



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: 30th October 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. Who was the first female President of the Republic of Malta?
 - a. Dr Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca
 - b. Dr Myriam Spiteri Debono
 - c. Ms Agatha Barbara
 - d. Ms Dolores Cristina
 - e. Dr Roberta Metsola

2. Which set of these United States of America Presidents in office were all assassinated?
 - a. Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, John F. Kennedy
 - b. Andrew Johnson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy
 - c. Theodore Roosevelt, Chester Arthur, Lyndon B. Johnson, Ronald Reagan
 - d. Gerald Ford, Abraham Lincoln, George W. Bush, Robert F. Kennedy
 - e. James Garfield, Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon, George C. Wallace

3. The presidency of the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe Committee of Ministers is held in turn for six months by the representatives of the member countries in English alphabetical order. Which of the following statements is **true**?
 - a. The kingdom of Morocco's presidency mandate is scheduled from November 2024 to May 2025.
 - b. Luxembourg's presidency mandate is scheduled from May 2024 to November 2024.
 - c. Lithuania's presidency mandate is scheduled from May 2026 to November 2026.
 - d. Monaco's presidency mandate is scheduled from November 2025 to May 2026.
 - e. Malta's presidency mandate is scheduled from May 2025 to November 2025.

4. In which group of countries does Malta have resident ambassadors and embassies?
 - a. Palestine, South Africa, Chile, Canada, Mongolia, Portugal, Armenia
 - b. Austria, China, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Japan, United States of America
 - c. Belgium, Finland, Angola, Algeria, Kazakhstan, Croatia, Italy
 - d. France, Mali, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Argentina, Romania, Moldova
 - e. Ukraine, Russian Federation, Hungary, San Marino, Morocco, Poland, Peru

5. In which city did the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire that led to the beginning of World War I take place?
 - a. Vienna
 - b. Budapest
 - c. Sarajevo
 - d. Prague
 - e. Belgrade

6. Which one of the following military limitations was **not** stipulated in the Treaty of Versailles of 1919?
 - a. The German army was restricted to 100,000 men.
 - b. The army general staff was eliminated.
 - c. Conscription was forbidden in Germany.
 - d. German factories were allowed to manufacture weapons.
 - e. Germany was forbidden to maintain an air force.

7. When did the first of World War II bombardments by the Axis Powers on Malta begin?
 - a. 29th September 1938
 - b. 1st September 1939
 - c. 2nd June 1940
 - d. 11th June 1940
 - e. 15th August 1942

8. Following World War II, which of the following group of countries was part of the 1955 Warsaw Pact?
 - a. The Soviet Union, Finland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, West Germany, Poland, Romania, Ukraine
 - b. The Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania
 - c. The Soviet Union, Poland, Sweden, East Germany, Austria, Latvia, Bulgaria, Albania
 - d. The Soviet Union, Estonia, Poland, Bulgaria, West Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Belarus
 - e. Poland, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Albania

9. On how many thematic priorities is Hungary's presidency of the European Union (July to December 2024) focussed?
 - a. Seven
 - b. Six
 - c. One
 - d. Four
 - e. Three

10. Which country will assume the presidency of the Council of the European Union after Hungary in January 2025?
 - a. Malta
 - b. Cyprus
 - c. Poland
 - d. France
 - e. Spain

11. Which of the following statements about Anne Hidalgo's swim in the River Seine ahead of the 2024 Olympic Games is **false**?
 - a. Anne Hidalgo's swim was seen as a sign that the Olympic Games would help transform Paris.
 - b. Anne Hidalgo was joined by President Emmanuel Macron as a sign of support.
 - c. Anne Hidalgo fulfilled a pledge made by other mayors of Paris before her.
 - d. Anne Hidalgo's swim had to be postponed more than once due to pollution.
 - e. Anne Hidalgo was joined by Tony Estanguet, the President of Paris 2024 Olympics.

