



Examination for the Enlistment of Soldiers in the Armed Forces of Malta (Regular Force) September 2025

Subject: English
Date: 11th September 2025
Time: 09.00 – 10.30 (One hour and a half)

Instructions to candidates:

- This examination paper consists of **THREE** sections: A, B and C. Read each text carefully and then answer **ALL** the questions for each text.
- There is a total of 50 questions. Each question contains four possible answers, but only **ONE** is correct.
- It is recommended that candidates mark **ONLY** the correct answer initially in pencil to allow for any potential changes in answers. Candidates are then requested to mark the final answer in black or blue ink.

e.g. If answer C is selected, fill in the appropriate circle as shown below.

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- Each question carries two (2) marks.

SECTION A

Read the text carefully and then answer ALL the questions (from 1 to 15) that follow:



WELCOME TO THE GRAND MASTER'S PALACE

A **SUBTITLE**

Proudly dominating St George's Square in the heart of Valletta, the Grand Master's Palace invites you to wander along **its** 450-year history as a centre of power and the symbol of a nation.

How to get there:

-  **Bus** – get off at Valletta City Gate and walk 10 mins to the palace
-  **Driving** – park at a **private car park** near City Gate and walk 10 mins to the palace.
-  Private tour or **taxi** – may include direct transportation to the palace

B **FACTS ABOUT THE PALACE**

- First building constructed by the Knights of St John in the new capital city and enlarged over the years
- Named the National Palace, by the French after Napoleon's expulsion of the knights.
- Became the Governor's Palace in 1800 at the start of British rule.
- Housed Malta's first constitutional parliament in 1921.
- Is currently the seat of the Office of the President of Malta.
- It is also Heritage Malta's most visited site, welcoming around 300,000 visitors each year!

Opening Hours
1st March - 31st October 2025

10:00 - 18:00

M T W T F S S



ICON

Admission Fees

Adults (18+): €12
Youths (12-17): €10
Senior Citizens (60+): €10
Children (6-11): €8

Duration: approx. 2 hours

C **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Armoury

If you are interested in military history, the Armoury should top your list! Considered one of the best in the world, it includes the armour suits of some of the Grand Masters, Ottoman armour and weapons, as well as a selection of artillery pieces.



The State Rooms

If you wish to delve deeply into history or just want to appreciate the unique artistic heritage, a visit to the Throne Room, Pages' Room, and the Ambassadors' Room will surely not disappoint! The priceless collections within the state rooms include an authentic visual narrative of the Great Siege of 1565 and ceiling paintings depicting the **opulent** pageantry of the Grand Masters.

The Moors Clock

Step into the beautiful Prince Alfred courtyard and admire the Moors Clock which was inaugurated in 1745, but local tradition has it that it dates back to the Order's arrival from Rhodes in 1530.

(Adapted from - <https://heritagemalta.mt/>)

Questions:

1. This text is taken from
 - a) a diary entry.
 - b) a tourist brochure.
 - c) a historical novel.
 - d) a government policy document.

2. The text
 - a) informs visitors.
 - b) advertises products.
 - c) narrates a ghost story.
 - d) criticises different sites.

3. What is the best subtitle for Part A of the text?
 - a) Walking through the city of Valletta
 - b) Entertainment in the heart of Valletta
 - c) A national legacy in the heart of Valletta
 - d) Modern Architecture in Malta

4. In the phrase “its 450-year history”, the word **its**, in bold and underlined in Part A of the text refers to
 - a) Valletta.
 - b) St George’s Square.
 - c) the Grand Master’s Palace.
 - d) the nation.

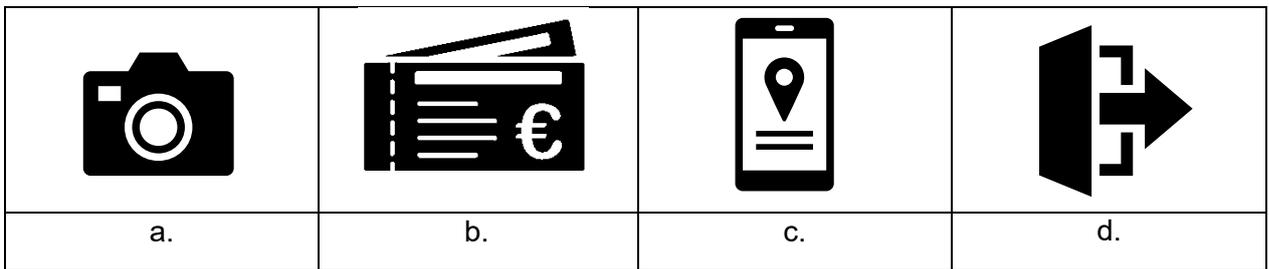
5. Which of these transport options provides the most straightforward route to the Grand Master’s Palace?
 - a) taking a bus to Valletta City Gate
 - b) driving to Valletta City Gate
 - c) booking a taxi to Valletta City Gate
 - d) booking a private tour or taxi with direct transportation

6. The Grand Master’s Palace was
 - a) constructed to house Malta’s first constitutional parliament.
 - b) built to inaugurate the Moors Clock.
 - c) the first structure built by the Knights of St John in Valletta.
 - d) built to serve as a store for armour and weapons.

