



SUBJECT: **History**
DATE: 4th September 2023
TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 7:05 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) Why were the political demands issued by the Maltese difficult to satisfy according to the British colonial authorities in the period from 1813 to 1921?
- [Or]** (b) How was Malta's strategic value to Britain shown in the nineteenth century?
- [Or]** (c) What were the main proposals of the Royal Commissioners sent to Malta in the late 1870s, and how did the Maltese react?

(Total: 25 marks)

Question 2

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

- [Either]** (a) What were the main achievements of the French Revolution?
- [Or]** (b) How was the unification of Italy achieved?
- [Or]** (c) What were the principal causes of World War I?

(Total: 25 marks)

Please turn the page.

SECTION B**Question 3**

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

[Either] (a) George Mitrovich, *The Claims of the Maltese Founded Upon the Principles of Justice*, London, 1835

In 1813, Sir Thomas Maitland arrived in Malta as governor, when the last deadly blow was given to the remaining national institutions of the Maltese. Their magistrates, under the name of Giurati, formed a highly respectable Board, which had existed for many centuries, and was respected even by the despotic grand masters, as well as by the French themselves; but in 1818 their office was totally abolished, so as to leave no trace whatever of a Representative Body in the island of Malta! Respectable and meritorious Maltese have been dismissed from their situations for no other reason than to make room for Englishmen of Sir Thomas Maitland's choice. The salaries of the heads of several families were given to a few individuals newly arrived in the island, whose merits were totally unknown to the natives ... Sir Thomas Maitland was the governor, the legislator, and the judge, and stood, a military man, omnipotent in the island. By a single stroke of his pen, numbers of individuals were reduced to misery and starvation. Even the brown barley bread, the only food of the poor, was highly taxed, to upwards of 100 per cent.

- (i) Write about the significance of George Mitrovich in nineteenth century Maltese history. (5)
- (ii) Explain the reference to 'the remaining national institutions of the Maltese'. (5)
- (iii) How far was the author correct in his description of Maitland's government? (5)
- (iv) Why were Maltese demands for a 'Representative Body' unsuccessful in the first half of the nineteenth century? (5)
- (v) Why did the British change their approach to Maltese demands in the mid-nineteenth century? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

[Or] (b) Speech by Sir Gerald Strickland, Council of Government, 1901

Towards the middle of the last century there was a great wave of commercial prosperity (due to the prestige of sailing vessels under the British flag) upon which Malta thrived marvellously for a period. But what is our condition now that we are no longer the centre of the transshipment trade of the Mediterranean basin, which has been supplanted by the direct trade due to modern steam and telegraphic communication? Sir, at the present moment the greater part of the people of Malta owe the necessaries of life, and those who are prosperous owe their prosperity, to the large garrison stationed here and to the fleet that makes Malta its refitting base. It is upon labour and its distribution that we live; and it is the consequences of this that we must realise.... The land of Malta produces, roughly speaking, enough for us to live upon for three months; the rest of the necessaries of life, let alone the luxuries, have to be made up by the interest on past savings and by the enormous flow of gold which comes to Malta from England. Sir, the last returns available show that a sum of money between £1,300,000 and £1,400,000 is being poured yearly, from the Imperial Exchequer with ever increasing volume, into Malta; to this we must add gold brought in from private resources by officers and visitors. It is upon what remains of this gold in the island that we live and pay for imported food.

- (i) Comment about the reference to 'commercial prosperity' in nineteenth century Malta. (5)
- (ii) Comment on Strickland's reference to Maltese economic dependence on British military expenditure. (5)
- (iii) Explain the significance of the reference to 'the fleet that makes Malta its refitting base'. (5)
- (iv) Comment on the statement that 'Malta produces, roughly speaking, enough for us to live upon for three months'. (5)
- (v) Explain the strategic value of Malta for Britain during this period. (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

Question 4

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

[Either] (a) Letter of John Frederick Sackville, British Ambassador in Paris, to the Secretary of State, 16 July 1789

Nothing could exceed the regularity and good order with which all this extraordinary business [the government of Paris by a Volunteer National Guard] has been conducted. Of this I have myself been a witness upon several occasions during the last three days as I have passed through the streets, nor had I at any moment reason to be alarmed for my personal safety ... Thus, my Lord, the greatest revolution that we know anything of has been effected with, comparatively speaking—if the magnitude of the event is considered—the loss of very few lives. From this moment we may consider France as a free country, the King a very limited monarch, and the nobility as reduced to a level with the rest of the nation.

- (i) Describe the situation of France at the beginning of 1789. (5)
- (ii) Give a brief account of the main events preceding the date of this letter. (5)
- (iii) Explain the reference to 'the King a very limited monarch'. (5)
- (iv) Which later events in 1789 may have showed France to be 'a free country'? (5)
- (v) Why was the author's optimism soon proven wrong? (5)

(Total: 25 marks)

Please turn the page.

[Or] (b) Otto von Bismarck, Reflections and Reminiscences

In view of the attitude of France, our national sense of honour compelled us, in my opinion, to go to war; and if we did not act according to the demands of this feeling, we should lose the entire impetus our national development won in 1866.

These considerations strengthened my opinion that war could be avoided only at the cost of honour to Prussia and of the national confidence in it. Under this conviction I made use of the royal authorisation to publish the contents of the telegram: and in the presence of my two guests reduced the telegram by striking out words, but without adding or altering, to the following form:

'After the news of the renunciation of the hereditary Prince of Hohenzollern had been officially communicated to the imperial government of France by the royal government of Spain, the French ambassador at Ems further demanded of his Majesty the King that he would authorise him to telegraph to Paris that his Majesty the King bound himself for all future time never again to give his consent if the Hohenzollerns should renew their candidature. His Majesty the King thereupon decided not to receive the French ambassador again, and sent to tell him through the aide-de-camp on duty that his Majesty had nothing further to communicate to the ambassador'.

The difference in the effect of the abbreviated text of the Ems telegram, as compared with that produced by the original, was not the result of stronger words, but of the form, which made the announcement appear decisive.

- (i) Briefly explain Otto von Bismarck's role in the unification of Germany. (5)
- (ii) What was the significance of the Ems telegram mentioned by Bismarck? (5)
- (iii) Explain the reference to 1866. (5)
- (iv) Why was Bismarck determined to find a reason for war against France? (5)
- (v) Briefly describe the events which followed after the incident. (5)

(Total: 25 marks)