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

Subject: English
Date: November 2021
Time: 11:00 – 12:30 (One and a half hours)

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

Choose ONE title and write about 200 words on the subject.

- a) If you decide to go for a long weekend at a hotel, what do you take with you?
- b) Hunters should be responsible people. Give reasons.
- c) My hobby...
- d) My favourite photo is.....
- e) The serial gambler
- f) The problem of pollution.

(40 marks)

Section B: Comprehension

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

The misuse of mobile phones

No use trying to ignore it. It's a fact that modern life is fast moving and while on the move we have to remain connected. Here the cell phone comes in; it is a wonderful gift of science as it has made communication faster and easier. Now one can easily carry out business transactions, attend to other tasks, SMS for emergencies and umpteen other jobs. Cell phones are sleek and handy and can fit easily in one's pocket or handbag too.

But like all other gifts of science, a cell phone is being misused. It has become a toy in the hands of those who use it as a means to display their status. Be it a friend's funeral, a place of worship, a busy hospital venue, a classroom or a conference room, people can't help flaunting their mobile phones and at the same time disturbing others.

First and foremost one needs to understand that a cell phone is an object of utility or a necessity and not a plaything. Students have to understand that carrying a cell phone into the classroom while lessons are in progress can be a means of distraction. While one is driving it must be switched off as it can make the driver lose his/her concentration and so may prove fatal. It's really frustrating, to say the least, seeing drivers oblivious of all that surrounds them in a busy road with a mobile pressed to their ear.

Once I was witness to a bizarre incident. The driver on my left side dropped his phone and with one hand on the wheel he started rummaging around his legs with the other. Needless to say, his mind was not on the road. I put down my foot on the brakes in order to avoid him.

In public places it should be kept on vibration. One must always try to be brief and speak in a soft voice while talking. People around may not be so interested in your business.

1. Answer the following questions:

- a) Why is the cell phone a great gift of science?
- b) In your own words give **two** of the reasons that show that mobiles can be of great help.
- c) Why can a mobile be a "tool of distraction in a classroom"?
- d) The author says that the use of mobiles while driving 'may prove fatal'. What does he/she mean?
- e) How should one keep a mobile phone active in public places?

(5 x 6 marks = 30 marks)

2. Choose the right word from the brackets:

- a) According to the author modern life is (*tranquil, swift, calm*).
- b) The use of cell phones is an (*rough, easy, difficult*) task.
- c) Cell phones can be of great help in business (*deals, situation, partners*).
- d) Using a cell phone while driving is very (*pleasant, boring, irresponsible*).
- e) Some just love (*showing off, hiding, polishing*) their mobile in public places.

(5 x 2 marks = 10 marks)

Section C: Language

3. Complete the following sentences:

- a) Before you go to bed.....
- b) as long as I live.
- c) If you need anything.....
- d) when the baby cries.
- e) As soon as you finish.....

(5 x 2 marks = 10 marks)

4. Write questions to which the following might be the answer:

- a) I will let you go when you finish your homework.
- b) At twelve o'clock.
- c) Paul is really clever.
- d) He has just left the classroom, Sir.
- e) Father is busy now.

(5 x 2 marks = 10 marks)

Total: 100 marks

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER