

Index no: _____



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



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

Index Number must be written once ONLY above the perforation.

Write your answers in blue or black ink.

Qualifying Examination for Supply Learning Support Educators

November 2025

Subject: English Language

Date: 5th November 2025

Time: 16:00 – 17:30 (One hour and thirty minutes)

Instructions to candidates:

This examination paper consists of THREE sections. Read the instructions for each section carefully.

Answer Section A on the booklet provided, clearly indicating the question you are answering.

Answer Section B and C in the space provided on this paper.

Section A: Long Writing Task (40 marks)

Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the tasks 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. Outdoor activities are becoming increasingly popular in the school curriculum. Write an **article** to be posted on a teachers' online forum on the advantages and disadvantages of hosting a school event at a water park.

OR

2. As secretary of the school's fundraising group, write an **informative report** for the next staff meeting reporting on what activities have already been held and outlining the plans for the next two terms.

Section B: Reading Comprehension and Summary (50 marks)

Read the following text carefully and answer all of the questions that follow on the lines provided.



Search

THE Healthy | Games & Entertainment | House & Home | Humour & Holidays

Published on March 25, 2025

By Charlotte Hilton Andersen

Your mailbox is a target. Here's how to protect **it** like a pro.

Your grandma always remembers your birthday and faithfully sends a card with a little cash tucked inside. But this year? No card. No cash. Did Grandma forget? (Never!) Or ... did some lowlife snatch **it** right out of your mailbox?

- 5 You may have been hit by a mail thief—or as **they**’re known, porch pirates—and they’re becoming both more prolific and bolder in their crimes. In 2024, more than 58 million people in the United States (U.S.) reported stolen packages, adding up to a jaw-dropping \$13 billion in losses.

SUBHEADING A

10 Mail theft has skyrocketed in recent years thanks to a perfect storm of online shopping overload. The surge in online shopping particularly during the holiday season has led to an increase in package deliveries, making mailboxes more attractive targets for thieves. The convenience of home delivery services has resulted in more unattended packages on doorsteps, providing easy
15 opportunities for theft. The sharp rise in cheque-fraud scams has also made stealing mail more lucrative, as criminals use chemicals to alter and cash in stolen cheques. Unfortunately, the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has also driven some individuals to desperate measures, including mail theft, to make quick money. There is a perception that property crimes,
20 including mail theft, are not being prosecuted aggressively. This perception may embolden criminals, knowing they might face minimal consequences.

As a result, **both** individuals and postal services are taking extra precautions to protect their mail and packages from being stolen. “Your mail security is of paramount importance for the United States Postal Service (USPS), and **we** take it very seriously,” says Philip Bogenberger, a USPS spokesperson. “Mail theft is a serious federal crime, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, **which** is the law enforcement arm of the Postal Service, investigates thousands of crimes each year involving the mail. The punishment for mail theft can be quite severe. A conviction for mail theft can result in fines and imprisonment for up to five
30 years.”

So, what can **you** do to make sure your mail doesn’t end up in the wrong hands?

SUBHEADING B

35 It's very common and it's getting worse. It's tough to pin down exact numbers, partly because mail theft can happen in so many ways and often goes unreported. Still, recent statistics paint a pretty alarming picture:

- In 2023, there were more than 250,000 complaints of mail theft, a massive jump from fewer than 60,000 in 2018.
- A Capital One survey found that 1 in 7 Americans had a package stolen in 40 2022.
- Of those victims, 33% had it happen more than once.

Mail theft isn't rare—it's rampant. And it's not just annoying. It can lead to stolen cheques and packages, fraud and even identity theft. Time to lock things down.

SUBHEADING C

45 "**My** number 1 tip? Sign up for Informed Delivery," Bogenberger says. This is a complimentary service from the USPS that alerts customers by sending you a daily email previewing your mail and packages scheduled to arrive soon. You can see images of your incoming letter-sized mail (address side only) and track and manage your package deliveries through the USPS site.

50 Here are a few more USPS-approved tips to protect your incoming mail:

- Pick up your mail promptly. Don't let mail sit in your box overnight.
- Install a locking mailbox.
- Ask that valuable packages be held at the post office, and pick them up personally.
- Ask a trusted neighbour to collect your mail if you're going out of town. 55

SUBHEADING D

Outgoing mail can be just as vulnerable. The safest strategy? Skip the home mailbox altogether. "If customers feel more comfortable mailing important items at a post office, they can opt to mail their letters at any post office," 60 Bogenberger says.

