

AM SYLLABUS (2026)

HISTORY

AM 17

SYLLABUS

History AM 17 Syllabus	(Available in September) Paper I (3 hrs) + Paper II (3 hrs) + Paper III (3 hrs)
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Objectives

An in-depth knowledge of individual topics is to be complemented by an emphasis on a broader approach connecting different themes of modern history which intersect across the syllabus.

The skill of demonstrating an awareness of interconnections is to form an integral part of the student's training both in the writing of historical essays and in the critical analysis of source documentation.

The subtopics listed under each of the six main topics in each paper are intended to guide teaching and studying, and should not be considered as rigid schemes.

Scheme of Assessment

The examination will consist of three papers:

- Paper I - Maltese History
- Paper II - European and International History
- Paper III - Mediterranean History

Each paper will be of three hours duration and weighted at one third of the global mark. Questions are to be set in English and are to be answered in English.

Each paper will consist of three compulsory questions, each with an internal choice. Questions 1 and 2 in each paper will be essay questions, examining the candidate's skills in writing historical essays. Question 3 will consist of source documentation accompanied by sets of questions testing the candidate's skills in analysing and interpreting evidence.

Candidates are to answer questions as follows:

Question 1 (Essay Question) offering an Either/Or/Or choice corresponding respectively to topics 1 to 3 in Section A

Question 2 (Essay Question) offering an Either/Or/Or choice corresponding respectively to topics 4 to 6 in Section B

Question 3 (Source Question) offering an Either/Or choice corresponding respectively to topics 1 to 3 in Section A

Subject Content

Paper I - Maltese History

Section A

1 Political Development, 1800 to 1921

Constitutional development
Press freedom and censorship
Royal Commissions
Language Question
Political formations
Sette Giugno

2 Church-State Relations, 1800 to 1921

Catholic Bishops of Malta and Gozo in the colonial context
Clergy and politics
Maltese politicians and the Church

3 Economic and Social Development, 1800 to 1921

Fortress Economy: The Napoleonic Wars, the Continental Blockade and the Greek War of Independence
Infrastructure: - harbour development, the shipyards extensions and military expenditure
Agriculture and industry: decline of cotton
Demographic development and migration
Educational developments

Section B

4 Political Development, 1921 to 2004

Anglo Maltese relations 1921 to 1979
Periods of Self Government 1921-33 and 1947-58
Language Question 1921 to 1936
Constitutional development: 1921 1936 1939 1947 1961 1964 1974 1987, amendments of the 1990s
Development of Political parties to 2004
Integration and Independence
Malta as a Military – Naval Base to 1979
Malta and European integration

5 Church State Relations, 1921 to 2004

Politico-religious relations 1920s, 1950s, 1960s, 1980s
Prelates and politicians
Vatican Maltese agreements 1991-3.

6 Economic and Social Development, 1921 to 2004

Self Government: Social and economic legislation 1921 to 1933 and 1947 to 1958

The British role in the economy 1945 to 1964: World War II, Suez Crisis, the Dockyard and the Rundown

Migration

Postwar reconstruction

Post-independence social and economic development 1964 to 1979

Paper II - European and International History

Section A

1 Political Development and Wars in Europe, 1789 to 1870

French Revolution 1789

Napoleonic Empire

Concert of Europe

Revolutions: 1830, 1848

Unification of Germany

Unification of Italy

2 Political Development and Wars in Europe, 1871 to 1918

Paris Commune

International Alliances and Alignments 1871 to 1914

Russian Revolutions: 1905, 1917

Causes of the First World War

Peace Settlement

3 Economic and Social Development, 1750 to 1918

Industrial Revolution in Britain: 1750 to 1870

Industrial Revolution in France and Germany: 1848 to 1914

Working Class Conditions: Britain, France and Germany

Section B

4 Political Development in Europe, 1919 to 1945

Rise of Fascism in Italy

Rise of Nazism in Germany

Causes of World War II and a brief overview of the War

Second World War in Europe

5 The Cold War, 1945-1989

Highlights of Soviet Relations with Eastern Europe: Berlin blockade, Hungary 1956, Berlin Wall 1961 to 1989, Czechoslovakia 1968, Solidarnosc
The US and Western Europe: France, West Germany
Highlights of Superpower Relations: Korean War 1950-53, Cuban Missile Crisis 1962, Vietnam War, Détente, Helsinki, Ostpolitik, SALT, IBM
Brief overview of China 1949 to 1989

6 Political, Economic and Social Development, 1919 to 2004

The Great Depression of the late 1920s
Post-War Recovery and Reconstruction, including Marshall Aid and the OEEC
European integration: Coal and Steel, Treaty of Rome, Merger, 1957 and European Union
Enlargements to 2004

Paper III - Mediterranean History

Section A

1 Political Development in the Mediterranean, 1798 to 1869

Napoleon: Malta-Egypt Campaign and the Continental System
Eastern Question 1821 to 1869: Greek War of Independence; Syria; Crimean War 1854-56
Opening of the Suez Canal

2 Political Development in the Mediterranean, 1869 to 1923

The Suez Canal and Malta
Eastern Question 1869 to 1923: Eastern Crisis 1870s; Balkan conflicts 1908-13
First World War and the disintegration of the Ottoman empire

3 Strategic Development of Malta in the wider Mediterranean context, 1798 to 1921

Malta in the Napoleonic period
Malta in the 'British' Mediterranean
Britain and France in the Mediterranean: the Egyptian Crisis 1882, and the Moroccan Crises 1905, 1911

Section B

4 Balance of Power in the Mediterranean, 1920s to Second World War

Italy and the 'mare nostrum'
The debate on Italian irredentism and Malta
The Second World War in the Mediterranean
The Second Great Siege of Malta 1940-43

5 Decolonization in the Mediterranean, 1945 to 1964

Algeria
Cyprus
Malta

6 Arab-Israeli conflict, 1945 to 1993

The establishment of the state of Israel
Arab-Israeli Wars 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973
The Palestinian Question 1945 to 1993
The involvement of the Superpowers

Bibliography

David Thomson, Europe since Napoleon, Penguin 1990

Peter Calvocoressi, World Politics 1945-2000, Pearson Longman 2009

J.J. Cremona, The Maltese Constitution and Constitutional History since 1813, PEG 1997

V. Mallia-Milanes (ed), The British Colonial Experience, 1800-1964, Mireva 1988