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**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**

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

**This examination paper consists of TWO 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.**

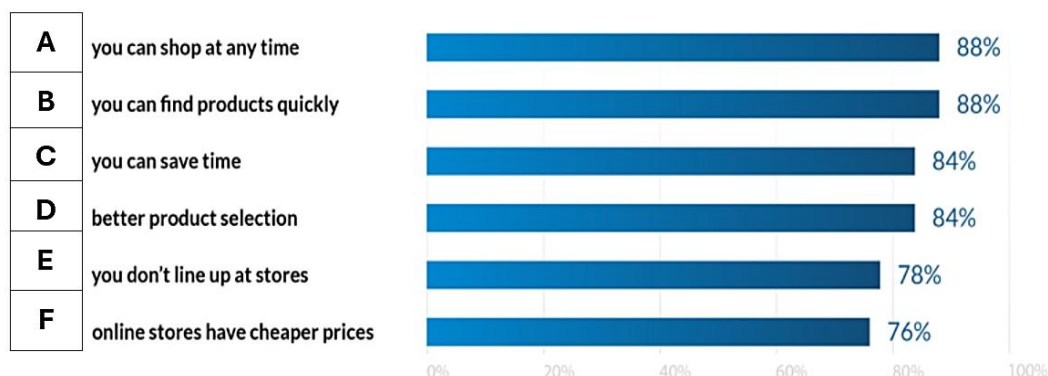
## Section A: Reading

50 marks

Task A1 Read the text below consisting of three figures (Figure 1, 2, and 3) and answer the questions which follow.

Source: National Public Radio

### 1 Top reasons for shopping online



### 2 What consumers look up on their mobiles while inside physical stores

Source: Global Online Consumer Report



### 3







#### Share of population that shopped online during the last 12 months, 2019

(% of population aged 16 to 74)



Adapted from <https://financesonline.com/online-shopping-statistics/> and <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

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

2. Underline the correct answer about Figure 1 and Figure 2. 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. 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 on the next page and answer all the questions that follow.

## Paragraph A

Cynthia Erivo has become one of the world's most celebrated performers, earning a Best Actress Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Elphaba in *Wicked*. Released last November, the movie became the highest-grossing stage-to-screen adaptation in history within just a month, earning critical and commercial acclaim. With ten Oscar nominations, it even outshone *Gladiator II*, initially tipped to dominate alongside *Wicked*. The movie was filmed in various locations across the United Kingdom, including Sky Studios Elstree in Hertfordshire. The director, Jon M. Chu, built practical sets and planted 9 million tulips to create the iconic landscape of Munchkinland, avoiding computer-generated imagery (CGI).

## Paragraph B

Erivo's connection to Elphaba feels almost autobiographical. Born in south London in 1987 to Nigerian parents **who** had fled the aftermath of the Biafran war, her childhood was marked by hardship. After her father disowned the family at a tube station when she was 16, her mother, a nurse, raised her and her sister alone.

## Paragraph C

Erivo's musical journey began early. Legend has it that her mother knew Erivo would be a singer from when she was 18 months old, though Erivo dates it from when she was five. "You don't really know the difference when you're five. **My** family's not a musical, acting family. I had no clue how to do **this**," Erivo says. By age 11, she realised she could sing, performing Aretha Franklin and Kate Bush songs she heard on Music FM. At La Retraite Catholic School in Clapham, she explored music through instruments like the clarinet, saxophone, and viola. However, **it** was her voice that stood out, paving the way for her future success.

## Paragraph D

Her career faced challenges, including classism and racism. At RADA, where she trained after a mentor's encouragement, while studying she had to work at the boutique shirt-making shop, Thomas Pink. This brought about exhaustion which often led to perceptions of laziness, limiting her casting opportunities in student productions. Despite these struggles, she found her breakthrough with *The Color Purple*, playing Celie first at Menier Chocolate Factory theatre and later on Broadway (the theatre district in New York City), **where** her performance drew nightly standing ovations for her song "I'm Here."

## Paragraph E

Erivo's on-screen career began with *Widows* in 2018 and *Harriet* in 2019, where she played Harriet Tubman, earning her an Oscar nomination. In 2021, her portrayal of Aretha Franklin in *Genius: Aretha* earned **her** an Emmy nomination. With *Wicked II* and three new films in development, Erivo's star continues to rise.

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	
Significant roles and film successes	
<i>Wicked's</i> success	
Education and qualifications	
Early influences	
Profound Bond with Elphaba	

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

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5. Fill in the grid with information about Cynthia Erivo. 3 marks

	Year / Number
a. year when she was first nominated for an award	
b. year when she got the most praise for a theatre role	
c. year when she was born	
d. age when her mother realised Cynthia's talents	
e. year when she started performing on TV	
f. age when Cynthia realised her own vocal talents	

6. Fill in the grid with information about Cynthia Erivo.

2 marks

	Name of place
a) where she performed The Color Purple	
b) where she worked while training	
c) where she was born	
d) where she studied as a child	

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.

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

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

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

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

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

d. Cynthia Erivo has a sibling.

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

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

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

f. Cynthia Erivo can play musical instruments.

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

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

2 marks

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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10. What do the following words, found in **bold** in the text, refer to? 3 marks

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. <b>who</b> _____  | d. <b>it</b> _____    |
| b. <b>My</b> _____   | e. <b>where</b> _____ |
| c. <b>this</b> _____ | f. <b>her</b> _____   |

11. From Paragraphs C, D and E, find ONE word which means: 3 marks

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| a. idea _____       | d. milestone _____ |
| b. preparing _____  | e. applause _____  |
| c. persuasion _____ | f. progress _____  |

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


☐

☐

☐

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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.

[illegible]



## 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.

Writing Task Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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[illegible]

**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**

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