



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

January 2023

Subject: English Language

Time: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to candidates:

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Read the instructions for each section carefully. Answer the questions on the booklet provided and clearly indicate the section and question you are answering.

Section 1: Long Writing Task (40 marks)

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the tasks below. You are advised to

- pay attention to layout, paragraphing, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation;
- keep your writing to the number of words indicated.

You will be penalised if you write less than 180 or more than 200 words.

1. The benefits of drone technology are endless but there is also the downside to it. Write an **article** for an online magazine in which you discuss the advantages and disadvantages of drones.

OR

2. You are a member of staff at a primary school. The Head of the school has asked you to help with the selection of a venue for the end-of-year staff party. Write an **assessment report** in which you provide information about the venue and give reasons for your recommendation.

Section 2: Reading Comprehension and Summary

Read the following text carefully and answer all of the questions that follow.

The pop singer, Adele has announced plans to take a mid-career break and study English literature. As I found out, there's no better time to do it!

For more than two decades, I lived untroubled by the quiet disappointment of my parents, **who** had assumed I would one day go to university. But I didn't. Getting a degree was never an ambition of **mine**, and I didn't need letters after my name to prove an intellectual point.

But then, while working in Afghanistan, everything changed. In keeping with the fashion of the time in conflict zones around the globe, I blamed the United Nations (UN). I had toyed with the idea of joining the organisation, but despite the UN publishing a set of values that included a "respect for diversity", **this** in no way applied to academic qualifications when applying for a job with **it**. To get a foot in the door, you needed a degree. So, at the age of 41, I enrolled at the Open University.

I chose to study part-time, because this was a vanity project rather than a pressing need, and I emerged six years later with a first-class BA (Hons) in International Studies. I still don't have a job with the UN, but that wasn't the point. The point was that I

Andrea Busfield

Sun 30 Oct 2022 14:00
GMT



needed to see if I could do it and, clearly, I could. However, my phoenix-like ascension from classic underachiever to classroom swot had as much to do with timing as aptitude. In some respects, school is wasted on the young, and I know with absolute certainty that I would never have achieved a first if I had gone to university aged 18.

As a teenager, I wouldn't have had the freedom to choose a subject I was genuinely interested in. Adele's subject of choice is English literature. "If I hadn't made it singing, I think I would be an English literature teacher," the 34-year-old told fans last week. Similarly, I chose international studies because I had always enjoyed the nuts and bolts of geopolitics, which is helpful when you work in journalism.

Choosing a subject that interests you rather than pursuing a qualification to suit a career path can relieve much of the pressure that tends to come with education, making the process far more enjoyable. However, for some mature students, it's walking into the unknown that makes adult learning one of life's great adventures. As well as studying for the sheer enjoyment of learning, another advantage of working for a degree later in life is the confidence that experience adds to your intellectual toolbox.

Although it might not work for a BSc in mathematics, in subjective subjects such as international studies there is no such thing as a correct answer: there is simply a correct way of answering a question. That is the point at which learning throws off the shackles of regurgitation and steps into exploration – where the real fun happens. An added bonus is that continued studying could reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

Of course, and because I am now an academic capable of looking at both sides of an argument, there is a downside of being a mature student. Studying for a degree, even part-time, takes a commitment of at least 14 hours a week, and this can be annoying when you have better things to do than perfect your Harvard referencing. However, for those who persevere, education is the gift that has the potential to keep on giving. As is often said, knowledge is power, and working for a degree leaves you with a more agile and inquiring mind. The sense of accomplishment is also a genuine feelgood moment in a world that offers few of them.

Unfortunately, enrolling in any university or college costs serious money these days. However, there are a number of free or low-cost learning sites on the internet, including **some** that collaborate with top-ranking universities offering foundation-style courses, such as FutureLearn.

So, go out, explore, visit a gallery, stop by the library or listen to the latest Adele album and be inspired. As Albert Einstein once said, "Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." And none of **us** are dead yet.

Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/oct/30/adele-academic-mature-students-career-break-study>

Choose the correct answer.

