



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
MATSEC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE STATISTICAL REPORT

2008

FOREWORD

This report confirms the observations made during recent years regarding the registration of candidates and their performance in the Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation level examinations. In 2008, for the first time since the Matriculation Certificate was established in 1997, the registration for the examination decreased when compared to the previous year. This statistic was not unexpected because over the last four years the number of candidates has been in the region of 2500, give or take about 100 candidates. This confirms that a plateau has been reached in the number of registrations. When one considers the 18-year-old cohort of candidates and compares it to the number of children born in 1990, it is found that 32.6% of these children registered for the examination. This figure is again comparable to the average of 33% for same statistic of the last three years. Taken on their own, these statistics do not show whether post-secondary students have become less interested in furthering their education at tertiary level since several opportunities have emerged for tertiary level education in Malta in institutions of local or foreign origin other than the University of Malta.

Most of the tables in this report show statistics differentiated by gender. These data reveal the wide gender gap at the post-secondary level that has been noted at least since 1997. Just a few relevant statistics may help to illustrate the extent of this gap. Out of the 2356 candidates for the Matriculation Certificate, 57.8% were females and 42.2% were males. In the case of the 18-year-old cohort, while 40.4% of females born in 1990 registered for the examination, only 25.3% of the males did so. After the main and the supplementary sessions in May and September, 28.8% of the females and 17.3% of the males of the 1990 cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. These significant gender differences have appeared consistently for the last twelve years and the underlying reasons still need to be researched and addressed.

This report also permits a review of the popularity of subjects studied at Advanced and Intermediate level. For example, it is interesting to note that among the four most popular subjects at Advanced level there are three science subjects, namely, Pure Mathematics (710 candidates), Biology (586) and Physics (565); the other most popular subject is English with 600 candidates. One can also examine the distribution of grades in the various subjects, the results of students who sat for Advanced level single subjects only, some who needed to satisfy special course requirements and others who were Narrowly Failed in 2006 or 2007.

The data in this report appears thanks to the dedicated work of the full-time staff at the MATSEC Support Unit, the dependability of the examiners and the indispensable and much appreciated support of the staff at the Examinations Department, Floriana. Special thanks are due to Ms Margaret Buhagiar and Mr Leander Borg for the retrieval of the information from the database and Ms Joanne Grech and Ms Bernice Cutajar for typing and checking the data.

Professor Frank Ventura
Chairman, MATSEC Examinations Board

January 2009

MATSEC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

**MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATIONS 2008**

**MATSEC SUPPORT UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

JANUARY 2009

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports on the Matriculation Certificate examinations of 2008 as well as the single subjects offered at Advanced Matriculation level in the same year. Candidates taking examinations to satisfy special course requirements and the Narrowly Failed candidates are also included as separate subgroups. This report gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration and results data of the main session in May and the supplementary session in September. It also presents general statistics from the May and September sessions which have taken place between 1997 – 2008, to indicate the trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate examinations were introduced in the Maltese Islands.

May 2008 Registrations

Matriculation Certificate

In total, there were 2,356 candidates in May 2008: 995 males and 1,361 females. There were 2127 candidates from Malta (914 males and 1213 females) and 229 candidates from Gozo (81 males and 148 females).

In 2008, the largest number of registrations (74.2%) belonged to the 1990 cohort. These are the candidates who turned eighteen in 2008. In total, 32.6% of the infants born in 1990 (N= 5,368) registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations in 2008. In particular, 25.3% of males (N=2,786) and 40.4% of females (N=2,582) born in 1990 registered for these examinations in this year.

In 2008, females outnumbered males in the registrations of the Matriculation Certificate examination. The relative proportions of males and females that made up the total registrations amounted to 42.2% males and 57.8% females.

