

MATSEC Examinations Board

Results – Main Session 2017

14th July 2017



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
L-Università ta' Malta



Introduction - Agenda

- Process of communicating results: by SMS and by post
- Special features of this year's session of examinations
- Basic Statistics – The May 2017 Session in numbers
- Examination Access Arrangements and Special Consideration
- Conduct During Examinations
- Revision of Papers and the September Session
- Acknowledgement of the contribution of the Schools, Examiners, ADSC, Examinations Department, and the MATSEC Support Unit



Communicating Results

- **9516 candidates** sat for MATSEC Examinations in May 2017 consisting of:
 - 4019 candidates who sat at Matriculation Level (Advanced & Intermediate) – **including 43.5% of the 18-year-old cohort**
 - 5497 candidates who sat at Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) level – **including 90.2% of the 16-year-old cohort**
- **9453 candidates (99.3%)** will receive their results by SMS today
- Result slips are being posted to all candidates today. They will receive them by tomorrow and in the following days.



Special Features of the May 2017 Session

- **Five new SEC (Vocational) subjects** taken up by the first group of 92 candidates on a pilot basis
 - Agribusiness
 - Engineering Technology
 - Health & Social Care
 - Hospitality
 - Information Technology
- **Smooth-running of examinations** was ensured before, during and immediately after the General Elections following a decision to stick to the original timetable.
 - Exams involved: Art, Marketing, practical PE, Theatre & Performance, Advanced Physics practical.
 - Exception: Thunderstorm temporarily stopped the PE swimming session on June 6



Special Features of the May 2017 Session

- **SEC Italian Listening Comprehension** examination
 - Complaints and petition about quality of audio in the Malta centre.
 - Investigation of a 25% sample of scripts showed minimal disturbance.
 - Candidates offered a compensation of 5% or a re-sit.
 - Re-sit results show an insignificant gain. In fact, the re-sit results of 75% of candidates are within ± 1 mark of their results in the original examination.



Special Features of the May 2017 Session

- **Mathematics** at all levels (SEC, Intermediate, Advanced)
 - Petition signed by 1217 individuals complaining about the excessive difficulty of the examination papers.
 - The following table shows that the percentage pass rates are within the normal ranges in recent years:

Subject (Grades)	2015	2016	2017
AM Pure Maths (A to E)	67.5%	64.4%	66.4%
IM Pure Maths (A to E)	67.8%	71.6%	67.7%
SEC Maths (1 to 5)	53.7%	54.1%	54.5%
SEC Maths (1 to 7)	75.5%	75.4%	75.6%



Basic Statistics – SEC Highlights

- Detailed results in all subjects are available in the hard copy.
- Results in the Core Subjects

Subject	Grades 1 to 5 MQF/EQF Level 3	Grades 6 to 7 MQF/EQF Level 2	Grades 1 to 5 MQF/EQF Level 3	Grades 6 to 7 MQF/EQF Level 2
	2017		2016	
English Language	69.9%	12.5%	65.6%	15.3%
Maltese	68.0%	7.9%	65.3%	10.3%
Mathematics	54.5%	21.1%	54.1%	21.3%
Physics	67.2%	12.6%	68.6%	15.1%
SEC (Vocational)	89.1%	4.4%	–	–



Basic Statistics – Matriculation Level

- Ages 18 to 72 years: **3710 candidates**
- Ages <18 years: 309 candidates registered for **397 exams**
- **1399 candidates** awarded the Matriculation Certificate in May 2017

MC awarded	2016	2017
All candidates	1391	1399
18 year old cohort	1092	1115



Basic Statistics – Advanced Level

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL		
Subject Group	Grades A to C	Grades A to E
Languages	48.8%	79.8%
Humanities & Business	45.8%	71.8%
Sciences & Maths	52.7%	69.2%
Miscellaneous	54.3%	84.5%

Full details of individual subject results are available in the hard copy.

Basic Statistics – Intermediate Level

INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION LEVEL		
Subject Group	Grades A to C	Grades A to E
Languages	50.4%	82.8%
Humanities & Business	42.2%	73.9%
Sciences & Maths	39.5%	71.9%
Miscellaneous	52.2%	83.3%

Full details of individual subject results are available in the hard copy.

