



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

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

**Subject:** English  
**Date:** Tuesday, 22nd April 2025  
**Time:** 10:45 – 12:15 (One and a half hours)

### **MARKING SCHEME**







## Section A: Reading

### Task A1

50 marks

10 marks

1. These icons have been removed from Figure 1. Match these icons with the reasons by writing the correct letter (A-F). (½ mark x 6 = 3 marks)

					
C	A	F	D	B	E

2. Underline the correct answer about Figure 1 and Figure 2. (½ mark x 4 = 2 marks)

- According to these statistics, the majority of people prefer online shopping because it (avoids queuing, provides product reviews, **is more convenient**, saves money).
- The percentage of people who shop online because there is more variety is (less than, **equal to**, double, more than) the percentage of people who shop online because it is more efficient.
- (65%, 61%, **49%**, 16%) of customers read other people's opinions online before paying.
- The majority of customers check (product details, **how much items cost online**, the quantities of items in stock, what other shoppers experienced).

3. Are the following statements about Figure 3 true or false? Tick (✓) the correct answer. (1 mark x 5 = 5 marks)

	True	False
a) The survey reported the percentage of people who shopped online in a particular year.	✓	
b) The survey was limited to the elderly.		✓
c) Online shopping in Malta was above the European Union average.		✓
d) Denmark reported the highest number of people who shopped online.		✓
e) There was an equal percentage of online shopping in Greece and Portugal.	✓	

**Task A2****(40 marks)****Read the text below and answer all the questions that follow.**

Underline the correct answer for questions 1 and 2.

1. Which is the best title for the text?

1 mark

- a) The History of Musical Theatre
- b) The Making of *Wicked*: Behind the Scenes
- c) **Cynthia Erivo: From South London to Stardom**

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

1 mark

- a) Opinion
- b) **Culture**
- c) News

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
Overcoming hurdles	<b>D</b>
Significant roles and film successes	<b>E</b>
<i>Wicked's</i> success	<b>A</b>
Education and qualifications	
Early influences	<b>C</b>
Profound Bond with Elphaba	<b>B</b>

4. In between 60 to 70 words, summarise the facts about *Wicked* found in the first paragraph.

10 marks

**The following salient points are found in the first paragraph:**

1. Cynthia Erivo portrays Elphaba in *Wicked*,
2. Released last November,
3. highest-grossing within just a month
4. stage-to-screen adaptation
5. ten Oscar nominations,
6. filmed in various locations across the United Kingdom,
7. the director, Jon M. Chu
8. practical sets and planted real flowers to avoiding computer-generated imagery (CGI).

**SUMMARY: 10 MARKS**

**Identification of the 8 salient points above**  
**½ mark for each point mentioned (4 marks)**  
**½ mark for using own words (4 marks)**

	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Accuracy 1 mark</b>	Grammatical structures and syntax are accurate.	Grammatical structures and syntax are mostly accurate.	Grammatical structures are limited and mostly inaccurate.
	<b>1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Organisation &amp; Structure 1 mark</b>	Writing is well organised and structured in a paragraph. A topic sentence is included. Good use of linking words.	Writing is adequately organised and structured in a paragraph. A topic sentence is included. Adequate use of linking words.	Writing is poorly organised and unstructured. No topic sentence is included. Few or no linking words.

5. Fill in the grid with information about Cynthia Erivo. (½ mark x 6 = 3 marks)

	Year / Number
a) year when she was first nominated for an award	2019
b) year when she got the most praise for a theatre role	2013
c) year when she was born	1987
d) age when her mother realised Cythia's talents	1 ½ / 18 months
e) year when she started performing on TV	2018
f) age when Cynthia realised her own vocal talents	11

6. Fill in the grid with information about Cynthia Erivo. (½ mark x 4 = 2 marks)

	Name of place
a) where she performed The Color Purple	Menier Chocolate Factory
b) where she worked while training	Thomas Pink
c) where she was born	South London
d) where she studied as a child	La Retraite Catholic school

7. Are the following statements **True** (T) or **False** (F)? Circle the correct answer and give a reason to support your answer. 6 marks

a. Cynthia Erivo experienced the Biafran war.

**F** because **her parents fled the aftermath of the Biafran war**

b. After the age of 16, Cynthia Erivo's mother was a single parent.

**T** because **her father disowned the family.**

c. Cynthia Erivo's mother worked in the medical field.

**T** because **she was a nurse.**

d. Cynthia Erivo has a sibling.

**T** because **raised her and her sister alone.**

e. Cynthia Erivo's takes after her mother's singing abilities.

**F** because **my family's not a musical, acting family.**

f. Cynthia Erivo can play musical instruments.

**T** because **explored music through the clarinet, saxophone, and viola.**

8. *Her career faced challenges.* In your own words, what were the two main challenges she faced? 2 marks

Accept answers that explain: (i) classism **(1 mark)** and (ii) racism **(1 mark)**.

- (i) Classism is when people are treated unfairly or differently because of their social or economic status. Erivo was judged because she didn't have as much money or their education level.
- (ii) Racism is when people are treated unfairly or differently because of their race or skin colour. It's like judging someone or thinking they are less important just because of where they come from or how they look.

9. In your own words, explain what the writer means by *This brought about exhaustion which often led to perceptions of laziness, limiting her casting opportunities in student productions.* 2 marks

Accept answers similar to

The fact that she had to work while studying (**½ mark**), caused her to feel worn out (**½ mark**), which was often mistaken for not wanting to do anything (**½ mark**), reducing her chances of being chosen in student productions (**½ mark**).