7. The official use of the Grand Master’s Palace is presently that of:
 - a) a centre for historical research.
 - b) the seat of the Office of the President of Malta.
 - c) a venue for inauguration ceremonies.
 - d) a training centre for Heritage Malta.

8. The Grand Master’s Palace receives
 - a) a vast number of visitors.
 - b) a small number of visitors.
 - c) mainly official guests.
 - d) the President only.

9. How long does a typical visit to the Grand Master's Palace take?
- 10 minutes
 - one hour
 - a couple of hours
 - some days
10. The text does NOT give information about
- the entrance fee.
 - time when the site is open.
 - days when the site is open.
 - group discounts.
11. Which icon would be suitable for the 'Admission Fees' section?



12. Which of the following statements about the Armoury is TRUE according to the text?
- It is well known as one of the best of its kind worldwide.
 - It displays only weapons of the Order of the Knights of St. John.
 - It contains the suits of armour of all the Grand Masters of the Order.
 - It is known for a painting showing the story of the Great Siege of 1565.
13. Which parts of the palace are known as the State Rooms?
- the Throne Room, the Armoury, and Prince Alfred's Courtyard
 - the Pages' Room, the Ambassadors' Room, and the Throne Room
 - the President's Room, the Art room, and the Ambassadors' Room
 - the Ambassadors' Room, the Moors Clock Courtyard, and the Armoury
14. What is special about the Moors Clock?
- It was installed by the British in 1921.
 - It is located inside the Armoury.
 - It was imported from Rhodes in 1745.
 - It was inaugurated in 1745 but may date back to 1530.
15. In the phrase "depicting the opulent pageantry", the word '**opulent**', in bold and underlined in Part C of the text, means
- lavish.
 - visible.
 - colourful.
 - interesting.

15 x 2 marks = 30 marks

SECTION B

Read the text carefully and then answer ALL the questions (from 16 to 30) that follow:

It had been a long day, made longer by the August heat. The inspector felt a little tired. But he had no lack of appetite.

5 When he opened the oven, he was disappointed not to find anything. However, when he opened the refrigerator, he saw a salad of calamari, celery and tomatoes that still needed to be dressed with olive oil and lemon. Adelina had wisely prepared him a dish to be eaten cold.

A mild, newborn breeze was circulating on the verandah. It was too feeble to move the **dense** mass of heat that was holding out as night fell, but it was better than nothing.

10 He took off his clothes, put on his swimming trunks, ran down to the water and dived in. He went for a long swim, in broad, slow strokes. Returning to shore, he went into the house, set the little table on the verandah, and began to eat. When he had finished, he still felt hungry, so he prepared a plate of green olives, cured black olives, and some local cheese.

The light breeze on the verandah had matured from infancy to adolescence and was making itself felt.

15 He decided to **seize** this favourable moment when his thoughts weren't log-jammed by the heat and consider rationally the investigation he had on his hands. He cleared the little table of dishes, cutlery and glasses and replaced **them** with a few sheets of paper.

Since he didn't like to take notes, he decided to write himself a letter, as he sometimes did.

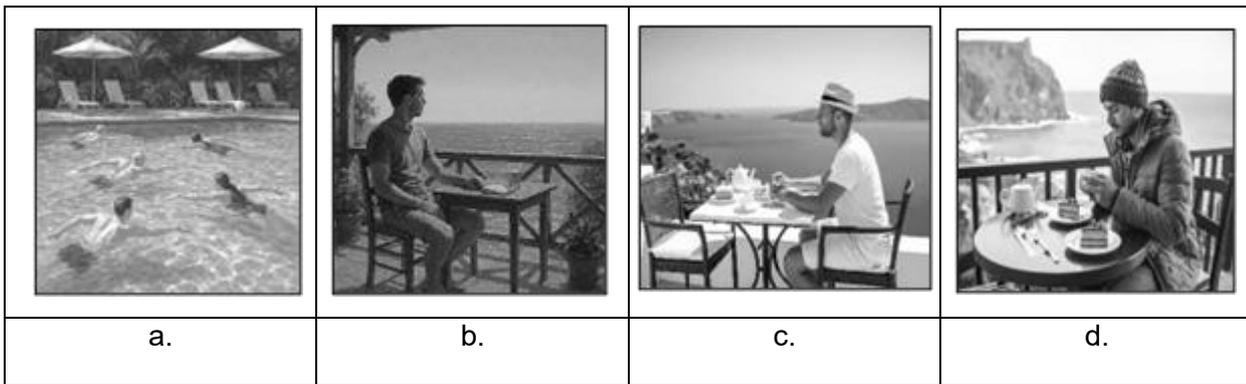
(Adapted from: *August Heat* by Andrea Camilleri, translated by Stephen Sartarelli)

