

MATSEC Examinations Board

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From: Mr Dario Pirotta

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To: College Principals

Heads of School

Subject: Changes in SEC 2023 syllabi

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The MATSEC Board has been monitoring the COVID-19 situation in schools and the impact on the time required for delivery and assessment of its SEC syllabi.

Following completion of the exercise by each school sector mentioned in the communication of the 23rd October 2020, the MATSEC Board has re-convened all syllabus panels. Each subject panel discussed the outcome of the collection of data exercise from the respective sectors and proposed changes to the SEC 2023 syllabi to reflect the limitations caused by the pandemic, while ensuring that there would be enough time to deliver the remaining components of each subject.

This document outlines the changes in each subject. More details may be found in the respective syllabi.

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Subject Code	Subject	Changes in Subject Content	Changes in Coursework	Changes in Exam Paper(s)
SEAC01	Retail	Content of Unit 1 K6, C3, A4 and A5 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K6, C3, A4 and A5, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K6, C3, A4 and A5 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC02	Health and Social Care	Content of Unit 1 K5, C3, A3 and A4 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K5, C3, A3 and A4, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K5, C3, A3 and A4 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.

SEAC03	Engineering Technology	Content of Unit 1 K7, C3, A4 and A5 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K7, C3, A4 and A5, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K7, C3, A4 and A5 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC04	Hospitality	Content of Unit 1 K3, K8, A2 and A5 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K3, K8, A2 and A5, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K3, K8, A2 and A5 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC05	Information Technology	Content of Unit 1 K6, C3, A1 and A3 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K6, C3, A1 and A3, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K6, C3, A1 and A3 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this

				Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC06	Media Literacy Education	Content of Unit 1 K8, C3, A1 and A4 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K8, C3, A1 and A4, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K8, C3, A1 and A4 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC07	Agribusiness	Content of Unit 1 K5, C2, A1 and A2 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K5, C2, A1 and A2, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K5, C2, A1 and A2 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in

				knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC08	Hairdressing and Beauty	Content of Unit 1 K7, K8, A4 and A5 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K7, K8, A4 and A5, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K7, K8, A4 and A5 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.
SEAC09	Fashion and Textiles	Content of Unit 1 K4, C3, A3 and A5 may not be covered.	All criteria in Unit 1 (including those highlighted for the Controlled assessment), except for K4, C3, A3 and A5, will be assessed in Assignment 1 and Assignment 2.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment (Assignment 3) will not be carried out. Although K4, C3, A3 and A5 will not be assessed, these criteria will be the only ones included on this Assignment's front sheet. Marks for these knowledge and/or comprehension criteria, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in knowledge and comprehension criteria within the same unit. The application criteria not being assessed shall be awarded full marks.

SEC01	Accounting	 The following content will not be assessed: Partnerships Limited Liability Companies; Correction of Errors; a) Correcting errors affecting the Trial Balance agreement; c) The preparation of a suspense account; e) A statement to correct Net Profit, and the correction of the Statement of Financial Position. 	N/A	No changes
SEC02	Arabic	The following sections will not be assessed: - Dictation - Culture	N/A	Candidates will not be assessed on the Dictation section in Part One of Paper I, and the Culture section in Paper II.
SEC03	Art	No changes	The portfolio should feature creative work, with some variety of media. Candidates will not be penalised if a great variety of media and practices are not included in the portfolio (e.g. three-dimensional art, printing, photography etc.). However, an adequate amount of both work from observation and imaginative work is required. Copies of other works of art, illustrations or photographs with no added creative intervention should not be included in the portfolio. Candidates should focus on drawing and painting with an emphasis on the basics of art and design and creative thinking. The portfolio should include examples of	No changes

The mark of the practical work is to be based on the average mark of the best ten (10) practicals instead of the customary fifteen (15). The report file/s should therefore contain ten (10) practicals from the following sections: a. Problem-solving investigations b. Visits and fieldwork c. Investigation of life processes d. Identification and classification of				both spontaneous creative work, as well as work developed and created through the process of investigation, documentation, experimentation and realisation.	
SECO4 Biology No changes The Problem-solving investigation section should include at least two (2) problem-solving investigations instead of the customary three (3). There can be up to a maximum of two (2) practicals in the section Identification and classification of organisms. There are no specifications for the other three sections (Visits and Fieldwork, Investigation of Life Processes, Other Practicals).	SEC04	Biology	No changes	based on the average mark of the best ten (10) practicals instead of the customary fifteen (15). The report file/s should therefore contain ten (10) practicals from the following sections: a. Problem-solving investigations b. Visits and fieldwork c. Investigation of life processes d. Identification and classification of organisms e. Other Practicals The Problem-solving investigation section should include at least two (2) problem-solving investigations instead of the customary three (3). There can be up to a maximum of two (2) practicals in the section Identification and classification of organisms. There are no specifications for the other three sections (Visits and Fieldwork, Investigation of Life	No changes