Sample Results

Popular Advanced Level Subjects

Natural Sciences	No. of Candidates	Grades A to C	Grades A to E
Biology	635	56.4%	85.8%
Chemistry	454	55.5%	82.2%
Physics	373	49.3%	84.7%

Languages	No. of Candidates	Grades A to C	Grades A to E
Maltese	594	57.1%	87.5%
English	867	42.3%	74.0%



Sample Results

Popular Intermediate Level Subjects

Subject	No. of Candidates	Grades A to C	Grades A to E
English	843	49.9%	82.6%
Psychology	967	36.8%	72.5%
Systems of Knowledge	2071	58.6%	80.8%



Conduct of Examinations - Logistics

- **Personnel**
 - 771 examiners (chairs, paper setters, reviewers, markers, revisers)
 - 222 oral examiners
 - 105 readers, prompters, communicators, scribes, practical assistants
 - 808 supervisors and invigilators
- **Examination Sittings**
 - 390 examination sessions (11 March to 15 June)
 - 47,487 subject registrations / individual results
 - 114,633 examination papers printed
 - 15 examination venues (Malta & Gozo)
 - Candidates allocated to venues by region



Conduct of Examinations - Access

- 693 candidates were given access arrangements (582 at SEC Level and 111 at Matriculation Level).
- **Special requirements:** Word processors, quiet rooms, examinations held abroad, examinations at the CCF.
- **Emergency cases:** 12 cases (injury, severe anxiety, hospital cases)
- **Special consideration cases:** 21 candidates experienced grave circumstances during the examination period which justified special consideration.
- **Waiving of fees:** 432 cases of waiving of fees.



Conduct of Examinations - Supervision

- Greater vigilance on mobile phones and smart watches.
- 51 cases of irregularities during the examinations were reported by the invigilators and by markers.
- The Disciplinary Committee considered the cases and decided on the penalties which ranged from a warning to the cancellation of the examination.



Conduct of Examinations

The Candidates' Opinions

- For the third year running, the MATSEC Support Unit has conducted a post-session survey of the candidates' opinions on the examinations by means of an e-mail to every candidate.
- Analysis based on the 1100 replies received by noon 12th July 2017.
 - MATSEC published a guidebook for candidates; 77.3% believe it is helpful.
 - Candidates that sought help from MATSEC were satisfied with the service given however an increasing number of candidates prefer seeking help from student organizations or social media.
 - Responses about examination centres and invigilation were positive as in previous years
 - Candidates described coursework interviews as professional



Revision of Papers and the September Session

- **The Process of Revision of Papers**
 - appointment of an independent reviser
 - reviews of the fairness of the marking of the scripts
 - decides on a possible change of grade
 - writes a report after consultation with the chairperson
 - report communicated to the candidate in the shortest time possible.
- **September Session**
 - Candidates can improve their results six weeks after the publication of results.
 - Dates: 28 August – 7 September 2017; timetable is available online
 - Registration dates: 20 – 27 July 2017 online

Acknowledgements & Thanks

- **Schools** – Principals, Heads of School and Teachers
- **Examiners** – Examiners involved in oral, practical and written examinations
- **ACCESS – Disability Support Committee** members
- **Examinations Department** – Director and staff, supervisors and invigilators
- **MATSEC Support Unit** – All the staff for their commitment and hard work



Thank you



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Advanced Matriculation (AM) and Intermediate Matriculation (IM) Grade Statistics

MAY 2017

The data presented shows:

- The total number of candidates who took each subject;
- The number of candidates at each grade boundary per paper for each subject.

The total number of registrations for May 2017 Matriculation Examination is **4019**.