Questions:

16. At the beginning of the extract the narrator tells the reader that it had been a
- long summer night.
 - long summer day.
 - beautiful day in Spring.
 - warm winter day.
17. The inspector
- felt like having something to eat.
 - did not feel like eating.
 - decided to cook a meal.
 - decided to take a nap.
18. The meal was placed in the
- oven.
 - freezer.
 - kitchen cupboard.
 - fridge.

19. The meal consisted of a
- baked dish.
 - well-seasoned salad.
 - salad without dressing.
 - tomato sandwich.
20. Why do you think it was wise of Adelina to have prepared a dish to be eaten cold?
- It was appropriate for a hot summer day.
 - There was nothing to heat the dish with.
 - There was no time to heat the dish.
 - The inspector only liked cold dishes.
21. In the phrase “the dense mass of heat”, the word **dense** in line 6 means
- light.
 - shiny.
 - tall.
 - thick.
22. When the inspector dived into the water he
- felt cold and swam back to shore.
 - went for a long slow swim.
 - swam vigorously to reach his destination.
 - went for a short swim close to shore.
23. After his swim, the inspector enjoyed dinner in
- his dining room.
 - his kitchen.
 - his outdoor area.
 - a restaurant.
24. The writer describes the light breeze as having “matured from infancy to adolescence” because it had
- died down.
 - become stronger.
 - become warmer.
 - remained the same.
25. In the phrase “decided to seize this favourable moment”, the word **seize** in line 14 means
- grasp.
 - enjoy.
 - stop.
 - chase.
26. Which of the following best describes the effect the heat had on the inspector?
- It made him feel sleepy.
 - He could not sleep.
 - He could not think clearly.
 - It made him lose his appetite.

27. After his meal, the inspector decided to
- wash the dishes in the kitchen.
 - change the sheets in the bedroom.
 - continue his investigation.
 - analyse the case he was investigating.
28. The word '**them**', in line 16 refers to
- the dishes, cutlery and glasses.
 - his hands.
 - a few sheets of paper.
 - his thoughts.
29. At the end of the text, the inspector writes
- a letter to a colleague to inform them about his investigation.
 - a letter to himself because he did not like to jot down notes.
 - a letter to himself because he was feeling lonely.
 - some notes to help him write a letter.
30. Which picture best describes this text?



15 x 2 marks = 30 marks

Please turn the page for Section C

SECTION C

Read the text carefully and then answer ALL the questions (from 31 to 50) that follow:

Record temperature of 46°C as Europe heatwave continues

A heatwave continues to grip large parts of Europe, with authorities in many countries issuing health warnings amid searing temperatures.

5 Southern Spain is the worst-affected region, with temperatures in the mid-40s degrees Celsius recorded in Seville and neighbouring areas. A new heat record for June of 46°C was set on Saturday in El Granado, according to Spain's national weather service, which also said this month is set to be the hottest June on record.

Red heat warnings are in force in parts of Portugal, Italy and Croatia, with numerous less dangerous warnings covering areas of Spain, France, Austria and other European countries.

10 In Italy, emergency departments across the country have reported an increase in heatstroke cases, mainly affecting elderly people, cancer patients and homeless people. In Bologna, seven climate shelters with air conditioning and drinking water have been set up, while Rome has offered free access to city swimming pools for those over 70. In Portugal's capital, Lisbon, although people have been warned not to go out during the hottest hours of the day, some cases of heatstroke and burns have already been reported.

15 The severe heat has also affected countries across the western Balkans where temperatures reached were in excess of 40°C. Serbia registered its highest-ever temperature since it began recording them in the 19th century. In Slovenia, the hottest-ever June temperature was recorded on Saturday. North Macedonia is also sweltering as temperatures reached 42°C on Friday.

20 Some areas will continue to get hotter until the middle of the week, with temperatures rising across France, Germany, Italy and the UK over the next few days. Yellow and amber alerts are in place for parts of England this weekend, and temperatures in London may reach 35°C on Monday.

Over a number of days, the heat has been building under a big area of high pressure, and with dry air descending and warming, temperatures have climbed. The area of high pressure will move eastwards over the next few days – taking the high temperatures northwards and eastwards with it.

