

MATRICULATION AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA, MSIDA  
MATRICULATION EXAMINATION  
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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SUBJECT:	HISTORY
DATE:	6th September 2013
TIME:	4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

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**Answer ALL FOUR questions, the TWO in Section A and the TWO in Section B.  
All questions carry equal marks.**

**SECTION A**

**Question 1**

**Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b), OR part (c).**

- [*Either*] (a) ‘Maltese aspirations for self-government were not fully achieved before 1921.’ Why was this the case?
- [*Or*] (b) ‘Due to its role as a British fortress in the Mediterranean, Malta’s economy prospered in times of war, and suffered with the restoration of peace.’ Discuss with reference to the period between 1800 and 1914.
- [*Or*] (c) Why was there a ‘Language Question’, and what were its main consequences in Maltese political history?

**Question 2**

**Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b), OR part (c)**

- [*Either*] (a) What were the main objectives of the French Revolution, and were they achieved in the long run?
- [*Or*] (b) Why did it take so long to unify Italy, and how was this achieved?
- [*Or*] (c) ‘The revolutions of 1848 were a turning-point in European history.’ Discuss, giving examples.

*Please turn the page.*

## SECTION B

## Question 3

Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b).

[*Either*] (a) Debate in the House of Lords, 8 September 1887.

*The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reply, said, the Government had received the draft of a project for the formation of a Constitution, drawn up by a Committee appointed by an assembly of citizens in Malta. In forwarding the draft scheme, the Governor desired to inform the Secretary of State of the spirit of moderation which had been exhibited by the gentleman who had had a conference with him, and the spirit so evinced enabled the Governor to believe that a scheme for the government of the island might be satisfactory to the inhabitants. In reply to this despatch, the Secretary of State informed the Governor that he approved his action, in the matter, and was gratified by the conciliatory tone in which the communications between himself and the Committee had been conducted. The Secretary of State added that he desired to arrive at a conclusion to meet the wishes of the people of Malta, and that the present proposals would have his most careful consideration. At present the Lieutenant Governor was engaged in taking an active part in the measures to arrest the spread of the infection of cholera which unfortunately prevailed in the island, and, under the circumstances, the Government had not thought it advisable to ask him to come to this country to confer with them upon the subject of the proposed Constitutional changes; but it was hoped that in a little time, probably next month, or at all events by the middle of November, cholera would so far abate as to enable the Lieutenant Governor to leave, and come home to confer with the Government as to the draft Constitution. Speaking generally, he might say that the suggestions appeared to be such as the Government might be able to accept, and would receive consideration in the Recess. The views of the Government would be published in Malta in time for an expression of opinion to be given before the next Elections took place about next December.*

- (i) Describe briefly the constitutional situation in Malta up to 1887. (5 marks)
- (ii) What were ‘*the wishes of the people of Malta*’, and how did Maltese leaders expect to fulfill these wishes? (5 marks)
- (iii) What were the principal factors which had made the British hesitate in granting the Maltese their demands in the past? (5 marks)
- (iv) Was ‘*a scheme for the government of the island ... satisfactory to the inhabitants*’ achieved with the constitution granted a few weeks later, and why? (5 marks)
- (v) Since 1880 an important change had taken place in the way the Maltese organised themselves politically. What was this change, and why was it important? (5 marks)

[Or] (b) Mrs Edmund Hornby, *Constantinople during the Crimean War*, 1863.

[Letter of Lady Hornby to her mother]

*Our ship was thronged with gaily-painted Maltese boats, laden with grapes and melons, which the soldiers on deck were eagerly buying, and pulling up in small wooden buckets tied to a stout rope. The sea heaved and danced in a most inconvenient way for these commercial transactions; and the confusion of French tongues above, and of loud and voluble Italian below, was most amusing to listen to. [...]*

*The Maltese have become comparatively rich since the war broke out; selling all their wares, from melons to gold and silver crosses, and lace and cameo brooches to little white lion-dogs, at a very high price to eager customers.*

*It was Sunday morning when we arrived at Malta. By seven o'clock I was sitting on deck. The bells of many churches were ringing to prayers. They sounded very sweetly over the sea; and the Nuns, standing in their old place, looking over the side of the vessel, seemed especially to delight in listening to them. [...]*

