



Section C: Language

Place words opposite in meaning to the word underlined, in the spaces provided.

- a) Iron is hard, but cheese is (2 marks)
- b) An eagle is large, but a sparrow is..... (2 marks)
- c) The fire is hot but this water is (2 marks)
- d) My father is tall, but my mother is..... (2 marks)
- e) The boy is young, but his grandfather is (2 marks)

(10 marks)

Fill in the spaces with one of these: there is; there are; there was; there were

- a) On that day.....only two buses. (2 marks)
- b) On the beach.....an old boat. (2 marks)
- c)five eggs in the nest. (2 marks)
- d) In the wood.....an old carob tree. (2 marks)
- e)many apples on that tree. (2 marks)

(10 marks)

Total: 100 marks

Qualifying Examination for the Post of Security Guard in the Malta Public Service

Subject: English

Date: Tuesday 21 July 2020

Time: 10:45 – 12:15 (One and a half hours)

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Candidates are requested to attempt ALL sections and to read carefully the instructions within each section. ALL answers are to be written on the booklet provided.

Section A: Composition

- a) Choosing presents.
- b) If you were to go for a holiday in winter which country would you choose and why.
- c) 'Suddenly the car swerved sharply to the left and ...' Continue the story.
- d) Describe a boat trip to Gozo to a tourist.
- e) Imagine you witnessed a fight in a bar and you were asked for information by the police. Recount what happened.
- f) The day I will always want to remember.

(40 marks)

Section B: Comprehension

Read carefully the following extract and then answer all the questions that follow. This section contains 40 marks.

Many years ago my family left Switzerland and boarded a ship bound for the sparkling blue waters of the Pacific Ocean. Our destination was an island near New Guinea, where we were to establish a colony. Along the way we ran into a violent storm. For six days, the wind howled and tore at the sails, while the waves pounded against our little wooden ship, tossing it high in the air. On the seventh day, the masts ripped apart and fell into the sea. Several leaks appeared, and the ship began to fill with water. Realizing that the storm had driven us far off course, the frightened sailors fell to their knees in prayer.

"You mustn't be afraid," I said to my four sons, Fritz, 15, Jack, 13, Ernest, 11, and Francis, 8, who clung to me trembling. "God will save us, for nothing is impossible to him." My wife, Elizabeth, wiped away her tears and reassured our sons that we would survive this crisis. I admired her courage, but my heart was heavy as I led my family in prayer.

"Land ahoy! Land ahoy!" cried a sailor.

At that moment, the ship crashed into a large rock, sending everyone on board reeling in all directions. Then we heard a loud crack as if the whole ship was falling apart. Suddenly, the sea came rushing in. "All is lost!" shouted the captain in his booming voice. "Into the boats, men!"

As the terrified sailors rushed by us, Elizabeth and the children looked at me in wide-eyed amazement. "Stay calm," I said. "There is no reason to panic. First of all, the water hasn't reached us yet, and secondly, we are near land. Wait here in the hold while I go to see what is the best thing to do."

On deck, one wave after another knocked me down. When I finally struggled to my feet, I was greeted by a scene of utter disaster. The ship was completely shattered, and there was a large gaping hole in one side where the water was rushing in. The crew had just cut loose the ropes of the boats and were pushing off into the churning sea.

Soon the boats disappeared from sight. My only consolation was that since the ship's stern was lodged between two rocks, we were safe for the time being. Peering through the rain, I could make out the dim outline of land in the distance.

(Johann Wyss, *Swiss Family Robinson*, adapted by E. Gatewood Warren)

1. Answer the following questions:

- a) Where did the Swiss family wish to go?
- b) What happened when the ship was on the high seas?
- c) What happened to the ship when leaks appeared?
- d) What did the captain order the sailors to do when water rushed into the ship?
- e) Indicate **two** adjectives that show that the sailors were afraid.
- f) What made the Swiss ~~men~~ ^{man} feel that they were safe when the boats disappeared? *e*

(5 marks x 6 = 30 marks)

2. Choose the correct word from the brackets:

- a) New Guinea is found in the (Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean).
- b) The ship was made of (steel, rubber, wood, fibreglass).
- c) Elizabeth was the mother of (six, five, four, three) boys.
- d) The youngest son was called (Fritz, Jack, Francis, Ernest).
- e) In the distance they could see (a large volcano, two rocks, the outline of land).

(2 marks x 5 = 10 marks)



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Dr. George A. Said-Zammit PhD
Director of Examinations

21 July 2020

Errata Corrige

Section B: Comprehension

Question 1(f) to read as follows:

What made the Swiss **MEN** feel that they were safe when the boats disappeared?

George A. Said-Zammit
Registrar of Examinations

