



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

## **Examination for the Post of Second Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade**

**Subject: English**  
**Date: Thursday 27 July 2023**  
**Time: 09:00 – 12:00 (Three 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: Multiple Choice Questions**

**(40 marks)**

**Answer ALL questions. Each question carries 2 marks.**

Choose the correct answer and write the option you choose (e.g. 1c, 2a etc) on the answer booklet provided.

1. In Malta, which Ministry is responsible for the fight against trafficking in human beings?
  - a. Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights
  - b. Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality
  - c. Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade
  - d. Ministry for Education, Youth, Research and Innovation
  - e. Ministry for Finance and Employment
2. Malta is currently serving as an elected member on the Security Council until 2024. Which other term did Malta serve on the Security Council?
  - a. 1964 - 1965
  - b. 1971 - 1972
  - c. 1983 - 1984
  - d. 1998 - 1999
  - e. 2017 - 2018
3. Who served as the second President of the Republic of Malta?
  - a. Dr George W. Vella
  - b. Ms Agatha Barbara
  - c. Sir Anthony Mamo
  - d. Dr George Abela
  - e. Dr Anton Buttigieg
4. Which of the following is one of the Strategic Goals of Malta's Foreign Policy Strategy?
  - a. The full membership of Malta in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
  - b. The creation of an alliance of neutral countries
  - c. The seeking of permanent membership on the UN Security Council
  - d. The promotion of peace, security and dialogue
  - e. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2025
5. Which of the following constitute a group of three countries that are members of the Schengen area?
  - a. Ireland, Croatia, Sweden
  - b. Liechtenstein, Iceland, Italy
  - c. Romania, Bulgaria, Ireland
  - d. Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom
  - e. France, Norway, Turkey
6. Which country is still awaiting to receive EU candidate status?
  - a. Georgia
  - b. Moldova
  - c. Ukraine
  - d. Serbia
  - e. North Macedonia
7. Who was the first woman President of the European Parliament?
  - a. Roberta Metsola
  - b. Ursula von der Leyen
  - c. Theresa May
  - d. Simone Veil
  - e. Angela Merkel

8. Which of the following statements about the European Political Community is **false**?
- One of the aims of the European Political Community is to strengthen the security, stability and prosperity of the European continent.
  - The European Political Community aims to replace the European Neighbourhood policy.
  - A total of 45 heads of state or government took part in the second meeting of the European Political Community.
  - The second meeting of the European Political Community was held in Chisinau, Moldova.
  - The European Political Community was an idea of French President Emmanuel Macron.
9. Which of the following international organisations falls under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter?
- The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
  - The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR)
  - The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
  - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
  - The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
10. Which of the following capital cities hosts one of the headquarters of the United Nations?
- Tokyo
  - Addis Ababa
  - Brussels
  - Washington
  - Geneva
11. Which international organisation did Russia cease to be a member of in 2022?
- The United Nations
  - The International Monetary Fund
  - The World Bank
  - The Council of Europe
  - The European Union
12. Which of the following statements related to AUKUS is **false**?
- Under the AUKUS agreement, the allies will assist Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.
  - The AUKUS agreement is aimed at bolstering allied deterrence and defence capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.
  - AUKUS is an agreement between Brazil, South Africa and Thailand.
  - The aim of the AUKUS agreement is to counterbalance China's growing power and influence in its neighbourhood.
  - The AUKUS agreement calls for collaboration on advanced capabilities that will involve technology and information sharing.
13. Which of the following statements is **true** in relation to the Arab League?
- Egypt was suspended from the Arab League in 1979 due to a Peace Treaty with Israel.
  - The Arab League was created to mediate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
  - The headquarters of the Arab League are based in Turkey.
  - Members of the Arab League do not have diplomatic relations with Israel.
  - Syria has been suspended from the Arab League since 2011.
14. Which of the following statements on the African Union is **correct**?
- It was established in 1964 as a response to decolonisation.
  - Its headquarters are based in Durban, South Africa.
  - Libya is one of the countries that has withdrawn from the African Union.
  - Some countries of the Sub-Saharan African region are members of the African Union.
  - The African Continental Free Trade is one of its flagship projects.
15. Which of the following statements on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is **true**?
- In 1967, France withdrew from NATO's integrated military command.
  - NATO's headquarters are based in Paris.
  - Ukraine has been admitted to NATO following Russia's war of aggression.
  - NATO was created in response to the Warsaw Pact.
  - Sweden is the last country to be admitted to NATO.

16. The Geneva Conventions and their Protocols contain the most important rules relating to the
  - a. observance of the specific rights of children and young people.
  - b. protection of civilians who do not take part in the fighting.
  - c. privileges and immunities of diplomatic missions.
  - d. establishment of the legal framework for all marine and maritime activities.
  - e. elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls.
17. The aim of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is to
  - a. establish a framework for rapprochement between the USA and Iran.
  - b. provide a global platform for cooperation on nuclear disarmament.
  - c. boost political and economic cooperation of the Middle East countries.
  - d. establish confidence-building measures between the EU and Iran.
  - e. place restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.
18. The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations
  - a. codifies the rules for the exchange and treatment of envoys between states.
  - b. was signed in 1815 as the final document of the Congress of Vienna.
  - c. is not recognised by all members of the United Nations.
  - d. stipulates that diplomats do not have to obey the laws of the host country.
  - e. establishes that diplomats and their families enjoy lifetime immunity.
19. Which of the following Conventions originates from an initiative taken by Malta?
  - a. International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
  - b. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
  - c. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
  - d. Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
  - e. Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
20. Which of the following statements is correct in relation to the Climate Talks?
  - a. The next Conference of State Parties (COSP) is scheduled to take place in Qatar.
  - b. The 2015 Paris Agreement is a legally binding treaty on climate change.
  - c. The UNFCCC set the target to limit global warming to five degrees.
  - d. The USA has withdrawn from all Climate Treaties.
  - e. At COP 27, held in Sharm-el-Sheik, nations committed to eliminate all fossil fuel.

### **Section B: Speech Writing**

**(80 marks)**

Carefully read the following situation and then write a speech of between 500 and 550 words as indicated.

The Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade will address a special session of the Foreign Affairs Council of the EU about Gender Equality.

You are asked to write a draft speech for the Minister making reference to the way Malta has addressed Gender Equality. You should highlight the main initiatives taken by Malta to promote Gender Equality while also mentioning specific examples, as well as the plans for tackling the challenges which lie ahead.

### **Section C: Argumentative Essay**

**(80 marks)**

Choose **ONE** of the following titles and write an essay of between 600 and 650 words to be published in an online Foreign Affairs magazine.

1. Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine has put into question the concept of neutrality. Does neutrality still have a future?
2. How important do you think is the role of diplomacy in the resolution of conflict?
3. The trade and economic relations have always been the backbone of the China and EU relations. Discuss the opportunities and challenges that these relations present.
4. To what extent do you think that the global food markets have been impacted by Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine?
5. Discuss the effects of the energy crisis on the global position of the European Union.

**Total: 200 marks**

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**