ENGLISH AFM Syllabus

Examination for the Enlistment of Personnel in the Armed Forces of Malta - June 2023

1. Introduction

This syllabus is designed for individuals sitting for the ENGLISH examination as part of the soldier recruitment process in the Armed Forces of Malta. It focuses on skills and competences aligned with Level 7 of the Learning Outcomes Framework (2015) which is equivalent to the Year 8 Track 3 syllabus in State Secondary Schools.

The examination assesses the candidates' ability to read a range of texts fluently and with good understanding and apply knowledge and understanding of vocabulary, grammar, and linguistic conventions.

2. Assessment Criteria

Candidates will be expected to:
   a) show understanding and react to a different range of genres and texts including fiction, non-fiction, non-linear and online texts which serve different purposes including literary, functional, informational, transactional and / or instructive.
   b) evaluate and respond to texts which include visuals and graphics.
   c) interpret information derived from graphs and maps.
   d) answer lower-order and higher-order questions about a text at word, phrase, paragraph, and text level.
   e) answer questions which address lexical and grammatical competences.
   f) work out (through inference and deduction) what unfamiliar words / phrasal verbs / (idiomatic) expressions mean.
   g) make a variety of predictions about a text based on the content available.
   h) distinguish between fact and opinion.
   i) identify intended audience and purpose of texts.
   j) make use of skimming and scanning to help me read effectively.
   k) tell the difference between the main and supporting points of a given text.
   l) make use of inference and deduction when I read.
   m) identify referents (including cataphoric and anaphoric) in a text.
   n) understand text organisation.
   o) compare and contrast across genres.
   p) understand and recognise writers' use of persuasive techniques.
   q) extract and summarise the main points from a text.
   r) identify a range of features and register present in both a formal and informal texts.

3. Lexical Competence

Candidates will be expected to understand vocabulary related to the following thematic areas:

Personal Information
Daily Life and Work
Relations With Other People
House and Home
Free Time
Entertainment and Media
The Arts
History and Culture
Travel
Health and Fitness
Sports

Education
Shopping
Food And Drink
Services
Places
The Environment
Weather
Social and Global issues
Crime
Science and Technology
Money and Shopping

4. Grammatical Competence

Candidates will be expected to:

- spell correctly words high and low frequency words
- use punctuation correctly, in particular capital letter, comma, full stop, question mark, inverted commas, exclamation marks, semi-colon, colon
- use nouns
    - used only in the singular
    - used only in the plural
    - countable
    - uncountable
- use pronouns: personal, possessive, demonstrative, reflexive, relative
- use adjectives and turn adjectives into positive, comparative and superlative
- use collocations
- use phrasal verbs
- use the infinitive
- use the gerund
- use the affirmative and negative form of the imperative
- use the definite and indefinite article: the, a, an and the zero article
- use the determiners: some, any
- know the following: simple present, simple past, present continuous, past continuous, present perfect simple, past perfect simple, present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous, future continuous, future perfect simple, future perfect continuous
- know future time reference using: going to, will, shall + infinitive, simple present, present continuous, be to + infinitive, be about to + infinitive, future time in the past
- use the primary auxiliary verbs (be, have, do)
- use the modal auxiliaries: can, could, must, shall, should, will, would, may, might, ought to and the semi-modals: dare, need, used to in the affirmative, negative and interrogative forms
- use the conditional (first, second and third)
- use the present and past participle
- form the interrogative with:
    - verbs: to be, to have, to do
    - wh- questions: who, what, where, when, which, where, why, how
    - question tags
- use statements in the affirmative and negative (including contractions)
- use and identify link words to list, add up, compare and contrast ideas and sum up
- use prepositions of time, place, and movement
- use adverbials of time, place, manner, frequency and probability
- use quantifiers
- use the active and passive voice
- use -ing and -ed clauses (e.g. The girls talking to Tom… The man injured in the accident…)
- use direct and indirect speech
- know word order
- recognise and produce simple, compound and complex sentences
- use prepositional and phrasal verbs
- use affixes including prefixes and suffixes to build new words
- use affixes to change grammatical class

5. Examination Paper   Max 100 marks

The examination will be one and a half hours long. The paper will be divided into three sections and will consist of a total of 50 multiple-choice questions. All questions are compulsory. Each question carries 2 marks with a total of 100 marks.

Candidates are presented with three different texts varying in type and genre. The reading texts, which vary in length but total to 800-900 words, could be linear and/ or non-linear and will be fictional, non-fiction, factual, functional, informational, transactional and / or instructive in nature.

- Section A will consist of 15 questions, with a total of 30 marks. The text will be non-linear of between 150-200 words.
- Section B will consist of 15 questions, with a total of 30 marks. The text will be fictional of between 250-300 words.
- Section C will consist of 20 questions, with a total of 40 marks. The text will be non-fiction of between 350-400 words.

All questions are based on the respective texts and assess candidates' ability to read and understand different texts while applying their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

Each section may target any assessment criteria listed in the syllabus.