



**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 Affairs and Tourism**

**Subject: English**  
**Date: Tuesday 15th July 2025**  
**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. The UN Climate Change Conference 2024 was held in
  - a. Azerbaijan.
  - b. Tajikistan.
  - c. Turkmenistan.
  - d. Scotland.
  - e. Egypt.
  
2. Which international organisation is responsible for promoting global financial stability and economic cooperation?
  - a. FSB - Financial Stability Board
  - b. WTO - World Trade Organisation
  - c. GATT - General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
  - d. OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
  - e. IMF - International Monetary Fund
  
3. Which of these set of countries are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council?
  - a. China, India, the United States of America, Turkey and Japan.
  - b. France, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Russian Federation and Poland.
  - c. China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
  - d. The United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, Ghana and Malaysia.
  - e. Switzerland, Malta, Algiers, the United States of America and Australia.
  
4. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a military alliance **primarily** composed of countries from
  - a. North America and Asia.
  - b. Europe and North America.
  - c. Asia and Africa.
  - d. South America and Europe.
  - e. Europe and Asia.
  
5. The reform policies of Glasnost and Perestroika in the 1980s were associated with
  - a. Joseph Stalin.
  - b. Vladimir Putin.
  - c. Leonid Brezhnev.
  - d. Mikhail Gorbachev.
  - e. Vladimir Lenin.
  
6. In 1962, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics almost went to war over the issue of Soviet nuclear weapons in
  - a. North Korea.
  - b. Cuba.
  - c. East Germany.
  - d. Syria.
  - e. Chile.

7. Who took Palestine from the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I in 1917-1918?
  - a. The United States of America
  - b. Germany
  - c. Great Britain
  - d. Italy
  - e. Israel
  
8. Immanuel Kant's *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch* is widely recognised as a foundational text for the modern Democratic Peace Theory. Which of the following statements best captures the central argument of this theory?
  - a. Democracies are inherently expansionist but less successful in war.
  - b. Shared political structures and values in democratic states are less likely to engage in war.
  - c. Strong economic liberalisation inevitably leads to global peace.
  - d. Monarchies are more stable and thus more conducive to peace.
  - e. Realist power balancing and military deterrence are primary tools of enduring peace.
  
9. Landings in Operation Torch during World War II were carried out at three main points:
  - a. Oran, Casablanca and Algiers.
  - b. Tunis, Algiers and Rabat.
  - c. Casablanca, Algiers and Tunis.
  - d. Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli.
  - e. Oran, Tunis and Tobruk.
  
10. Importation of European Union goods in the United States of America are hit by new tariffs. Who will pay the cost of these tariffs?
  - a. European Union exporters
  - b. Both European Union exporters and United States of America importers
  - c. United States of America importers and their customers
  - d. European Union and European Economic Area exporters
  - e. Both European Union exporters and United States of America exporters
  
11. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) offers
  - a. two economic corridors.
  - b. four economic corridors.
  - c. six economic corridors.
  - d. ten economic corridors.
  - e. twelve economic corridors.
  
12. What is the main emphasis of a cyber-security policy for a country?
  - a. Securing individual internet users
  - b. Securing cloud data
  - c. Securing social media networks and digital platforms
  - d. Securing the Internet of Things at households
  - e. Securing government infrastructure and digital assets
  
13. Which is the largest international organisation in Africa?
  - a. The African Union (AU)
  - b. The Arab League (AL)
  - c. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
  - d. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
  - e. Southern African Development Community (SADC)

14. The Istanbul Convention (2011) adopted by the Council of Europe is the first legally binding instrument on
  - a. defending freedom of expression and freedom of public assembly.
  - b. safeguarding freedom of speech.
  - c. preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
  - d. promoting citizenship and nationality.
  - e. securing migrants' rights and movement.
  
15. Which of the statements below best defines the UN Charter of Human Rights?
  - a. It encourages arbitrary arrest or detention, arbitrary interference with privacy and discrimination.
  - b. It makes no explicit reference but mentions that peace and security are linked with individual rights.
  - c. It says that human rights are universal and that all members must respect them fully or action will be taken by the Security Council.
  - d. It reaffirms respect for basic human rights and freedoms, the dignity and value of every person, and equal recognition of all nations, regardless of race, sex, language, or religion.
  - e. It allows countries to suspend all human rights during times of economic hardship.
  
16. A change in the government is an important feature of a democratic system which is made possible through the holding of
  - a. a coup d'état.
  - b. anomic political movements.
  - c. fresh elections.
  - d. an annexation.
  - e. a revolution.
  
17. What does diplomacy primarily involve?
  - a. Influencing decisions within one's own country
  - b. Effecting direct military intervention in other sovereign states
  - c. Planning and implementing domestic internal policies and negotiation
  - d. Imposing economic sanctions against other nations
  - e. Influencing decisions of other countries through dialogue and negotiation
  
18. Which type of diplomacy occurs between various state representatives?
  - a. Informal diplomacy
  - b. Formal diplomacy
  - c. Bilateral diplomacy
  - d. Multilateral diplomacy
  - e. Unilateral diplomacy
  
19. Which set of European Union countries is a member of the 5+5 Dialogue?
  - a. Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Portugal
  - b. Spain, Malta, Greece, Italy and Belgium
  - c. France, Malta, Turkey, Spain and Italy
  - d. Croatia, Monaco, Luxembourg, Greece and Italy
  - e. Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Cyprus
  
20. Who typically signs the letter of credence for an ambassador?
  - a. The Foreign Minister of the receiving state
  - b. The Prime Minister of the receiving state
  - c. The Head of Government of the sending state
  - d. The Dean of the Diplomatic corps of the sending country
  - e. The Head of State of the sending country

## **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 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism who will address the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

In your speech, you should outline Malta's dedication to youth empowerment and to the fight against violence and discrimination. You should involve the steps taken so far as well as future plans to ensure a safer, more inclusive society.

## **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. What is Malta's role within the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG)? Focus in detail on its contributions to the promotion of democracy, human rights, and good governance within the Commonwealth.
2. Over the last decade, Malta has increasingly addressed the development of cultural relations in terms of cultural diplomacy. To what extent has cultural diplomacy been an effective tool in promoting Malta's profile, values and interests?
3. Malta's Strategic Framework 2025-2026 rests on three strategic pillars focusing mainly on quality of life, sound values and optimising relations. In your opinion, in what ways will this offer a blueprint for a better future?
4. The European Union is advocating a circular economy to be in line with its 2050 climate neutrality goal. Discuss the benefits and the challenges of this economic model.
5. With reference to the Pact on Migration and Asylum, outline the problems of migration and give solutions that can manage and normalise migration for the long term, while also safeguarding the people in need.

**Total: 200 marks**

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