

50. Which of the following paragraphs best summarises the text?

- a) Maya Angelou was a famous American writer, poet and activist who made a significant impact on journalism. She is best known for her performance 'Porgy and Bess'. The poem 'Still I Rise', which she presented with Martin Luther King in New York, brought her fame. A difficult childhood, marked by poverty and struggles with her brother, influenced her writing. Throughout her life, she supported the civil rights movement and taught African literature at Wake Forest University. Maya Angelou is remembered mainly for her performance in the film Down in the Delta in 1986.
- b) Maya Angelou was a famous American writer, poet and activist who made a big impact on literature and culture. She is best known for her book 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'. She also wrote well-known poems like 'Still I Rise' and spoke at a president's event. A difficult childhood, during which she faced racism, influenced her writing. Throughout her life, she held many jobs and actively supported the civil rights movement in the United States. Maya Angelou is remembered today as a powerful voice for equality, strength and hope.
- c) Maya Angelou was a famous American writer, poet and activist who had a strong influence on literature and culture. She is best known for her memoir 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings', which was published in the 1980s and became very popular. She also wrote famous poems like 'Still I Rise' and 'Phenomenal Woman', which brought her worldwide recognition. Angelou grew up in New York and had a happy childhood, which shaped her confident voice as a writer. During her life, she worked in many areas, including performance, journalism and teaching. She is remembered as an important voice for child protection, courage and hope.
- d) Maya Angelou was a well-known American writer, poet and activist who greatly influenced literature and culture. She is most famous for her memoir 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings', which became very popular after her death in 2014. In addition, she wrote well-known poems such as 'Still I Rise' and 'Phenomenal Woman', gaining recognition, mainly in her country. She grew up in San Francisco and experienced a normal childhood during which she developed a love for theatre. Throughout her life, she worked in different fields, including performing, journalism and teaching. Today, she is remembered for her love for stories.

20 x 2 marks = 40 marks

TOTAL: 100 marks

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND SPORT
DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

Examination for the Enlistment of Soldiers in the Armed Forces of Malta (Regular Force) September 2026

Subject: English

Date: 10th September 2026

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.
- Mark your answers on the Answer Sheet provided. Write ONLY your Index Number in the space provided on the Answer Sheet.
- 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, shade the appropriate circle as shown below.

50.	☐ A	☐ B	☒ C	☐ D
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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:



(Adapted from an infographic generated by Notebook LM)

47. Maya Angelou
- gave up acting to start teaching.
 - became a journalist while she was teaching.
 - started acting when she gave up teaching.
 - directed a film while she was teaching.
48. A new set of coins was issued to
- honour Maya Angelou in 2014.
 - mark Maya Angelou's death.
 - celebrate Maya Angelou's life in 2021.
 - recognise Maya Angelou's stories and poems.
49. Which of the following titles best suits the text?
- A Famous American Political Figure
 - A Woman in History who Changed the World
 - Why Maya Angelou became a Singer
 - A Childhood Actor and Singer in the United States

39. Maya Angelou
- was given her first name at birth.
 - changed her first name when she started acting.
 - chose her first name to avoid racism.
 - got her first name by coincidence.
40. Maya Angelou's writing was influenced by
- her childhood experiences.
 - the birth of her son, Clyde.
 - her tours around the world.
 - her great love of acting.
41. Maya Angelou studied the performing arts in
- St Louis.
 - San Francisco.
 - Arkansas.
 - Missouri.
42. Which one of the following is NOT correct? In the 1950s, Angelou
- restricted her shows to the United States.
 - took part in the Porgy and Bess show.
 - sang in different parts of the world.
 - acted in theatre productions worldwide.
43. Maya Angelou's work in favour of civil rights began in
- 1950
 - 1957
 - 1960
 - 1972
44. In the phrase 'working **there**' (line 20), **there** refers to
- Egypt and Ghana.
 - Wake Forest University.
 - the world of film.
 - San Francisco.
45. Maya Angelou is remembered for having made an important first achievement more than once. How many times did this take place?
- Twice.
 - Three times.
 - Four times.
 - Five times.
46. The phrase 'earning critical acclaim' (line 22-23) means that Maya Angelou was
- being well-paid for doing her job.
 - receiving harsh and severe criticism.
 - gaining positive and glowing reviews.
 - becoming popular despite criticism.