Table 1- STATISTICS ADVANCED MATRICULATION EXAMINATION GRADES MAY 2017

STATISTICS ADVANCED MATRICULATION EXAMINATION MAY 2017 SESSION									
GRADES									
SUBJECT	A	B	C	D	E	F	ABSENT	TOTAL	% A-E
ACCOUNTING	38	45	105	66	44	99	62	459	64.9
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	66.7
ARABIC	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	66.7
ART	2	17	18	21	12	14	6	90	77.8
BIOLOGY	73	128	157	117	70	76	14	635	85.8
CHEMISTRY	57	72	123	66	55	53	28	454	82.2
COMPUTING	13	25	45	32	19	19	8	161	83.2
ECONOMICS	12	39	44	36	10	23	6	170	82.9
ENGINEERING DRAWING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
ENGLISH	21	75	271	150	125	178	47	867	74.0
FRENCH	3	5	12	14	3	4	1	42	88.1
GEOGRAPHY	5	12	18	16	11	1	0	63	98.4
GERMAN	5	6	2	2	1	1	1	18	88.9
GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION	2	4	6	1	2	2	0	17	88.2
GREEK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
HISTORY	3	16	30	24	8	6	10	97	83.5
HOME ECONOMICS & HUMAN ECOLOGY	5	24	49	20	20	8	4	130	90.8
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	4	5	18	6	3	6	3	45	80.0
ITALIAN	12	15	27	16	12	17	9	108	75.9
LATIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
MALTESE	29	119	191	96	85	55	19	594	87.5
MARKETING	24	68	116	56	54	78	86	482	66.0
MUSIC	1	4	4	1	0	0	0	10	100.0
PHILOSOPHY	6	12	27	18	13	19	15	110	69.1
PHYSICS	21	55	108	90	42	37	20	373	84.7
PURE MATHEMATICS	31	85	122	49	41	136	30	494	66.4
RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE	2	13	22	18	14	12	10	91	75.8
RUSSIAN	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	17	29	58	30	15	12	29	190	78.4
SPANISH	2	4	7	4	6	3	0	26	88.5

Table 2- STATISTICS INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION GRADES MAY 2017

STATISTICS INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION MAY 2017 SESSION									
SUBJECT	GRADES								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	ABSENT	TOTAL	% A-E
ACCOUNTING	4	8	13	11	8	8	2	54	81.5
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	5	6	9	3	4	6	1	34	79.4
ARABIC	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	100.0
ART	1	2	11	9	9	4	1	37	86.5
BIOLOGY	10	28	51	62	77	94	28	350	65.1
CHEMISTRY	4	10	11	2	3	11	4	45	66.7
CLASSICAL STUDIES	2	3	3	5	6	17	3	39	48.7
COMPUTING	6	12	23	16	8	8	3	76	85.5
ENGINEERING DRAWING & GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION	6	14	19	15	10	16	6	86	74.4
ECONOMICS	3	10	16	18	5	10	4	66	78.8
ENGLISH	55	138	228	159	116	118	29	843	82.6
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	19	32	95	109	61	52	29	397	79.6
FRENCH	11	14	23	20	10	6	1	85	91.8
GEOGRAPHY	7	14	31	15	11	15	10	103	75.7
GERMAN	6	4	7	4	1	2	0	24	91.7
GREEK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
HISTORY	9	6	28	17	3	4	6	73	86.3
HOME ECONOMICS & HUMAN ECOLOGY	5	11	21	13	1	3	5	59	86.4
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	15	37	45	24	10	9	2	142	92.3
ITALIAN	4	14	35	14	7	13	4	91	81.3
LATIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
MALTESE	11	28	88	53	38	48	5	271	80.4
MARKETING	35	55	68	47	20	34	17	276	81.5
MUSIC	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	100.0
PHILOSOPHY	29	43	92	56	51	69	21	361	75.1
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	4	12	42	37	28	22	7	152	80.9
PHYSICS	31	67	136	93	62	97	31	517	75.2
PSYCHOLOGY	53	94	209	205	140	173	93	967	72.5
PURE MATHEMATICS	38	68	139	78	69	139	48	579	67.7
RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE	11	13	49	45	31	57	21	227	65.6
RUSSIAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
SOCIOLOGY	18	24	51	34	25	36	19	207	73.4
SPANISH	3	3	3	7	6	3	2	27	81.5
SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE	169	365	679	393	68	351	46	2071	80.8
THEATRE & PERFORMANCE	3	10	11	3	4	10	4	45	68.9



Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) Grade Statistics

MAY 2017

Three tables are presented which show:

- The total number of candidates who took each subject;
- The number of candidates that sat for a PAPER IIA and a PAPER IIB in each subject;
- The number of candidates per grade boundary;
- The number of candidates at each grade boundary per paper for each subject.