			15% of the total mark will be allotted to the practical work submitted.	
SEC05	Business Studies	The following content will not be assessed: 2. (c) Internal structure and management Line, functional, staff and committee organisation structures. Advantages and disadvantages of centralisation and delegation of authority. Worker participation in decision making. 3. (c) Marketing Recent developments in retailing, wholesaling, transport, e-commerce. 4. (a) Population Structure and Employment Demographic trends and their impact on business concerns. Unemployment (effects and types of unemployment). Local trends in employment in various sectors. 4. (d) Ending Employment Voluntary and involuntary dismissal. Redundancy. Factors resulting into a reduction in the number of employees. 5. Communication Information gathering and dissemination; purposes and methods. Formal and informal communication networks. Consequences of ineffective communication in business organisations.	usual. (No changes) - 15% of marks.	No changes

SEC06	Chemistry	Section 5.1(d) – Water and solutions; Section 5.1(l) – Group 1 and Group 2 metals – Alkali metals – Alkaline earth metals.	1. Candidates are to present the best eight (8) experiments instead of the	No changes
SEC08	Commerce	The following content will be amended as follows: From Section 2(e): Assessment of business performance The term "Trading and Profit and Loss Account, and Balance Sheet" is to be changed to "Statement of Profit or Loss, and Statement of Financial Position" The following content is removed from the syllabus: 5. The individual as a consumer (b) The main purposes of:	N/A	No changes

		 The Trade Description Act The Door to Door Salesman Act The Consumer Affairs Act (c) An awareness of the functions of: The Consumer Claims Tribunal The Office of Fair Competition The Commission of Fair Trading The Malta Standards Authority 6. The Role of Government in Commerce A basic awareness of fiscal and monetary policy as tools of managing and controlling the economy The following content will not be assessed: 3. Trade (d) International Trade (e) The main trading documents used in local and international trade; preparing such documents; the terms used in importing, e.g. f.o.b., c.i.f. 		
SEC09	Computing	No changes	No changes	No changes
SEC10	Economics	Topic 11 Inflation and Unemployment – To be split into two separate topics with the following content: Topic 11 – Inflation Candidates should be able to: - understand what is meant by inflation; - describe the causes and effects of	N/A	No changes

		 inflation; describe the tools to control demand-pull inflation. Topic 12 – Unemployment Candidates should be able to: identify the different types of unemployment; describe the causes and effects of unemployment; describe the tools to reduce demand side unemployment. Topic 12 to be renamed Topic 13 Economic Growth; the first statement under this heading, states "understand what is meant by economic development and growth". This is to be amended to read: "understand what is meant by economic growth"; the second statement, ("distinguish between developing and developed countries)", is to be deleted: the third and fourth statements 		
SEC11	English Language	 A reduction in the types of writing tasks that may feature in Paper IIA and IIB: Writing tasks may include the following: email, report, short story, article, film/book review. 	N/A	No changes

SEC12	English Literature	Nine of the twelve set poems have been identified as core and the first two of three questions will focus only on these. Candidates may prepare only these nine poems. The nine core poems are: 1. My Parents Kept me from Children who were Rough 2. Sea Fever 3. The Discovery 4. The Lesson 5. We are going to see the Rabbit 6. Wind 7. Dulce et Decorum Est 8. The Soldier 9. Sonnet LX		 Paper II: No questions will be set on form and style in the Drama and Prose sections. Two of the three questions set for the Poetry section will focus on the nine poems identified as core for the 2023 examination only. The third question of the set will be thematic with a possibility for candidates to focus on poems other than the ones identified as core.
SEC13	Environmental Studies	The following topics will not be assessed: - From Theme 1 – Rivers, Human Society - From Theme 6 – Constitutional Development in Malta	No changes	No changes
SEC14	French	Candidates should be aware of these four tenses (The Pluperfect, the Subjunctive, the Gerund and the Conditional). Candidates who make mistakes while using these four tenses will not be penalised.	N/A	No changes
SEC15	Geography	The following content will not be assessed in the exam paper: - From Topic 2: Locational knowledge: 11. Location of major HEP stations — Aswan High Dam, Three Gorges Dam, Itaipu. - All of Topic 17 — Tourism	of assessment	No changes

