



**Qualifying Examination for the Post of Security Guard  
in the Malta Public Service  
Sample Paper 2024**

**Subject:** English

**Time:** 11:00 – 12:30 (One and a half hours)

**This examination paper consists of TWO sections (Section A and Section B). Candidates are requested to attempt ALL sections and to read carefully the instructions within each section.**

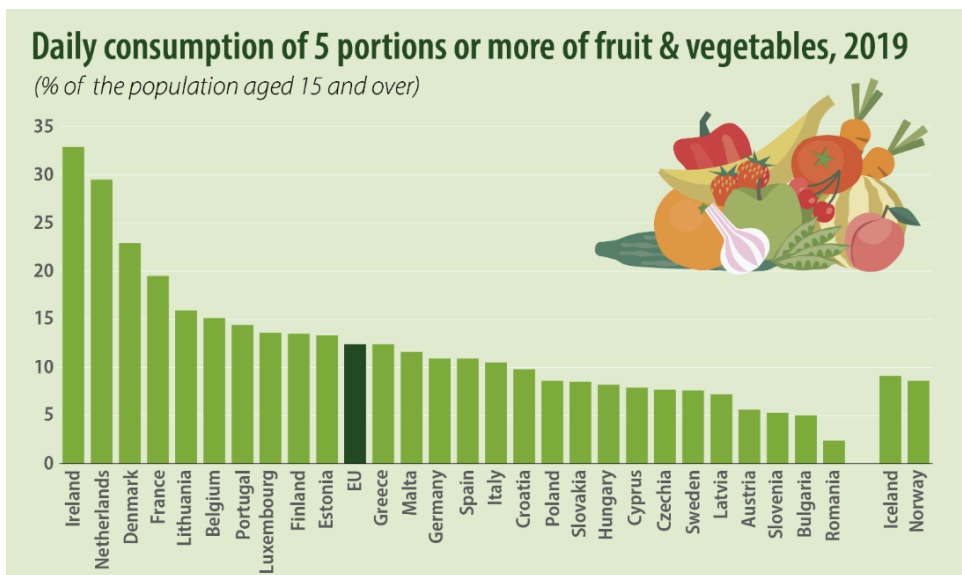
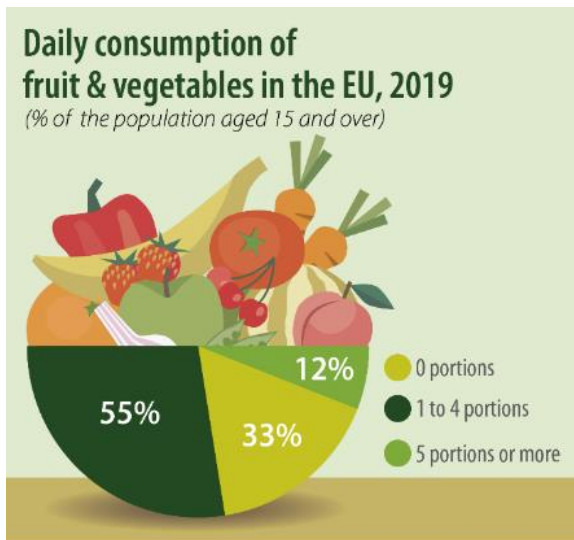
**Write your answers in the space available on the examination paper.**

**Section A: Reading**

**Task A1** Read the text below and answer the questions which follow.

**50 marks**

**10 marks**



Countries compared the EU average

Adapted from <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

**Underline the correct answer.**

**5 marks**

1. The question the participants were asked in the survey was  
How many portions of fruit and vegetables do you eat every (day, week, month, year)?
2. The survey was conducted among (children and teenagers, the 13-14 age group, adults only, teenagers and adults).
3. Most of the participants in the survey eat (no, 5, between 1 and 4, 6 or more) portions of fruit and vegetables.
4. 33 percent of the participants (always, never, sometimes, regularly) skip their fruit and vegetables.
5. The country with the highest intake of 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day was (Denmark, Ireland, Iceland, France).

**Are the following sentences about the 2019 survey True (T) or False (F)? Tick (✓) the correct answer below.**

**5 marks**

		<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
1.	Malta's intake of fruit and vegetables was higher than Germany's.		
2.	Romania and Bulgaria reported equal intake of fruit and vegetables.		
3.	The Netherlands reported the second highest intake of fruit and vegetables.		
4.	Norway's intake of fruit and vegetables was lower than Austria's.		
5.	The average consumption of fruit and vegetables in the EU is lower than Malta's.		

**Task A2**

**40 marks**

**Read the text below and answer all the questions that follow.**

**Paragraph A**

When **you** arrive in Annecy, you'll feel like you've stepped into a fairytale. This town, the largest in the mountainous region of southeastern France, enchants visitors with **its** canals, cobblestone streets, and breathtaking scenery. It's no wonder it has earned the nickname "Venice of the Alps" and is renowned as one of Europe's cleanest cities. Situated close to the Swiss border, Annecy combines the best of both Switzerland and France, boasting medieval architecture, a historic centre, and a variety of outdoor activities. With so much to see and do, you can easily spend several days exploring Annecy.