*We were anchored in the smaller harbour of Malta, appropriated entirely by the French during the war. It was crowded with ships of all sizes. It is such a terrible place for glare that I have but a confused notion of long rows of white stone buildings rising suddenly out of the sea; a sentinel pacing up and down, on a narrow white causeway before me; and a shrivelled fig-tree, powdered with white dust, and looking very hot, growing against the hot white walls. However I managed to make out a few scorched olive-trees on the hard-baked hills above.*

- (i) The author visited Malta during the Crimean War. Write briefly about nineteenth century Malta's role in times of war. (5 marks)
- (ii) Comment on the author's remark that '*The Maltese have become comparatively rich since the war broke out*'. (5 marks)
- (iii) Explain the reference to '*the smaller harbour of Malta, appropriated entirely by the French during the war.*' (5 marks)
- (iv) This wartime portrait of Malta is centred on the harbour area. Comment on some of the major activities one would find in the harbour area in the second half of the nineteenth century. (5 marks)
- (v) To what extent was Malta's strategic value confirmed in later periods of conflict, down to 1914? (5 marks)

***Please turn the page.***

#### Question 4

Answer EITHER part (a), OR part (b).

[*Either*] (a) Speech by Léon Gambetta, Paris, January 1871.

*'Frenchmen,*

*Remember that our fathers left us France, whole and indivisible; let us not be traitors to our history; let us not deliver up our traditional domains into the hands of barbarians. Who then will sign the armistice? Not you, legitimists, who fought so valiantly under the flag of the Republic, in the defence of the ancient kingdom of France; nor you, sons of the bourgeois of 1789, whose work was to unite the old provinces in a pact of indissoluble union; nor you, workmen of the towns, whose intelligence and generous patriotism represent France in all her strength and grandeur, the leader of modern nations; nor you, tillers of the soil, who never have spared your blood in the defence of the Revolution, which gave you the ownership of your land and your title of citizen.*

*No! Not one Frenchman will be found to sign this infamous act; the enemy's attempt to mutilate France will be frustrated, for, animated with the same love of the mother country and bearing our reverses with fortitude, we shall become strong once more and drive out the foreign legions.'*

- (i) Give a brief account of the events of 1870-1871 which, according to the speaker, threatened to 'deliver' France 'into the hands of barbarians'. (5 marks)
- (ii) Comment on the key moments in French history referred to by the speaker in his appeal to preserve 'France, whole and indivisible'. (5 marks)
- (iii) Explain the following phrases: 'the armistice'; 'sons of the bourgeois of 1789'. (5 marks)
- (iv) The speaker calls France 'the leader of modern nations', and refers to 'the defence of the Revolution'. Comment on the historical significance of this description of France. (5 marks)
- (v) Despite his revolutionary oratory, the speaker failed to support the revolutionary movement which took control of Paris a few weeks later. Comment briefly on this development. (5 marks)

[Or] (b) Statement by Otto von Bismarck, 15 June 1877

*A French newspaper said recently of me that I had ‘the nightmare of coalitions’; this kind of nightmare will be a very justified one for a German minister to have for a long time to come, if not indeed forever. Coalitions against us could be formed on the basis of the western powers with the addition of Austria, or – perhaps more dangerous still – on a Russian-Austrian-French basis ... In view of these dangers – which might become real, not immediately but in the course of years – I would regard it as desirable, from our point of view, if the present Near Eastern crisis led to:*

- 1. The gravitation of Russian and Austrian interests, and thus of their mutual rivalries, towards the East;*
- 2. The adoption by Russia of a strongly defensive position in the Near East and on her coastline, so causing her to need our alliance;*
- 3. A status quo satisfactory to England and Russia, which would give them the same interest in maintaining the present situation as we have ourselves;*
- 4. The dissolution of the bonds between England and France (which will always remain hostile to us) because of Egypt and the Mediterranean;*
- 5. A relationship between Russia and Austria which would make it difficult for both to set up the anti-German conspiracy ...*

- (i) Write briefly the background to the ‘*present Near Eastern crisis*’ mentioned by Bismarck. (5 marks)
- (ii) What does the statement reveal about Bismarck’s approach to international affairs? (5 marks)
- (iii) How did Bismarck aim to foster ‘*a relationship between Russia and Austria which would make it difficult for both to set up the anti-German conspiracy*’? (5 marks)
- (iv) Bismarck was certain of continued French hostility towards Germany, and desired ‘*the dissolution of the bonds between England and France*’. Explain the significance of this statement. (5 marks)
- (v) Comment briefly on the results achieved by Bismarck at the Congress of Berlin a year later. (5 marks)