		- All of Topic 19 – Energy Resources		
SEC16	German	The Conditional will not be tested. The possessive case can feature in texts given in the exam but will not be tested. The simple past can feature in texts and questions keeping in mind that the verbs chosen must be those that candidates are very familiar with.	N/A	No changes
SEC18	History	Maltese History The syllabus content will be amended as follows: Constitutional Development till 1964. Maltese political aspirations. Demands for constitutional rights and petitions. The Sette Giugno. The various constitutions (including the Cardwell principle) up to Independence in 1964. The Language Question and the various Royal Commissions relating to it. Church State relations. Relations between the Church and the British authorities during the colonial rule. The politico religious crises of the 1930s and the 1960s.The role of the Church in Maltese society. Economic and social issues from the 1800s till 1964.	N/A	No changes

		Economic booms and depressions. Various plagues and other epidemics. The naval base and the development of the Dockyard. Malta as a coaling station. The Breakwater. The structure of the fortress economy. Rundowns. Emigration. The development of Public Health (hospitals, water supply and drainage). The new economic structure (agriculture, industry, tourism, the services industry). Malta's foreign policy (the drive towards the E.U. membership 1970-2008) Malta's membership in the E.U. European and International History The syllabus content will be amended as follows: The Cold War in the German context. The Iron Curtain. Berlin Crisis. The Berlin Wall. The fall of the Berlin Wall. The reunification of Germany. Post Communist Era. European integration. (Major steps leading to the European Union of today from the Schuman Declaration to the latest enlargement). International terrorism and the Palestinian Question from 1947-2001.		
SEC19	Home Economics	The following will not be assessed: - Food, Nutrition and Health Practical skills (i) rubbing-in method (cake-making);	No changes	No changes

SEC20	Italian	 [N.B. rubbing-in method for pastry-making will not be affected] (iii) all-in-one creaming method of cakemaking; (iv) the creaming method of cakemethod; No changes	N/A	No changes
SEC22	Il-Malti	L-eżami tal-Oral II-lista ģiet imnaqqsa. II-personaģģi magħżula huma: Ġan Franģisk Agius De Soldanis; Mikiel Anton Vassalli; Dun Karm Psaila u Ninu Cremona.	N/A	No changes
SEC23	Mathematics	 Subject content that will not be assessed: 2.2.1 Equations and Inequalities Determine the solution to an inequality or set of inequalities on a graph by shading the appropriate region(s) (e.g. y ≥ 3x, y ≤ 5 and x + y > 4) Solve quadratic equations by completing the square [Solve quadratic equations by factorisation and by formula are not affected] 3.5.1 Trigonometric ratios Find the angle between a line and a plane and the angle between two planes. [Solve simple trigonometric problems in 3-D is not affected] 3.8.1 Loci 	N/A	No changes

		- Use intersecting loci.		
SEC24	Physics		The mark of the practical work is to be based on the average mark of the best ten (10) practicals instead of the customary fifteen (15) between the years 2020 - 2023. The report file/s should therefore contain: EITHER ten (10) experiments OR eight (8) experiments and one (1) longer investigation. 15% of the total mark will be allotted to the practical work submitted.	No changes
SEC25	Religious Knowledge	The following content will not be assessed: A. GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION 3. The Community of Salvation (b) The Mission of the Church: (iii.) In the Church and through the Church, Christ continues his work of healing social, political and racial division and of giving full freedom to the human person; the principles of the social teaching of the Church; the Christian's involvement for the promotion of Human Rights.	N/A	No changes
SEC27	Social Studies	The following content will not be assessed: From Section 4, Development and Change: - Population	N/A	No changes
SEC28	Spanish	No changes	N/A	No changes

