



Examination for the Post of Second Secretary in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism

Subject: English
Date: July 2026
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. In which year was the United Nations established?
 - a. 1918
 - b. 1939
 - c. 1945
 - d. 1949
 - e. 1991
2. Which international organization is primarily responsible for promoting global financial stability and providing short-term loans to countries in crisis?
 - a. World Bank
 - b. International Monetary Fund
 - c. World Trade Organization
 - d. World Health Organization
 - e. United Nations Development Programme
3. The "Bipolar" system of the 20th century primarily refers to the rivalry between:
 - a. United Kingdom and France
 - b. Germany and Japan
 - c. Algeria and Morocco
 - d. Pakistan and India
 - e. United States of America and the Soviet Union
4. Which school of thought argues that States are the primary actors in an anarchic international system and primarily seek power?
 - a. Liberalism
 - b. Constructivism
 - c. Realism
 - d. Marxism
 - e. Post colonialism
5. Which agreement signed in 2020 – and subsequently expanded – normalised diplomatic relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain?
 - a. Abraham Accords
 - b. Oslo Accords
 - c. Camp David Accords
 - d. Treaty of Versailles
 - e. Arab Peace Initiative
6. What was the primary cause of the 1990 Persian Gulf War?
 - a. A conflict over the Suez Canal
 - b. The Iranian Revolution
 - c. Territorial disputes over the Golan Heights
 - d. The invasion by Iraq of Kuwait
 - e. Iraqi attacks against civilians in Israel

7. What was the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) that established the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in 2000?
 - a. UNSCR 1820
 - b. UNSCR 2493
 - c. UNSCR 1880
 - d. UNSCR 2242
 - e. UNSCR 1325
8. When applied to cyberspace, the "security dilemma" in international relations suggests that:
 - a. States can trust each other without verification.
 - b. cybersecurity for one State may imply insecurity for others.
 - c. military alliances are redundant in a multipolar digital world.
 - d. economic cooperation always prevents cyber conflict.
 - e. there exists the inability to pay for advanced security software.
9. The main focus of the World Bank is to:
 - a. reduce poverty and promote sustainable economic development.
 - b. regulate currency levels and provide financial stability.
 - c. manage regional financial cooperation.
 - d. protect international human rights.
 - e. increase military strength and expand trade.
10. How often do the Commonwealth Heads of Government formally meet?
 - a. Every year
 - b. Every two years
 - c. Every four years
 - d. Every six months
 - e. Every month
11. What event in 1979 marked the final withdrawal of British military forces from Malta?
 - a. Victory Day
 - b. Independence Day
 - c. Sette Giugno
 - d. Republic Day
 - e. Freedom Day
12. In which year did Malta adopt the Euro as its official currency?
 - a. 2004
 - b. 2006
 - c. 2008
 - d. 2010
 - e. 2017
13. What is the primary role of the "Antici Group" in the Council of the European Union?
 - a. Assisting Permanent Representatives in preparing Council meetings
 - b. Preparing the meetings of the Political and Security Committee
 - c. Managing the humanitarian aid budget of the European Union
 - d. Leading diplomatic negotiations with non-European Union States
 - e. Assisting the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
14. Who currently serves as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy?
 - a. Josep Borrell
 - b. Federica Mogherini
 - c. Ursula von der Leyen
 - d. Kaja Kallas
 - e. António Costa

15. The regional bloc CELAC stands for:
- Central American and Caribbean League
 - Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
 - Council of Latin American Economic Cooperation
 - Caribbean and Latin American Countries' Entity
 - Council of Economic Long-term Action in the Caribbean
16. Which of these countries is NOT a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?
- China
 - France
 - Germany
 - United Kingdom
 - Russian Federation
17. The United Nations Human Rights Council is based in:
- Brussels
 - Geneva
 - Strasbourg
 - New York
 - The Hague
18. Which organization was the immediate predecessor to the African Union?
- African League of Nations
 - Pan-African Parliament
 - Economic Community of West African States
 - Organization of African Unity
 - African Development Bank
19. In diplomatic protocol, the term "precedence" refers to the:
- right to declare war before another nation.
 - ranking for countries by date of independence.
 - priority of economic treaties over security treaties.
 - historical age of a country's government.
 - official order of ranking for representatives and States.
20. What does the principle of *pacta sunt servanda* mean in diplomatic law?
- Treaties are temporary agreements that expire after 10 years.
 - Treaties can be ignored if they conflict with domestic laws.
 - Treaties must be approved by the United Nations General Assembly.
 - Treaties are binding and must be performed in good faith.
 - Treaties can only be signed among democratic countries.

Section B: Speech Writing

(80 marks)

Carefully read the following situation and 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 United Nations General Assembly.

In the speech, you should outline Malta's commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals with particular reference to Quality Education and Decent Work and Economic Growth. You should refer to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Malta's Foreign Policy Statement to show Malta's dedication to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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. Food and water security remain major challenges. Discuss the role of foreign policy decisions and international diplomatic engagement in mitigating these challenges, highlighting both opportunities and limitations.
2. Multilateralism is facing mounting pressures that threaten the stability of the contemporary international order. Identify the principal challenges undermining multilateral cooperation and propose practical diplomatic strategies to address this issue.
3. The United Nations Charter remains the foundational framework guiding the UN's conduct and decision-making in the contemporary international environment. How far do you agree with this statement?
4. A Two-State Solution in the Middle East is a widely endorsed, albeit challenging framework. What is your opinion, considering regional dynamics, international involvement, and structural obstacles to peace?
5. Foreign development aid for development in Africa offers crucial capital for infrastructure, technology, and poverty reduction but faces challenges regarding dependency, policy interference, and uneven impact. To what extent is this a valid statement?

Total: 200 marks**END OF EXAMINATION PAPER**

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