

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
SEPTEMBER 2012

SUBJECT:	GEOGRAPHY
DATE:	7th September 2012
TIME:	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Directions to Candidates

Answer a total of FIVE questions: one question from each of the four Sections and a fifth question from any Section.

The use of non-programmable calculators is permitted.

All questions carry equal marks.

Section 1: Physical Geographical Processes

1. The weather conditions associated with a particular wind are determined by its area of origin and by the characteristics of the surface over which it blows. Explain this statement using examples from local winds that influence the Mediterranean region. (20 marks)

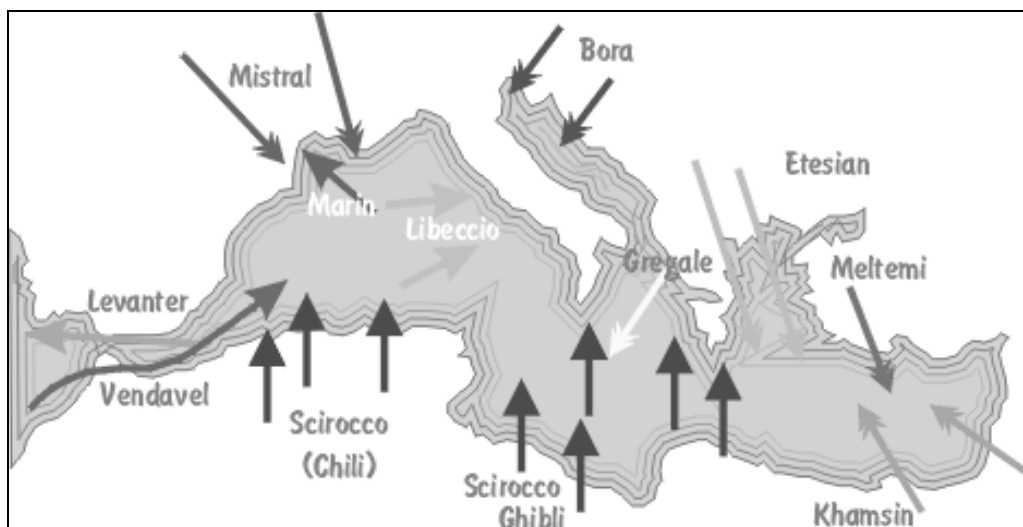


Figure 1: Local winds in the Mediterranean region

(Source: <http://lyachtua.com>)

2. Explain the formation of rias with reference to examples in the Maltese Islands or other Mediterranean countries. Include diagrams and sketch maps to help you answer this question. (20 marks)

3. (a) Describe the effect of the following factors on surface run-off:
- (i) geology,
 - (ii) vegetation cover,
 - (iii) drainage density. (12 marks)
- (b) Sketch a storm hydrograph for a drainage basin during a flash flood. On the sketch label the following features:
- (i) rising limb,
 - (ii) falling limb,
 - (iii) peak discharge,
 - (iv) base flow. (8 marks)

Section 2: Human Geographical Processes

4. Figure 2 illustrates a model of migration of people.
- (a) With reference to examples, discuss **four** reasons why people migrate. (10 marks)
 - (b) Describe **five** problems, generally called ‘intervening obstacles’ that are faced by migrants moving from one country or region to another. (10 marks)

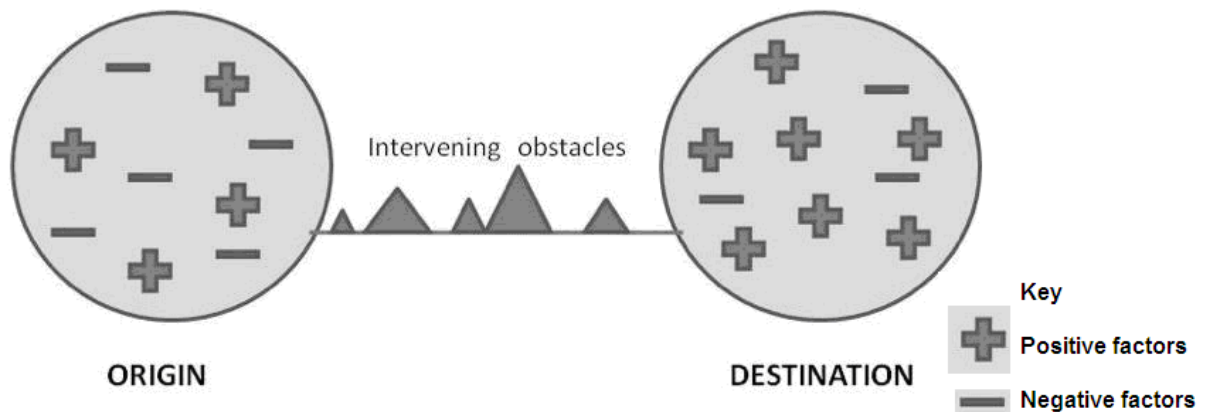


Figure 2: Lee's Model of Migration
(Source: Lee, E.S., 1966)

5. (a) List **four** characteristics of a hamlet. (4 marks)
- (b) Discuss **three** factors that have led some hamlets to become depopulated and abandoned. (6 marks)
- (c) Discuss **five** factors that have resulted in some hamlets growing into villages and towns. (10 marks)