1. Which title best suits this text? (1 mark)
 - a. Adele the academic
 - b. Why mature students are doing well
 - c. Celebrities are back in school
2. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article? (1 mark)
 - a. News
 - b. Lifestyle
 - c. Education
3. Andrea Busfield is a (1 mark)
 - a. journalist
 - b. singer
 - c. mathematician
4. This text mainly (1 mark)
 - a. describes Adele's new educational project
 - b. recounts Busfield's educational journey
 - c. lists the pros and cons of learning
5. Give **TWO** reasons why Busfield did not read for a degree when she was young. (1 mark)
6. Quote a sentence which shows that being different is not enough to be eligible to work for the United Nations. (1 mark)
7. a. What inspired Busfield to study for a degree initially? (1 mark)
b. Did Busfield achieve this goal? Quote a phrase to support your answer. (2 marks)
8. Why was Busfield considered a *mature* student? (1 mark)
9. Copy and fill in the following table with information from the text about Busfield's degree. (3 marks)

Name of course	
Name of University	
Duration of the course	

10. Are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)? Choose the correct one and give a reason for your answer. (9 marks)

- a. Adele has already started her course.
- b. Adele plans on retiring from singing.
- c. Busfield's parents played an important role in her choice of career.
- d. Busfield chose to study part-time was because this degree was something she simply wanted.
- e. Young Busfield struggled at school.
- f. Busfield believes that people should go to university at the age of 18.
- g. Before her singing career took off, Adele taught English literature.
- h. Adele announced her plans recently.
- i. Busfield's degree is related to her main occupation.

11. Complete the sentence by quoting the text. (1 mark)
According to the author, subjective subjects are ...

12. In your own words, paying special attention to the underlined words, explain what the author means by "That is the point at which learning throws off the shackles of regurgitation and steps into exploration"? (2 marks)

13. Mention a disadvantage of studying later in life. (1 mark)

14. What is FutureLearn? (1 mark)

15. Choose the correct answer. (1 mark)

In the last paragraph, the author aims to (intimidate / alarm / motivate) readers.

16. How is the final quote by Einstein related to the rest of the text? (1 mark)

17. What do these words found in the text in bold refer to? (3 marks)

- | | | | |
|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| a. | who | b. | mine |
| c. | this | d. | it |
| e. | some | f. | us |

18. Find words / phrases from paragraph 5 and 6 which mean (5 marks)
- a. most important basic details
 - b. following
 - c. match
 - d. pure
 - e. academic

19. Choose the correct answer.

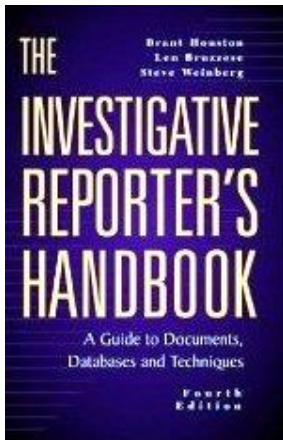
Which caption best describes this picture? (1 mark)



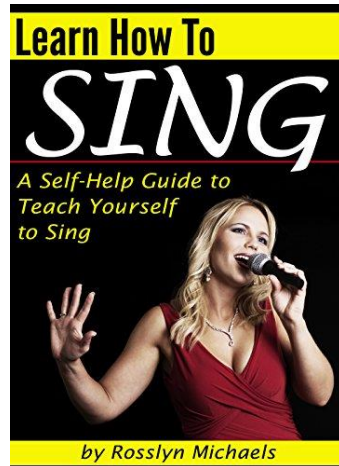
20. Who would you recommend this article to? (1 mark)
- a. Teens wanting to further their education
 - b. Adults thinking about furthering their education
 - c. Adele fans who wish to get a detailed update

21. Which book would Adele be interested in? Choose the correct letter.

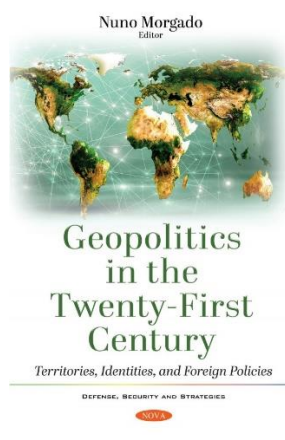
(1 mark)



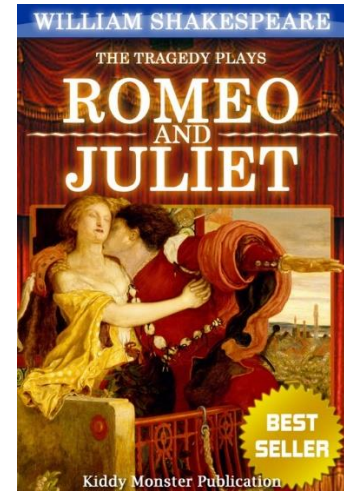
A



B



C



D

22. In 50-60 of your own words, summarise the advantages of studying as a mature student. (10 marks)

Section 3: Short Writing Task

You are Andy Cachia, a member of a charity organisation which has recently held an event in your community. In between 50 and 60 words, write an email to the president of the organisation, Ms Tracy Smith, to inform her about and describe an incident that happened during the event. Do not write more than 60 words.

(10 marks)

From:	acachia@vol.com.mt
To:	tsmith@vol.com.mt
Subject:	Charity Event

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER

BLANK PAGE