The total number of registrations for the SEC 2017 is **5497**.

Table 1- STATISTICAL GRADES MAY 2017 - ALL CANDIDATES

STATISTICS SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MAY 2017 SESSION - ALL CANDIDATES												
SUBJECT	GRADES											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	ABSENT	TOTAL	1-5	1-7
ACCOUNTING	35	86	151	148	87	28	26	188	91	840	60.4	66.8
AGRIBUSINESS	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	100.0	100.0
ARABIC	7	4	4	8	7	0	0	16	2	48	62.5	62.5
ART	14	56	89	151	126	47	36	126	19	664	65.7	78.2
BIOLOGY	64	127	200	251	170	59	33	362	33	1299	62.5	69.6
BUSINESS STUDIES	3	8	14	46	22	21	12	27	5	158	58.9	79.7
CHEMISTRY	69	133	137	119	90	11	18	138	14	729	75.2	79.1
CLASSICAL CULTURE AND CIVILISATION	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	25.0	25.0
COMMERCE	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	100.0	100.0
COMPUTING	50	127	174	159	116	54	26	68	19	793	78.9	89.0
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	15	21	26	48	38	41	17	71	8	285	51.9	72.3
ECONOMICS	10	19	24	45	34	14	9	32	4	191	69.1	81.2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	200	535	714	729	876	289	256	678	89	4366	69.9	82.4
ENGLISH LITERATURE	109	185	454	542	337	151	104	346	69	2297	70.8	81.9
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	9	9	10	5	1	1	0	1	0	36	94.4	97.2
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	30	94	151	239	251	81	29	236	21	1132	67.6	77.3
EUROPEAN STUDIES	16	30	23	23	16	14	3	16	6	147	73.5	85.0
FRENCH	92	153	230	170	151	58	39	137	13	1043	76.3	85.6
GEOGRAPHY	16	28	36	32	27	7	3	26	14	189	73.5	78.8
GERMAN	33	64	83	70	75	19	13	45	8	410	79.3	87.1
GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION	30	51	66	72	86	19	14	72	12	422	72.3	80.1
GREEK	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.0	100.0
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	9	88.9	88.9
HISTORY	6	19	27	27	22	16	9	42	17	185	54.6	68.1
HOME ECONOMICS	27	123	137	143	71	80	39	104	3	727	68.9	85.3
HOSPITALITY	5	3	5	6	1	2	0	3	0	25	80.0	88.0
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	3	5	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	15	86.7	93.3
ITALIAN	111	178	284	278	205	178	129	216	32	1611	65.5	84.6
LATIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0	0.0
MALTESE	102	429	588	891	602	155	148	824	105	3844	68.0	75.8
MATHEMATICS	271	356	461	733	567	509	414	808	264	4383	54.5	75.5
MUSIC	4	3	1	1	3	1	0	2	2	17	70.6	76.5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	22	48	72	104	58	27	12	121	10	474	64.1	72.4
PHYSICS	193	306	388	750	451	252	140	577	50	3107	67.2	79.8

RELIGION	87	278	575	641	479	173	114	501	126	2974	69.3	78.9
RUSSIAN	6	7	0	6	0	1	0	1	0	21	90.5	95.2
SOCIAL STUDIES	24	53	98	157	119	39	24	159	62	735	61.4	69.9
SPANISH	24	31	40	59	48	17	13	50	4	286	70.6	81.1
TEXTILES & DESIGN	3	3	7	10	11	8	5	9	0	56	60.7	83.9