6. Tourism is a very important source of revenue for Mediterranean countries.
- Give **five** reasons why northern Mediterranean countries are a more popular tourist destination than southern Mediterranean countries. (10 marks)
 - Describe **five** geographical factors that make Malta and other Mediterranean Islands attractive to millions of tourists every year. (10 marks)

Section 3: The Man-Environment Relationship

7. Volcanoes are a natural hazard to populations that live around them but they can also be used for the benefit of the same populations.
- By referring to specific examples, describe the main hazards associated with the eruption of a volcano. (10 marks)
 - Explain how volcanoes are used for the benefit of the people living in their vicinity. Refer to specific examples. (10 marks)
8. (a) Give **three** reasons why deforestation is still happening in many parts of the world. Support your answer with examples. (12 marks)
- (b) Describe **four** measures that can be used to control deforestation. (8 marks)
9. (a) Explain the environmental threats posed by the disposal of uncontrolled and unseparated waste in dumps or landfills. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain how engineered landfills can reduce the environmental impact of waste disposal. (10 marks)

Section 4: Fieldwork and Mapwork Skills

10. Table 1 illustrates the infant mortality rate per thousand live births for a number of countries in 2010.

Table 1: Infant mortality rate per thousand live births for a number of countries in 2010.

(Source: Flint, C., 2012)

Country	Infant mortality rate
United States	7
Austria	3
Greece	3
Romania	10
Chile	7
Colombia	16
Singapore	2
China	17
Vietnam	20
Pakistan	71
Egypt	18

This question continues on the next page.

- (a) Construct a bar graph from the values given in Table 1. (8 marks)
 - (b) Explain **two** limitations when representing the data shown in Table 1 with a bar graph. (4 marks)
 - (c) From the data in Table 1 work out the average rate (mean) of infant mortality for the given countries. (2 marks)
 - (d) Explain the geographical distribution of the countries that are above and below this average infant mortality rate. (6 marks)
11. Fieldwork is an important component of any geographical enquiry.
- (a) Give **five** reasons why fieldwork is an important element of any geographical enquiry. (10 marks)
 - (b) Identify a sandy beach in Malta or Gozo and briefly describe **five** exercises that can be performed as part of a geographical fieldwork enquiry. (10 marks)
12. (a) Figure 3 shows the relief of an area using two different methods. Name these **two** methods and explain the advantages and disadvantages of using each of these two methods to show relief. (14 marks)
- (b) Describe the topography of the area shown in Figure 3. (6 marks)

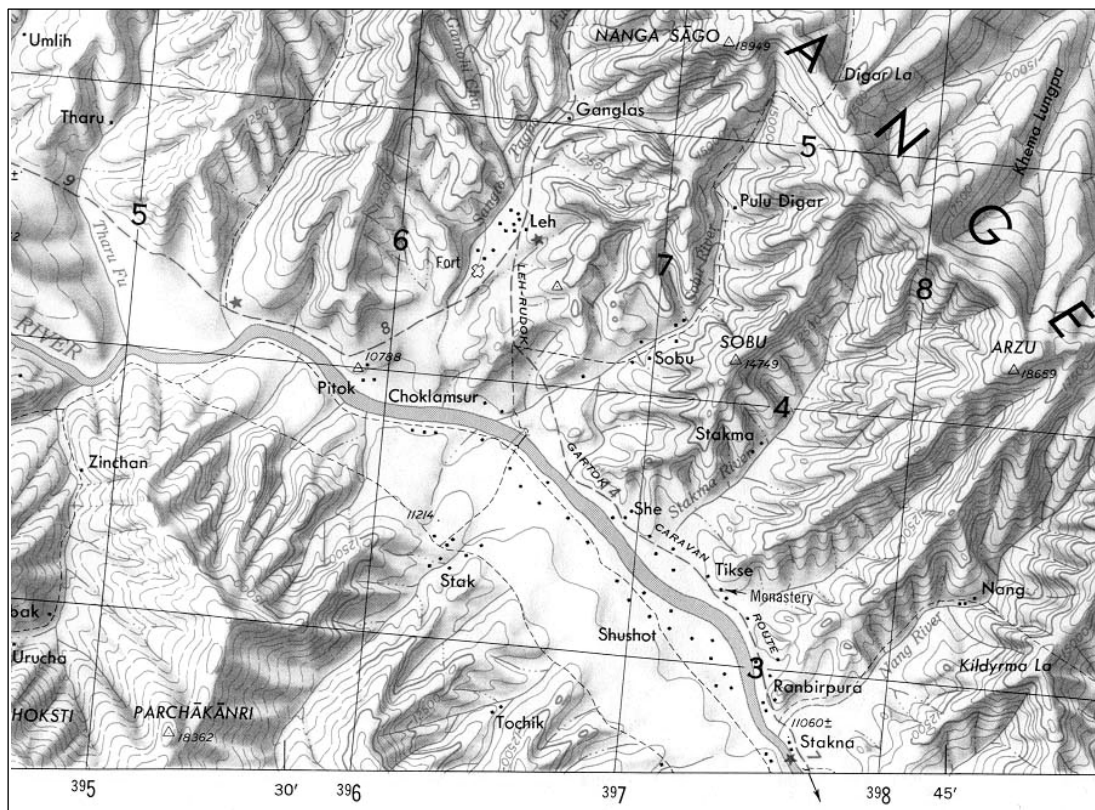


Figure 3: A topographic map
 (Source: <http://www.mapcruzin.com>)