Other USPS-approved tips to protect your outgoing mail:

- Use an official USPS blue collection box (but only before the day's final pickup—don't leave outgoing mail overnight, as thieves have been known to steal the entire contents of blue collection boxes).
- Don't put the red flag up on your home mailbox if you have one. While it 65 may be convenient, it's also a bright signal to thieves that there's something inside.

Sources:

Adapted from <https://www.rd.com/>

Underline the correct answer in questions 1-4.

(4 marks)

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

- a. Games & Entertainment
- b. House & Home
- c. Humour & Holidays

2. The main purpose of this article is to

- a. inform readers about mail theft and give advice on how to prevent it.
- b. entertain readers with stories about mail theft incidents and show the funny side to it.
- c. persuade readers to stop using the postal service and criticise the USPS for not preventing mail theft.

3. Which title would best fit this article?

- a. "The History of the Postal Service: From Past to Present"
- b. "Stories About Lost Mail: Tales from the Post Office"
- c. "The Rise of Mail Theft: How to Protect Your Mail"

4. People interested in this text are most likely

- a. consumers worried about mail theft.
- b. postal service employees interested in procedures.
- c. historians researching on the history of mail theft.

5. What example does the writer start the article with to show how everyone can be affected by mail theft? (1 mark)

6. Why is the term 'porch pirates' appropriate? (1 mark)

11. According to the text, give two reasons why "It's tough to pin down exact numbers" (line 34). (1 mark)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

12. Are the following statements True or False? Underline the correct answer and give a reason from the text. (8 marks)

a. Bogenberger investigates mail theft with USPS.

True / False because

b. Under US law, mail theft is a minor offence.

True / False because

c. People accused of mail theft might end up in jail.

True / False because

d. Mail theft statistics show an approximate number.

True / False because

e. Mail theft has increased greatly in recent years.

True / False because

f. More than 250,000 people were charged with mail theft in 2023.

True / False because

g. The Capital One study was conducted in America.

True / False because

h. The majority of victims of mail theft experienced this crime at least twice.

True / False because

13. Give two examples of mail theft according to the text. (1 mark)

(i) _____

(ii) _____

14. What is Bogenberger's main suggestion to protect incoming mail? (1 mark)

15. Give four reasons why Informed Delivery is useful. (2 marks)

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

16. Apart from Informed Delivery, write four other suggestions mentioned in the text to help protect mail you'll be receiving. (2 marks)

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

17. What is Bogenberger's main suggestion for outgoing mail? (1 mark)

18. According to the text, when should people put their mail in the blue collection boxes? (1 mark)

19. i. Underline the correct word. The writer's attitude towards USPS is a (positive / negative / neutral) one. (1 mark)

ii. Quote a sentence from lines 49-51 to support your answer. (1 mark)

20. What do the following words in **bold** refer to in the passage? (4 marks)

- a. **it** (line 1) _____
- b. **it** (line 4) _____
- c. **they** (line 5) _____
- d. **both** (line 22) _____
- e. **we** (line 24) _____
- f. **which** (line 26) _____
- g. **you** (line 31) _____
- h. **My** (line 45) _____

21. Between lines 40 and 54, find ONE word which means: (4 marks)

- a. widespread _____
- b. free _____
- c. informs _____
- d. showing _____
- e. planned _____
- f. follow _____
- g. quickly _____
- h. important _____

22. Match the missing subheadings in the text by writing the correct letter (A-D).
(2 marks)

Subheadings	Letter
How common is mail theft?	
How can we prevent outgoing mail theft?	
Why has mail theft increased?	
How can we prevent incoming mail theft?	

23. Tick (✓) the picture which best fits this text. (1 mark)









24. Underline the correct answer. At the end of this text, there is a section entitled **Sources**. Which one of these would be included there? (1 mark)

- a. Report missing mail to the USPS right away
- b. We verify all facts and data with credible sourcing
- c. Security.org: "2024 Package Theft Statistics"
- d. Charlotte is an award-winning journalist

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