Table 2 - STATISTICAL GRADES MAY 2017 - PI & PIIA CANDIDATES

STATISTICS SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MAY 2017 SESSION - PAPER I & IIA								
GRADES								
SUBJECT	1	2	3	4	5	U	ABSENT	TOTAL
ACCOUNTING	35	86	151	120	60	115	44	611
ARABIC	7	4	4	2	6	6	2	31
ART	14	56	89	120	83	88	8	458
BIOLOGY	64	127	200	235	142	201	9	978
BUSINESS STUDIES	3	8	14	35	18	17	1	96
CHEMISTRY	69	133	137	107	74	95	10	625
CLASSICAL CULTURE AND CIVILISATION	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
COMMERCE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
COMPUTING	50	127	174	129	61	44	8	593
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	15	21	26	25	10	55	2	154
ECONOMICS	10	19	24	37	23	20	2	135
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	200	535	714	550	461	262	23	2745
ENGLISH LITERATURE	109	185	454	417	250	220	26	1661
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	30	94	151	206	201	155	9	846
EUROPEAN STUDIES	16	30	23	19	10	11	4	113
FRENCH	92	153	230	121	91	86	1	774
GEOGRAPHY	16	28	36	21	16	16	6	139
GERMAN	33	64	83	51	41	21	3	296
GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION	30	51	66	62	60	43	1	313
GREEK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HISTORY	6	19	27	24	16	22	4	118
HOME ECONOMICS	27	123	137	90	34	58	1	470
ITALIAN	111	178	284	138	100	78	9	898
LATIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
MALTESE	102	429	588	682	305	178	24	2308
MATHEMATICS	271	356	461	413	265	103	15	1884
MUSIC	4	3	1	1	1	2	1	13
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	22	48	72	87	41	87	4	361
PHYSICS	193	306	388	590	274	226	5	1982
RELIGION	87	278	575	552	209	259	33	1993
RUSSIAN	6	7	0	3	0	0	0	16
SOCIAL STUDIES	24	53	98	109	82	105	21	492
SPANISH	24	31	40	43	33	30	4	205
TEXTILES & DESIGN	3	3	7	8	4	4	0	29

Table 3 - STATISTICAL GRADES MAY 2017 - PI & PIB CANDIDATES

STATISTICS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MAY 2017 SESSION - PAPER I & IIB							
GRADES							
SUBJECT	4	5	6	7	U	ABSENT	TOTAL
ACCOUNTING	28	27	28	26	73	47	229
ARABIC	6	1	0	0	10	0	17
ART	31	43	47	36	38	11	206
BIOLOGY	16	28	59	33	161	24	321
BUSINESS STUDIES	11	4	21	12	10	4	62
CHEMISTRY	12	16	11	18	43	4	104
CLASSICAL CULTURE AND CIVILISATION	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
COMMERCE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
COMPUTING	30	55	54	26	24	11	200
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	23	28	41	17	16	6	131
ECONOMICS	8	11	14	9	12	2	56
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	179	415	289	256	416	66	1621
ENGLISH LITERATURE	125	87	151	104	126	43	636
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	33	50	81	29	81	12	286
EUROPEAN STUDIES	4	6	14	3	5	2	34
FRENCH	49	60	58	39	51	12	269
GEOGRAPHY	11	11	7	3	10	8	50
GERMAN	19	34	19	13	24	5	114
GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION	10	26	19	14	29	11	109
GREEK	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
HISTORY	3	6	16	9	20	13	67
HOME ECONOMICS	53	37	80	39	46	2	257
ITALIAN	140	105	178	129	138	23	713
LATIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MALTESE	209	297	155	148	646	81	1536
MATHEMATICS	320	302	509	414	705	249	2499
MUSIC	0	2	1	0	0	1	4
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	17	17	27	12	34	6	113
PHYSICS	160	177	252	140	351	45	1125
RELIGION	89	270	173	114	242	93	981
RUSSIAN	3	0	1	0	1	0	5
SOCIAL STUDIES	48	37	39	24	54	41	243
SPANISH	16	15	17	13	20	0	81
TEXTILES & DESIGN	2	7	8	5	5	0	27