write briefly the main causes of the Russian revolution of 1917. (5)
- (ii) Why did Russia come to such a situation defined by Lenin as "critical in the extreme" by 1917? (5)
- (iii) Write a brief account of the events of 1917 in Russia. (5)
- (iv) What did Lenin and the Bolsheviks do upon seizing power? (5)
- (v) Why did the Bolshevik revolution succeed? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)