SEC29	Graphical Communication	The following subject content will not be assessed: Paper I 1. Plane Geometry > Geometrical Constructions > Section (d) Triangles > - Perimeter, base and base angle Base angle, apex angle and altitude. 1. Plane Geometry > Geometrical Constructions > Section (h) Linear enlargement or reduction of figures: Proportional Scale methods included. 1. Plane Geometry > Scales > Construction and application of simple/plain and diagonal scales. 1. Plane Geometry > The Ellipse > Section (c) Construction methods to include: - Intersecting arcs - foci - Compasses - approximate method - Trammel - Loop of Thread/ Pin and Thread 2. Solid Geometry > - Section (d) and their true angles to the V.P. and H.P Section (e) True shape of triangular laminae. Paper II 4. Design > Other Design areas to include: > (d) Flow charts - simple data processing of practical nature and may include the following symbols: terminals, process, input/output, decision and connectors BS	N/A	No changes
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		4058. (e) Electrical/Electronic circuits — To transform pictorial representations of electrical circuits into circuit diagrams using given symbols. List of Electrical/Electronic symbols - Appendix 5.		
SEC31	European Studies	The following content will not be assessed: III Demographic and Social Realities c. Tourism Candidates should be able to: - Understand the economic, social and cultural impact of tourism in Europe through the following case studies: Costa del Sol in Spain; Chamonix in France. IV Europeans and their Environment a. Landscape — (ALL) Candidates should be able to: - Demonstrate basic knowledge of the characteristics of the European countries' natural (physical) boundaries; - Identify the oceans, seas and major rivers bordering the European continent; - Identify the main mountain chains and plains across Europe; - Identify the main islands in Europe. d. Sustainable Development Candidates should be able to: - Understand the problems facing European inner cities and analyse	papers will carry 100% of the marks assigned.	

possible solutions using changes in land
use in London's Docklands as a case study.
use in London's Dockiands as a case study.
e. Healthy Lifestyle – (ALL)
Candidates should be able to:
- Understand the current situation of
health standards in Europe: levels of
hygiene; disease prevention; prevalent
diseases; major death causes; care and
cure; medical services.
- Identify the importance of a healthy diet
for a better quality of life.
- Identify the features and advantages of
the Mediterranean diet for a healthy
nutritional lifestyle.
- Understand the positive effects of
physical exercise and sports in the
European context.
V The Cultural Heritage
a. Aspects of National Identity/Diversity and
the European Idea
Candidates should be able to:
- Understand the relationship between
national identity and European identity.
b. Cultural Heritage and Experience
Candidates should be able to:
- Identify the boundaries of the major
European linguistic groups and their
common Indo- European Base.

		 c. Development of Modern Democracy Candidates should be able to: Identify and understand the effects of globalisation on Europe caused by the media, namely the effects of newspapers, television, radio, and the Internet. 		
SEC32	Physical Education	No changes	Each task is out of 5 marks. Both tasks will constitute 15% of the final mark.	to choose THREE areas from the five available. Area 1, Games Area 1, Games
SEC33	Design & Technology	 Tables A – J were amended as per attached amended Tables document. Content struck out in these tables will not be assessed. Outcomes to refer to the updated Tables A – J. Outcome 4.3.6 refers only to parts of Tools and Machinery found in amended 	No changes	No changes

		Table E.		
SEC34	Music	No changes	N/A	No changes
SEC35	Agribusiness	Content of Unit 1 K9, K10, C5 and A2 may not be covered.	coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	
SEC36	Health and Social Care	Content of Unit 1 K8, K10, C5 and A3 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A3 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment will not include K8, K10 and C5. Marks for these criteria, which shall not be assessed, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in Knowledge and Comprehension criteria within the same unit.
SEC37	Engineering Technology	Content of Unit 1 K10, C2, C3 and A3 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A3 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment will not include K10, C2 and C3. Marks for these criteria, which shall not be assessed, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in Knowledge and Comprehension criteria within the same unit.

SEC38	Hospitality	Content of Unit 1 K9, K10, C4 and A2 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A2 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment will not include K9, K10 and C4. Marks for these criteria, which shall not be assessed, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in Knowledge and Comprehension criteria within the same unit.
SEC39	Information Technology	Content of Unit 1 K6, K10, C5 and A2 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A2 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment will not include K6, K10 and C5. Marks for these criteria, which shall not be assessed, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in Knowledge and Comprehension criteria within the same unit.
SEC40	Ethics	The following content will not be assessed: Module 3 - Respect for Others	No changes	No changes
		Content of Unit 1 K9, K10, C4 and A3 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A3 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	The Unit 1 Controlled assessment will not include K9, K10 and C4. Marks for
SEC41	Media Literacy Education		Trone sheet and awarded run marks.	these criteria, which shall not be assessed, will be prorated at the end of the unit based on the combined performance in Knowledge and Comprehension criteria within the same unit.

				performance in Knowledge and Comprehension criteria within the same unit.
SEC43	Hairdressing and Beauty	Content of Unit 1 K3, K9, C5 and A3 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A3 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	
SEC44	Fashion and Textiles	Content of Unit 1 K5, K9, C4 and A2 may not be covered.	Unit 1 A2 will not be assessed in the coursework but still included on the front sheet and awarded full marks.	