



Candidate's name must NOT be written on any sheet of the examination paper.

Index Number must be written once ONLY above the perforation.

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

Subject: English

Date: Monday, 2nd December 2024

Time: 10:45 – 12:15 (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**50 marks****Task A1****10 marks**

Read the text which is on a separate sheet and answer the questions below.

Underline the correct answer.

6 marks

1. The study investigated how the number of visitors to museums is (split, multiplied, mixed, retained) in relation to age categories.
2. It also explored the (hourly, weekly, daily, monthly) number of visitors at each of the three museums for a whole year.
3. The pie chart shows that teenagers were (more, the most, less, the least) keen on visiting museums in 2022.
4. The number of child visitors is (equal, unequal, unrelated, different) to the number of middle-aged visitors.
5. Senior citizens rank the highest among all age groups (followed up, followed through, followed by, followed on) adults.
6. (Namely, Besides, Overall, However,) the Museum of Art was the most popular throughout 2022.

Are the following sentences about the 2022 study True (T) or False (F)? Tick (✓) the correct answer below.

4 marks

		T	F
1.	In September, the Science Museum registered substantially more visitors than the History Museum.		
2.	The peak season for the Museum of Art occurred from October to March.		
3.	In 2022, visits to the History Museum were at their lowest in May.		
4.	The Science Museum suffered a lull in the month of August.		

Task A2

40 marks

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

Paragraph A

Floof, the pet I'll never forget and made my life worth living, burst into **my** life on a gloomy autumn night in 2015. **She** followed **me** home from work one rainy night, and never left. I was new to London, walking home from my bar job in the teeming rain, when a pair of green eyes on a porch roof stopped me in my tracks. Closer inspection revealed a small fluffy cat – black as the night, totally drenched and yelling right at me. I helped her down, and in response she shadowed me for 25 minutes down the busy main road, screeching outside my front door with a determination that woke my flatmate. We let her in – “just for tonight”. But as she bedded down on my pillow, I knew she had other plans.

Paragraph B

It shouldn't have worked. I was 23, broke and in no position to become the sole custodian of an alarmingly personable animal – plus, my flatmate already had a cat. **We** searched for her owner for a week, imaginatively naming her Floof but were secretly glad when nobody responded to our posters. The flat was split in two: my flatmate's cat, Chairman, took the front half and Floof got the back plus the garden, despite being there all of a week.

Paragraph C

She was incredibly sociable and loved when people came over, especially plumbers or boiler technicians, believing all visitors were there to see her. I have fond memories of her sprawled in the middle of the living room at parties, stealing hearts. **Her** love for other animals, however, was not so vast: she barely tolerated Chairman and once launched an impressive attack on a fox at least twice her size after which she wore her torn ear like a badge of honour.

Paragraph D

When my partner, Michele, came along, Floof won **his** heart, too. He would carry her around our flat on his shoulder – something only **he** was allowed to do. We often travelled with her, and she would happily sit purring on the table in the train, accepting pats and offers of milk from charmed staff.

Paragraph E

Her time on the streets had left her with some respiratory issues, so she sneezed a lot. **We** were inseparable for eight years, but last summer, Floof developed kidney failure and died in my arms at home. Losing her still hurts, but her love gave me the strength to survive it.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2024/sep/16>

Underline the correct answer.

1 mark

1. Which is the best title for the text?

- a. At the zoo
- b. The lost cat
- c. At the vet's

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

1 mark

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

3. The aim of the article is to

1 mark

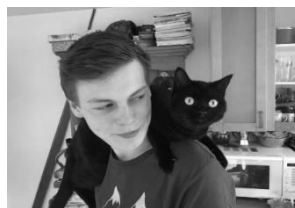
- a. narrate a story about the writer's pet.
- b. describe the writer's work place.
- c. persuade the reader to travel.

4. Which **ONE** of the following images is relevant to this article? Circle the correct letter.

1 mark



A



B



C

5. Below are the missing subheadings for paragraphs **A, B, C, D, E** in the text. Write the correct letter of each paragraph in the second column. One subheading is extra.

5 marks

Subheading	Paragraph
Memories of Floof	
Effect of Floof's death on the writer's life	
Floof at the vet	
How Floof came into the writer's life	
Floof and Michele	
Floof settles in her new home	

6. In between **60** to **70** words, summarise what the first paragraph is about. 10 marks

7. What did the writer do for a living? 1 mark

8. Why did the writer's flatmate wake up? Quote a part sentence to support your answer. 2 marks

9. Did the writer plan to keep the cat? How do you know? 1 mark

10. What does the writer mean by "I knew she had other plans" (line 8)? 2 marks

11. Why was the flat split in two?

1 mark

12. Are the following statements **True** or **False**? Underline the correct answer and give a reason to support your answer. 5 marks

a. The events narrated in the text happened in Rome.

True / False because

b. The writer did not have much money to spare.

True / False because

c. The writer did not bother to search for the cat's owner.

True / False

because

d. Floof was very friendly with other animals.

True / False

because

e. Floof allowed only one person to carry her on his shoulder.

True / False

because

13. What do the following words, found in bold in the text, refer to? 4 marks

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| a. my (line 1) | _____ | e. Her (line 16) | _____ |
| b. She (line 2) | _____ | f. his (line 19) | _____ |
| c. me (line 2) | _____ | g. he (line 20) | _____ |
| d. We (line 10) | _____ | h. We (line 23) | _____ |

14. From between lines 1 to 18, find **ONE** word which means: 3 marks

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| a. entered | _____ | d. caretaker | _____ |
| b. heavy | _____ | e. attractive | _____ |
| c. followed | _____ | f. spread out | _____ |

15. In your own words explain what the writer means by the following: 2 marks

“Losing her still hurts, but her love gave me the strength to survive it.” (line 25)

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. You enjoy travelling and regularly post on your blog called 'Travel with Me' to share your experiences with other travellers. Write a **blog** post describing one of your recent trips.
2. You write film reviews on the website 'The Film Critic'. Write a **review** of a film you have just watched for this website, including the reasons why you would/would not recommend it to others.
3. Write an **article** to be published in a lifestyle magazine in which you express your opinion on the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise.

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