**Paragraph B**

There are two ways to reach Annecy. The first option is through Switzerland, as it is located near the border. To do this, you can take a flight to Geneva and then continue your journey by bus or train, **which** takes 40 minutes. Alternatively, if you are in Paris, you can reach Annecy by train or a 4-hour drive. In fact, Annecy serves as a great stop for those interested in visiting both Geneva and Paris. It is recommended to plan a few days in **these** cities when you're in Annecy.

### Paragraph C

This is the most photographed spot in Annecy, and for good reason. It's a medieval palace situated on an island in the river, now converted into a museum. **This** unique triangular building is a sight to behold. If you're planning to snap photos, it's best to arrive early in the morning to beat the crowds. Inside, you'll get a glimpse into its past. It served as a residence, a court, and even a prison. The preservation is outstanding, with the prison cells, chapel, and courtrooms available for exploration.

### Paragraph D

When you and your partner visit Annecy, make sure to add the Love Bridge to your itinerary. This bridge, crossing over a canal, has become the city's emblem of love. As you stroll together, you'll be treated to views of the canal and the old city. Don't forget to bring a padlock to leave on the bridge – a sign of **your** eternal love.

### Paragraph E

Finally, a must-see destination. The old town of Annecy, with its cobblestone streets and vibrant buildings, resembles a scene straight out of a fairy tale. At the heart of this area lies a bustling market, offering local produce and handmade crafts. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere and indulge in the beauty of this European gem.

Adapted from: <https://www.ba-bamail.com/>

Underline the correct answer.

1 mark

1. Which is the best title for the text?

- a. Fantastic attractions in Annecy
- b. Last year's visit to Annecy
- c. The History of Annecy

2. In which section of an online newspaper would you find this article?

1 mark

- a. News
- b. Lifestyle
- c. Travel

3. Below are the missing subheadings for paragraphs A to E in the text. Write the correct letter of each paragraph in the space below. One subheading is extra. 5 marks

Subheadings	Paragraph
Getting there	
Annecy-what you need to know	
Make your mark	
Get a souvenir	
Fancy a ride?	
Whatever you do, don't miss this!	

4. In between 60 to 70 words, summarise the facts about Annecy in the first paragraph. 10 marks

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5. What is the best way to reach Annecy according to the text? Tick (✓) the **FOUR** correct answers. 4 marks

Fly to Paris and then fly to Geneva	
Fly to Geneva and take a train to Annecy	
Fly to Geneva and take a bus to Annecy	
Fly to Paris and train to Annecy	
Fly to Paris and then fly to Annecy	
Fly to Paris and take a bus to Annecy	
Fly to Paris and drive to Annecy	

6. Why is it recommended to visit Paris and Geneva while visiting Annecy? 1 mark

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7. Underline the correct answer.  
The phrase *A sight to behold* refers to a sight which is (impressive, far away, old). 1 mark

8. Are the following statements **True** (T) or **False** (F)? Circle the correct answer and give a reason.

6 marks

a. The medieval palace used to be a museum.

T/F because \_\_\_\_\_

b. It is easy for tourists to take a picture of the palace in the afternoon.

T/F because \_\_\_\_\_

c. Visitors get a good idea of what the palace was like once they are inside.

T/F because \_\_\_\_\_

d. The chapel and the courtroom are closed off to visitors.

T/F because \_\_\_\_\_

e. The palace is well-kept even though it is old.

T/F because \_\_\_\_\_

f. The writer of the article is surprised that the palace was used as a prison.

T/F because \_\_\_\_\_

9. In your own words, explain what the writer means by '*As you stroll together, you'll be treated to views of the canal and the old city.*'

2 marks

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What do the following words, found in bold in the text, refer to?

3 marks

a. you \_\_\_\_\_

d. these \_\_\_\_\_

b. its \_\_\_\_\_

e. This \_\_\_\_\_

c. which \_\_\_\_\_

f. your \_\_\_\_\_

11. From Paragraphs B, C and D, find ONE word which means:

3 marks

a. choice \_\_\_\_\_

d. where one lives \_\_\_\_\_

b. found \_\_\_\_\_

e. a planned route or journey \_\_\_\_\_

c. instead \_\_\_\_\_

f. symbol \_\_\_\_\_

12. Which one of the following images is the reader least likely to click on after reading this article? Tick (✓) the correct box . 1 mark



a.



c.



b.



d.

13. The writer compares arriving in Annecy to a magical place. Quote a phrase of 6 words which shows this. 1 mark

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14. Underline the correct answer.

The aim of the article is to

- a. narrate a story about travelling to Annecy
- b. describe a journey to the town of Annecy
- c. persuade the reader to visit Annecy.

1 mark





**Task B2**

**40 marks**

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the titles 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. Does free time make you happier? Write an **article** to be published in a local magazine in which you give your opinion about this.
  
2. Write a **blog post** to be published on the local council website in which you describe your favourite place in the town where you live.
  
3. An entertainment website you visit includes a page about TV shows. Write a **review** of a TV show in which you include why you would recommend it to others.

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**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**

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