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

**(½ mark x 6 = 3 marks)**

a.	who: <b>Erivo's parents</b>	d.	it: <b>voice</b>
b.	My: <b>Erivo's / of Erivo</b>	e.	where: <b>Broadway / theatre district in NYC</b>
c.	this: <b>singing / acting</b>	f.	her: <b>Erivo</b>

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

**(½ mark x 6 = 3 marks)**

a.	idea: <b>clue</b>	d.	milestone: <b>breakthrough</b>
b.	preparing: <b>paving</b>	e.	applause: <b>ovations</b>
c.	persuasion: <b>encouragement</b>	f.	progress: <b>development</b>

12. Which one of the following videos is the reader most likely to watch after reading this article? Tick (✓) the correct box below. 1 mark



13. Underline the correct answer. 1 mark

The aim of the article is to

- a. narrate Elphaba's story in *Wicked*.
- b. describe Erivo's life up to *Wicked*.
- c. persuade the reader to watch *Wicked*.

## Section B: Writing

50 marks

### Task B1

10 marks

**Answer the following question.**

A new shopping centre has just opened in your locality. You would like to go there with your friend Pat who lives in a different town. Write a text message of between 70 to 80 words inviting and persuading Pat to join you and giving her directions to get there.

Short writing task				
Invites	Pat to go to the new shopping centre	1	1/2	0
Gives	Reasons why Pat should join	1	1/2	0
Gives	Pat directions to the new shopping mall	1	1/2	0
Uses	appropriate informal email text type features and register	1	1/2	0
Uses	a range of appropriate vocabulary	1	1/2	0
Uses	accurate grammatical structures	2	1	0
Uses	devices to make writing coherent and cohesive	1	1/2	0
Punctuation		1	1/2	0
Spelling		1	1/2	0
10 MARKS				

1 mark is to be deducted from the total if the writing task is 5 words shorter than 70 or longer than 80 words.

2 marks is to be deducted from the total if the writing task is 6 words or more shorter than 70 or longer than 80 words.

## 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 have just taken up a new sport. Write a blog post about this sport in which you include reasons for choosing it and persuade others to try it out.
2. You write book reviews on the website “Books For You”. Write a review of a book you have just finished reading, including the reasons why you would recommend it to others.
3. Your local council is thinking of ways of fighting and preventing crime in your town. Write an article for the local council magazine discussing the advantages and disadvantages of implementing more security measures in your town.

Long Writing Task 40 marks	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
<b>Task achievement (content, relevance, text type features) (5 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is achieved in full</li> <li>Content is completely relevant</li> <li>Text type features are entirely appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is achieved quite well</li> <li>Content is mostly relevant</li> <li>Text type features are mostly appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is achieved in part</li> <li>Content is not always relevant</li> <li>Text type features are not always appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is hardly achieved</li> <li>Content is under-developed</li> <li>Text type features are minimally appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Task is not achieved</li> <li>Content is irrelevant</li> <li>Text type features are not appropriate</li> </ul>
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
<b>Organisation and Linking (Coherence and Cohesion) (5 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure and organise their writing in a cogent manner</li> <li>Cohesive devices are varied and link together well</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure and organise their writing into a coherent prose</li> <li>Cohesive devices are quite varied and generally correct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paragraph and sentence structure are fairly correct though unambitious</li> <li>Cohesive devices are rather limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paragraph and sentence structure show lack of control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No attempt to structure and organise their writing</li> </ul>
	10 - 9	8 - 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 0
<b>Grammar and accuracy (10 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varied and accurate grammatical structures and syntax</li> <li>Excellent choice of expression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly accurate grammatical structures and syntax</li> <li>Quite varied grammatical structures</li> <li>Good choice of expression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grammatical structures and syntax are rather basic and sometimes inaccurate</li> <li>Adequate choice of expression but with some inaccuracies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grammatical structures and syntax are limited and mostly inaccurate</li> <li>Limited choice of expression and with some inaccuracies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grammatical structures and syntax are inaccurate</li> <li>Very poor choice of expression and inaccurate</li> </ul>
	10 - 9	8 - 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 0
<b>Vocabulary and Register (10 marks)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide-ranging and appropriate vocabulary</li> <li>Good use of register</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good range and appropriate vocabulary</li> <li>Appropriate use of register</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choice of vocabulary is unambitious and sometimes inaccurate</li> <li>Adequate use of register but with some inaccuracies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited vocabulary, possibly seen in the repetition of words</li> <li>Not sensitive to the choice of register</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very limited and inappropriate choice of vocabulary</li> <li>Register is ignored</li> </ul>
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
<b>Punctuation (5 marks)</b>	Accurate use of punctuation	Good use of punctuation	Adequate use of punctuation but some errors	Punctuation use is rather poor	Punctuation use is very poor
<b>Spelling (5 marks)</b>	Spelling is accurate. 0 mistakes = 5 marks	Spelling of low-frequency words mostly accurate.  1-2 mistakes = 4½ marks 3-4 mistakes = 4 marks	Spelling of low-frequency words fairly accurate.  5 mistakes = 3½ marks 6 mistakes = 3 marks	Spelling of low-frequency words fairly accurate.  7 mistakes = 2½ marks 8 mistakes = 2 marks	Spelling of low-frequency and high-frequency words mostly inaccurate. 9 mistakes = 1 mark 10 mistakes = ½ mark 10+ mistakes = 0 marks