25 While it is hard to link individual extreme weather events to climate change, heatwaves are becoming more common and more intense due to climate change. Scientists at World Weather Attribution, who analyse the influence of climate change on extreme weather events, say June heatwaves with three consecutive days above 28°C are about 10 times more likely to occur now compared to pre-industrial times.

(Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9dgqnnndx9xo>)

Questions:

31. The text is about a heatwave in
- a) America.
 - b) Europe.
 - c) Africa.
 - d) Australia.
32. The main aim of the text is to
- a) narrate.
 - b) advertise.
 - c) persuade.
 - d) inform.
33. In which section of a news portal would one be able to read this article?
- a) Entertainment
 - b) Sport
 - c) Weather
 - d) Business
34. The writer's tone in the article is
- a) optimistic.
 - b) serious.
 - c) encouraging.
 - d) humorous.
35. The expression '**searing temperatures**', in line 2, means
- a) very cold temperatures.
 - b) warm temperatures
 - c) scorching temperatures.
 - d) cool temperatures.
36. The hardest hit region was
- a) France.
 - b) Portugal.
 - c) Southern Spain.
 - d) Southern Italy.
37. A new heat record for June was recorded in
- a) Bologna.
 - b) El Granado.
 - c) Rome.
 - d) Lisbon.
38. The new heat record for June in Southern Spain was
- a) 40°C.
 - b) 42°C.
 - c) 46°C.
 - d) 50°C.

39. Red heat warnings are in force in
- France.
 - Austria.
 - Spain.
 - Portugal.
40. According to emergency departments the incidence of heatstroke cases went up in
- Portugal.
 - Italy.
 - France.
 - Germany.
41. Climate shelters were set up in
- Naples.
 - Rome.
 - Turin.
 - Bologna.
42. The climate shelters include
- a swimming pool and umbrellas.
 - availability of drinking water in an airconditioned venue.
 - emergency department doctors and nurses.
 - accommodation for the homeless.
43. In Rome, swimming pools did not charge people over
- 40.
 - 50.
 - 60.
 - 70.
44. In Lisbon, warnings not to go out during the hottest hours of the day were
- disregarded by some people.
 - not issued at all.
 - obeyed by all.
 - still to be issued.
45. The expression 'in excess of', in line 16 means
- under.
 - over.
 - equal to.
 - less than.
46. According to the text, temperatures in London may go up to
- 35°C.
 - 40°C.
 - 42°C.
 - 46°C.

47. In the next few days, the area of high pressure will move
- eastwards towards the south.
 - westwards towards the north.
 - westwards towards the south.
 - eastwards towards the north.
48. In pre-industrial times, heatwaves
- occurred just like nowadays.
 - occurred less frequently than nowadays.
 - never occurred.
 - occurred only in August.
49. The word 'who', in line 27 refers to
- climate change.
 - heatwaves.
 - scientists.
 - pre-industrial times.
50. Which one of the following best summarises most of the text?
- Southern Spain, especially Seville and El Granado, is experiencing extreme heat, with a record 46°C in June. Red alerts are active in Portugal, Italy, and Croatia, while France, Austria, and others enjoy cooler temperatures. Italy has opened climate shelters and free pools exclusively for seniors. All Lisbon residents are to remain indoors to avoid cases of heatstroke. The western Balkans are also sweltering, with Serbia and Slovenia breaking records. A low-pressure system is pushing cooler air northward, with the prospect of thunderstorms.
 - A record-breaking heatwave is sweeping across Europe, with El Granado, Spain, hitting 46°C—the highest June temperature recorded. Southern Spain, Italy, Portugal, and the western Balkans are severely affected, prompting red alerts and health warnings. Emergency measures include climate shelters and free pool access for vulnerable groups. The heat, driven by a high-pressure system, is expected to intensify across northern Europe. Scientists link the increased frequency and intensity of such heatwaves to climate change.
 - Europe is experiencing mild summer weather, with temperatures averaging around 30°C. Northern Spain has seen light breezes, while Portugal and Italy report cooler-than-usual conditions. Emergency services are largely unaffected, and no health warnings have been issued. The UK expects rain over the weekend, with London staying below 20°C. Scientists believe climate change has had little impact on recent weather patterns, and high-pressure systems are expected to bring cooler air across the continent by midweek.
 - The UK is currently experiencing a historic heatwave, with temperatures reaching 46°C in London, setting a national record. Red heat alerts have been issued across England, and hospitals are overwhelmed with heatstroke cases, especially among the elderly. The government has opened cooling shelters and free public pools. Scientists warn that such extreme weather is now ten times more likely due to climate change, with the heat expected to intensify throughout the week.

20 x 2 marks = 40 marks

TOTAL: 100 marks

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER

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