

IM SYLLABUS (2026)

ARABIC

IM 03

SYLLABUS

**Arabic
Syllabus****IM 03**

(Available in September)

Oral (15 mins) + 1 Paper (3 hrs)

Introduction

The syllabus is an extension of the Secondary Education Certificate Examination in Arabic. It has been designed to reflect the communicative nature of the language by focusing on the four language skills. Candidates who take this syllabus should be prepared to use Arabic for practical purposes.

Aims

The aims of a course in Arabic leading to the award of a pass in the Intermediate Matriculation Examination should be:

- (a) to enable candidates to communicate effectively in Arabic;
- (b) to promote the ability to assemble information and communicate ideas through the medium of Arabic;
- (c) to cultivate an interest in contemporary Arabic culture.

Assessment Objectives

In the oral examination candidates will be tested on their ability to:

- (a) understand language spoken at a normal rate;
- (b) respond appropriately to a given context;
- (c) speak Arabic fluently and correctly to convey information on a given topic.

In the written examination candidates will be tested on their ability to:

- (d) understand printed texts;
- (e) translate from and into Arabic;
- (f) write Arabic with clarity and precision for the purpose of communication.

Scheme of Assessment

The examination consists of one written paper of three hours and an oral examination of approximately fifteen minutes.

In the written examination candidates have to choose an essay and translate from and into Arabic. They must show competence in intermediate Arabic grammar and vocabulary. For the essay, they must show creativity and an ability to deal with various types of topics, e.g. descriptive, argumentative, narrative. Clarity, neatness, and orderly presentation of all the answers will be expected.

Candidates must show an ability to read unpointed Arabic, but in the Arabic script used in answers they may use the pointed or unpointed form, i.e. fully vocalised or not.

In the oral examination candidates will have a listening comprehension exercise and they will be asked to talk in Arabic for about two minutes on a chosen topic.

Syllabus

The Written Examination (80% of the global mark - 3 hours) consists of:

1. an essay in Arabic of about 200 words (40% of the global mark) - a wide choice of subjects will be given;
2. a translation of an unseen passage from English into Classical Arabic (20% of the global mark);
3. a translation from Arabic into English or Maltese of a relatively short passage taken from a prescribed text (20% of the global mark) - the prescribed text for this section is Ahmad Tal'at Suleiman, *Malta: 'Ard Muga:z lit-Ta:ri:h wel-Lugha* (Malta, 1980): the three sections between pages 20-36 only.

The Oral Examination (20% of the global mark – approximately 15 minutes) consists of:

1. a listening comprehension exercise with questions asked orally by the examiner (15% of the global mark);
2. a two-minute talk in Arabic (5% of the global mark) by the candidate on ONE of the following topics:
 - a) Television/Video
 - b) Drugs
 - c) Sports
 - d) The Influence of the Press
 - e) The Role of Women
 - f) The Contribution of Youth to Society

Syllabus Guidelines (Grammar)

Gender: masculine; feminine

Declensions: the three cases; diptotes and triptotes

Number: the sound plural; the broken plural

Pronouns: isolated pronouns; attached pronouns; demonstrative pronouns

Adjectives

The Verb: the simple trilateral verb; the derived forms; the subjunctive; the jussive; the imperative; the passive; the quadrilateral verb; hamzated verbs; weak verbs.