12. Which are the three strategic objectives of the Union for the Mediterranean as set out in the mission statement?
 - a. Employment, environment and health
 - b. Project development, dialogue and economy
 - c. Regional stability, inclusive development and economic integration
 - d. Productivity, growth and peace
 - e. Digitalisation, resilience and competitiveness

13. Which one of the following statements related to the mandate of the International Organisation of the Francophonie (IOF) is **false**?
 - a. To promote the French language and cultural and linguistic diversity
 - b. To promote peace, democracy and human rights
 - c. To support education, training, higher education and research
 - d. To implement multilateral francophone cooperation projects across Europe
 - e. To foster economic cooperation in order to bolster sustainable development

14. Which one of the following is Malta's motto for the OSCE 2024 chairpersonship?
- Strengthening Resilience, Enhancing Security
 - United in Diversity
 - Make Europe Great Again
 - Recovery, Strength and a Sense of Belonging
 - It's All about People
15. Who sets the European Parliament's annual calendar, adopted each year in plenary, usually in June?
- The President of the European Union
 - The Council of Europe
 - The Members of the European Parliament in the Chamber
 - The President of the European Commission
 - The Conference of Presidents of the political group
16. Which of the following definitions of *Diplomatic Démarche* is **false**?
- It is a diplomatic or political initiative or manoeuvre to the government of the sending country of an ambassador in the host country.
 - It may be sent in oral or written format to the government of another country.
 - It is a diplomatic request carried out strictly through the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment.
 - It is a communication or request for information or clarification or a particular request.
 - It is a petition or protest presented through diplomatic channels.
17. Which of the following is usually considered the last resort in foreign policy?
- containment
 - military force
 - deterrence
 - military sanctions
 - collective security
18. In public speaking, *poisoning the well* refers to
- an argument that does not allow for reasoned opposition, making it difficult for alternative viewpoints to be heard.
 - a false claim that may lead to an action with undesirable consequences.
 - an unrelated personal attack on one's opponent instead of a refutation of their position.
 - the repetition of a claim offered as a reason in support of the argument being made.
 - a systematic campaign to smear and damage one's reputation.
19. Which were the founding member countries of the European Union?
- Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain
 - Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark
 - Belgium, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Portugal, Greece
 - Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Malta
 - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands
20. In diplomatic protocol, what is the correct term used to address the Roman Catholic Pope in a spoken official greeting?
- Your Excellency, Most Holy Father
 - Your Holiness, Most Holy Father
 - Your Eminence, the Pope
 - Your Excellency, Most Reverend
 - Your Honour, the Pope

Section B: Speech Writing

(80 marks)

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

You have been asked to write a speech for the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade who will address a formal sitting of the European Parliament to mark the 20th anniversary of Malta's accession to the European Union.

In your speech, you should highlight the achievements made by Malta since its membership as well as its vision for enhancing membership in the future.

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. In an increasingly challenging geopolitical context, the importance of international digital governance is growing. To what extent do you think that Malta is prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the digital age? Discuss with close reference to the recently published Digital Diplomacy Profile for Malta.
2. The year 2024 marks fifty years of division in the Republic of Cyprus and there seems to be no prospect for the reunification of the Mediterranean island. Discuss the past events, the current status quo and the future solutions for reunification, in line with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.
3. The Red Sea Crisis is metastasizing into a web of regional conflicts that goes well beyond Yemen's Houthi rebels and attacks on ships in one of the world's most pivotal sea routes, heavily impacting the global maritime trade flows. What, in your opinion, are the implications of this crisis?
4. De-risking or de-coupling are the future of the European Unions's strategies that could manage risks coming from its economic and technological engagement with China. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the two strategies taking into consideration the three-pronged approach of 'Promote, Protect and Partner'.
5. Gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates social progress. Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore half of its potential. Discuss the key focus of national policies, investments and institutions to achieve a gender-equal Europe in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Total: 200 marks

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