Questions:

- What is the best title for this text?
 - How to build your own eco-friendly house
 - Patterns in modern housing in today's society
 - The living room as the home's main space
 - Comparing life in a flat and life in a house
- This text is best described as
 - a report describing the services in a busy housing estate.
 - an advertisement selling different types of houses.
 - a project explaining housing design.
 - a poster giving information about housing tendencies.
- The living room is described as 'the Heart of the Home' because it is the room
 - where family members share most activities.
 - which accommodates most family members.
 - that is mainly used on special occasions.
 - that is located in the centre of the building.
- The subheading 'City Dwellers Live in Apartments' suggests that
 - mostly younger people choose apartments in cities.
 - urban residents prefer smaller spaces with gardens.
 - apartments are the most common type of housing in cities.
 - apartments are the least common type of housing in cities.
- The phrase 'become denser' in the sentence 'Today many younger people prefer flats as cities **become denser**' means that cities have become
 - more crowded with people and buildings.
 - busier with more shops and traffic.
 - more developed with newer buildings.
 - larger due to houses and buildings.
- Lately, homebuyers are selecting their living spaces based on their
 - preference for traditional architecture.
 - daily needs and routines.
 - closeness to relatives and friends.
 - desire to follow popular trends.
- Which picture best represents a semi-detached house? Circle the correct answer below.



8. In the sentence 'Families in suburbs often choose these for increased privacy, gardens, and garages', **these** refers to
- the suburbs in the desired location.
 - detached or semi-detached houses.
 - the families in the neighbourhood.
 - extra privacy, outdoor space and garages.
9. According to the text, the main reason why people choose to live in a flat is that it
- is often situated near shops and other services.
 - includes its own private parking space and storage.
 - is easy to keep clean since pets are not allowed.
 - is furnished and the rent includes utility bills.
10. According to the text, when comparing a house and an apartment,
- a house offers more benefits than an apartment.
 - an apartment offers more benefits than a house.
 - neither of the options has any drawbacks.
 - both options have equal benefits and drawbacks.
11. The statement '60% of buyers want spacious rooms' is
- a prediction.
 - an opinion.
 - a fact.
 - a comparison.
12. What percentage of people look for a home that offers some kind of outdoor area?
- 35%
 - 55%
 - 60%
 - 45%
13. What does the predicted 30% rise in eco-friendly homes suggest?
- People are becoming more interested in sustainable living.
 - 30% agree that eco-friendly homes are the better option.
 - Residents are ignoring environmentally conscious choices.
 - Sustainable houses are failing to solve environmental problems.
14. Eco-friendly homes are expected to become more popular
- after the turn of the century.
 - over the next ten years.
 - with the upcoming generation.
 - within the next two weeks.
15. Which type of information is NOT provided in the text?
- Some statistical data about the preferences of buyers
 - Some common changes in the way people live
 - The benefits of different living arrangements
 - The structural differences between houses and flats

15 x 2 marks = 30 marks

Questions:

31. The main aim of the text is to
- narrate.
 - advise.
 - persuade.
 - inform.
32. The text is mainly about Maya Angelou's
- life and career.
 - family and friends.
 - travels to Africa.
 - poetry recitals.
33. The text is
- an article.
 - an advertisement.
 - a biography.
 - a review.
34. The writer's tone in the text is
- respectful and admiring.
 - critical and defamatory.
 - celebratory and joyful.
 - informal and chatty.
35. Which one of the following contains an opinion?
- Maya Angelou (born...April 4, 1928...).
 - Maya Angelou was a celebrated American author.
 - Maya Angelou was a poet, performer.
 - Maya Angelou was a civil rights activist.
36. The phrase 'groundbreaking 1969 memoir' (line 3) refers to
- an outdated story.
 - a disturbing memory.
 - a breaking news story.
 - an original personal account.
37. Maya Angelou won a Grammy Award for the poem
- Phenomenal Woman.
 - Still I rise.
 - I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
 - On the Pulse of Morning.
38. Maya Angelou went to Arkansas to
- collect an important award.
 - look for a job after her son was born.
 - move in with Anne Henderson.
 - learn how to dance, sing and act.

SECTION C

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

- Maya Angelou** (born Marguerite Ann Johnson, April 4, 1928–May 28, 2014) was a celebrated American author, poet, performer, and civil rights activist whose work reshaped modern literature and culture. She is best known for her groundbreaking 1969 memoir ‘I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings’, the first nonfiction bestseller written by a Black woman. Angelou also gained worldwide recognition for poems such as ‘Still I Rise,’ ‘Phenomenal Woman,’ and ‘On the Pulse of Morning,’ which she recited at President Bill Clinton’s 1993 inauguration, and which earned her a Grammy Award.
- Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and raised in Arkansas after her parents divorced. She and her brother, Bailey, were sent to live there with their grandmother, Anne Henderson. Unable to pronounce her name, Bailey called her ‘My’ for ‘My sister’. A few years later, when he read a book about the Maya Indians, he began to call her ‘Maya’, and the name stuck.
- Growing up, she experienced racial discrimination and personal trauma, shaping the themes of resilience and identity that would later define her writing. At 16, she gave birth to her son, Clyde Johnson, and worked various jobs to support him. After moving to San Francisco, she studied dance and acting and made history as the city’s first Black female cable car conductor.
- Her career as a performer began in the 1950s, when she sang, acted, and toured internationally, including appearing in ‘Porgy and Bess’. Angelou released the album ‘Miss Calypso’ in 1957 and appeared in film and theatre productions. In the early 1960s, she became deeply involved in the civil rights movement, working with leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. She also lived in Egypt and Ghana, working **there** as a journalist and editor.
- Returning to the United States, Angelou continued to excel across creative fields. She became the first Black woman to have a produced screenplay with ‘Georgia, Georgia’ (1972), earning critical acclaim and a Pulitzer Prize nomination. As an actor, she appeared in the miniseries ‘Roots’ and films including ‘Poetic Justice’ (1993) and ‘Madea’s Family Reunion’ (2006). She later directed ‘Down in the Delta’ (1998).
- In 1982, Angelou joined Wake Forest University as Reynolds Professor of American Studies, teaching there for nearly three decades. Angelou died in 2014, leaving a lasting legacy as a fearless storyteller and influential voice for justice, humanity, and self-determination. Seven years later, it was announced that she would be commemorated with a new series of coins from the United States Mint called The American Women Quarters Program.

