



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: 18th April 2024
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. What was the overriding objective of the Marshall Plan?**
 - a. To provide support to countries in the African region
 - b. To create a multinational European Army
 - c. To bring economic stability to postwar Europe
 - d. To eliminate nuclear weapons in South-East Asia
 - e. To establish a common agricultural policy for Europe

- 2. Which one of these events led to the establishment of a direct line between the White House and Kremlin?**
 - a. The fall of the Berlin Wall
 - b. The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States of America
 - c. The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation
 - d. The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq
 - e. The Cuban missile crisis

- 3. Which former British Prime Minister is associated with policies of “appeasement” towards Germany prior to World War II?**
 - a. Neville Chamberlain
 - b. Clement Attlee
 - c. Anthony Eden
 - d. Winston Churchill
 - e. Harold Macmillan

- 4. Following World War I, American President Woodrow Wilson, proposed a peace organisation which led to the League of Nations. Which one of these countries did NOT join?**
 - a. Italy
 - b. United States of America
 - c. France
 - d. United Kingdom
 - e. Spain

- 5. Which of the following statements on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is correct?**
 - a. The OSCE is an organisation responsible for nuclear non-proliferation in Europe.
 - b. The headquarters of the OSCE are located in the Hague.
 - c. The Russian Federation was expelled from the OSCE in 2023.
 - d. The OSCE is the largest regional security organisation in the world.
 - e. The OSCE comprises of 71 participating States and 10 observer States.

- 6. Which of the following statements on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is false?**
- The Ministerial Council is the central decision-making and governing body of the OSCE.
 - The OSCE Permanent Council holds meetings at headquarters once a week.
 - A different participating State holds the OSCE Chairmanship each year.
 - The OSCE operates a number of field missions throughout the OSCE region.
 - The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation include Libya, Malta and Tunisia.
- 7. Who was the first President of the Republic of Malta?**
- Ms Agatha Barbara
 - Sir Anthony Mamo
 - Dr Anton Buttigieg
 - Dr Vincent Tabone
 - Dr Paul Xuereb
- 8. Who granted the territories of Malta and Gozo to the Order of the Knights of St. John in 1530?**
- Emperor Charles V
 - Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette
 - Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte
 - King Philip II of Spain
 - Pope Gregory XIII
- 9. In which of the following capital cities does Malta NOT have a Resident Embassy or High Commission?**
- Tokyo
 - Accra
 - Algiers
 - Tel Aviv
 - New Delhi
- 10. Who was the first Head of the Commonwealth?**
- King Charles III
 - King Edward VII
 - Queen Victoria
 - King George VI
 - Queen Elizabeth II
- 11. Which of the following statements related to the Commonwealth is false?**
- The Commonwealth is made up of 56 independent and equal countries.
 - The Commonwealth Charter sets out the values and principles of the Commonwealth.
 - Malta has hosted at least one meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government.
 - The headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat are located in London.
 - Commonwealth Heads of Government meet once every 5 years.

12. Which of the following is NOT an institution of the European Union?

- a. The European Parliament
- b. The Council of the European Union
- c. The European Commission
- d. The European Committee of the Regions
- e. The European Council

13. Which one of these is NOT part of the European Union's 'four freedoms'?

- a. Freedom of movement of goods
- b. Freedom of movement of services
- c. Freedom of movement of aviation
- d. Freedom of movement of capital
- e. Freedom of movement of persons

14. Which of the following statements about the European Parliament is correct?

- a. 670 MEPs are elected to the European Parliament.
- b. European Parliament elections are held every 5 years.
- c. The European Parliament was founded by the Maastricht Treaty.
- d. There are 16 official languages in use in the European Parliament.
- e. The European Parliament is considered the "Guardian of the Treaties".

15. When was the United Nations Charter signed?

- a. September 1935
- b. June 1939
- c. October 1940
- d. September 1942
- e. June 1945

16. What are the opening words of the United Nations Charter?

- a. "The Peoples of the World are determined to create a more peaceful world..."
- b. "The United Nations, committed to avoid the tragedies of recent years..."
- c. "In our common effort to create a United Nations free from the scourge of war..."
- d. "We the Peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations..."
- e. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights..."

17. Which of the following is NOT a principal organ of the United Nations?

- a. General Assembly
- b. Human Rights Council
- c. Security Council
- d. International Court of Justice
- e. Economic and Social Council

18. Which are the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council?

- a. United States, Russian Federation, China, Germany, France
- b. Russian Federation, Italy, United States, China, Germany
- c. China, Russian Federation, Brazil, France, United States
- d. United Kingdom, Germany, China, Russian Federation, United States
- e. France, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, China, United States

19. Which organisation designates World Heritage Sites?

- a. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- c. The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)
- d. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
- e. The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

20. Which of the following statements on the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015 is false?

- a. The Paris Agreement is an international legally binding treaty on climate change.
- b. China opted out from being a signatory to the Paris Agreement.
- c. The Paris Agreement sets targets to limit global warming.
- d. The last Conference of State Parties took place in Dubai, UAE.
- e. The Paris Agreement was opened for signature on 22 April 2016.

Section B: Speech Writing

(80 marks)

Read the following situation and write a speech of between 500 and 550 words as indicated below.

You have been asked to write a speech for the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade who will address a session at the European Year of Skills Closing Event in April 2024.

In your speech, you should highlight the initiatives taken by Malta during this year to promote the upskilling of employees as well as outline 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. Under the motto 'Strengthening Resilience, Enhancing Security', discuss the challenges and opportunities facing Malta's chairpersonship of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- 2. The consequences of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, launched on October 7, 2023, are already rippling worldwide. In your opinion, what are the global dangers resulting from this conflict?
- 3. The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) launched on 1 January 2023, plays a key role in supporting the EU's agricultural sector, and if well-designed, can be an instrument for true transformation. How far do you agree?
- 4. Discuss the role of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in the maintenance of international peace and security as well as Malta's contribution through its two-year membership of the UNSC.
- 5. Cybersecurity will remain a key challenge for the years to come. In what ways can the European Union bolster its efforts to mitigate this threat?

Total: 200 marks

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