(Adapted from: <https://shorturl.at/TTUSz>)

SECTION B

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

- Leo had dreamed of space ever since he was a child. While other kids played games, he watched the night sky from the roof of his house and counted the stars. His father once told him that space was cold and dangerous, but Leo only smiled. To him, space was full of questions and promise. Now, at thirty-five, he was finally an astronaut, sitting alone inside his ship.
- 5 His ship, Orion, **glided** through space. The spacecraft was long and silver, with wide solar panels stretching from its sides like wings. At the front, a curved window allowed Leo to watch the **endless** stars. Inside, the cabin was small but full of glowing screens, controls, and narrow compartments for sleeping, working, and storing supplies. Everything inside Orion was designed for one astronaut on a very long journey.
- 10 Leo was on a mission to explore a new planet far beyond the Moon and Mars. It was the first mission of its kind. No team. No return date. Just him, the ship, and the unknown future ahead.
- For the first months, everything went as planned. Every morning, Leo checked the ship’s systems, sent reports to Earth, but he began to notice that as the ship travelled farther, communication delays grew longer. Messages that once took seconds now took hours. One day, the messages stopped completely. Leo tried again and again, but there was only silence. Fear touched him, but he stayed calm and focused on the mission.
- 15
- Weeks later, the ship detected a strange signal — weak but clear. Not from Earth. The engines shook and alarms rang deafeningly. Light filled the ship. Then everything was still. A signal blinked on the screen. Leo’s eyes filled with tears. He was not alone.

(Adapted from: <https://shortstories.com/the-astronaut>)

Questions:

16. Leo’s interest in space started when he
- was a young boy.
 - was a teenager.
 - was a student at university.
 - started secondary school.
17. How did Leo’s father feel about outer space?
- He admired space.
 - He thought space was boring.
 - He felt afraid of space.
 - He found space exciting.
18. Leo went on his first mission
- with other astronauts.
 - as a captain of a team.
 - with his father.
 - on his very own.

19. Orion, the spaceship, glided through space (line 5). Here, **glided** means its movement was
- smooth and effortless.
 - slow and without control.
 - fast and noisy.
 - bumpy and difficult.

20. In the phrase 'the endless stars' (line 7), the word **endless** means
- very bright.
 - far away.
 - without limit.
 - difficult to see.

21. The description of Orion suggests that the
- spaceship was built for astronauts on a long mission.
 - spaceship was poorly equipped for a short mission.
 - mission required an astronaut to survive alone for a long time.
 - mission was meant to be speedy even if not completely safe.

22. Leo's mission was special because it
- set out to explore Mars.
 - was manned by a robot.
 - aimed to monitor the Moon.
 - was very dangerous.

23. Leo ran checks on
- an hourly basis.
 - a daily basis.
 - a monthly basis.
 - a quarterly basis.

24. What problem did Leo encounter?
- He could not store any more supplies.
 - He could not get enough sleep.
 - He could not fix his faulty spaceship.
 - He could not communicate with Earth.

25. Leo's immediate reaction to his problem was one of
- shock.
 - calm.
 - terror.
 - disbelief.

26. After weeks, the spaceship
- received a signal.
 - picked up a signal.
 - sent a signal.
 - lost a signal.

27. The alarms on the spaceship could
- not be heard.
 - be heard faintly.
 - be heard loudly.
 - be heard on and off.

28. 'A signal blinked on the screen' (lines 18-19). This means that the signal
- was flashing on and off.
 - remained constantly on.
 - was not working well.
 - was very faint.

29. How did Leo feel after this experience?
- He was proud and inspired.
 - He was relieved and happy.
 - He was angry and annoyed.
 - He was sad and frightened.

30. What idea about exploration is most strongly suggested by Leo's experience?
- Exploration is mainly about working in a team and overcoming fear.
 - Exploration requires advanced technology more than human determination.
 - Exploration is dangerous and should only be done with proper back up.
 - Exploration involves facing uncertainty in order to discover something meaningful.

15 x 2 marks = 30 marks

Please turn the page.