At Advanced level, the most popular subjects overall, including the Matriculation Certificate and Single Subject registrations, were Pure Mathematics (710 candidates), English (600), Biology (586) and Physics (565). Subjects with a significantly higher proportion of females included the languages as well as Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Home Economics, Marketing, Philosophy and Sociology. Males predominated in Advanced level Computing, Economics, Physics and Pure Mathematics.

At Intermediate level, the most popular subject overall was English (1431 candidates), followed by Philosophy (692), Physics (678) and Maltese (578). At this level, a higher proportion of females than males was observed in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, French, Home Economics, Maltese, Marketing, Philosophy, Physics and Sociology. Males predominated in five subjects: Applied Mathematics, Computing and Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication, History and Information Technology.

In Malta, the largest numbers of registrations came from the Northern Harbour region.

Single Subjects

In 2008, there were 1,110 candidates who registered for Single Subjects at Advanced Matriculation level: 411 males and 699 females. There were 1041 candidates from Malta (387 males and 654 females) and 69 candidates from Gozo (24 males and 45 females).

The most popular Advanced level Single Subjects were Accounting (229 candidates), Marketing (210 candidates) and English (196 candidates).

May 2008 Results

Matriculation Certificate

The results for all candidates show the distribution of grades overall and for males and females separately. In this session, at Advanced level, chi square tests showed statistically significant gender differences in favour of females only in English ($\chi^2 = 16.070$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$), and in favour of males in Biology ($\chi^2 = 13.452$, $df=5$, $p<0.02$), Chemistry ($\chi^2 = 18.107$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$) and Economics ($\chi^2 = 17.025$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$). At Intermediate level, there were significant gender differences in favour of females in Maltese ($\chi^2 = 11.490$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$) and French ($\chi^2 = 10.816$, $df=4$, $p<0.05$), and in favour of males in Physics ($\chi^2 = 15.665$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$).

The May 2008 results showed that 46.1% of the May 2008 candidates (43.5% of males and 48.0% of females) were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the main examination session. Overall, 7.8% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 16.6% obtained Grade B and 21.7% obtained Grade C. This year, a larger proportion of males obtained Grade A (9.4% of males compared to 6.5% of females) and more females obtained Grade B (17.6% of females compared to 15.3% of males) and Grade C (23.8% of females compared to 18.8% of males).

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 5.5% for subjects at Advanced level and 4.4% for subjects at Intermediate level. At Advanced level, 7 out of the 341 requests for a Revision of Papers had their grade revised. At Intermediate level, 13 out of the 419 requests resulted in a higher grade.

September 2008 Registrations

In total, 45.0% of the candidates (45.6% of males and 44.6% of females) who sat for the Matriculation Certificate in May 2008 applied for the supplementary session in September. As expected, the majority of the candidates who applied for the supplementary session were the ones who failed in May (80.4%). In addition, 17.2% of the September candidates had already obtained an overall Grade C in May and 2.4% had obtained a Grade B.

There were 161 candidates who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level (55 males and 106 females) for the supplementary session.

September 2008 Results

Overall, 56.1% of the candidates (53.7% of males and 57.8% of females) who sat for the Supplementary session in September 2008 managed to obtain a pass in the Matriculation Certificate. Overall, 1.0% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 10.7% obtained Grade B and 44.3% obtained Grade C. There were 12.2% of the candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed.

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 5.7% for subjects at Advanced level and 4.3% for subjects at Intermediate level. At Advanced level, only three out of the 50 requests for a Revision of Papers had the grade revised. At Intermediate level, none of the 35 requests for a Revision of Papers had the grade revised.

Overall Results

In 2008, there were 62.5% of the candidates (1,473 out of 2,356) who obtained the Matriculation Certificate. There were 46.1% (1,086) who qualified in the May session and 16.4% (387) who qualified in the September session.

The analysis on the 1990 cohort shows that 70.1% of the candidates born in that year (1,226 out of 1,748) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2008. This means that 22.8 % of the infants born in 1990 (1,226 out of 5,368) obtained the obligatory entry requirements for University in 2008. There was a gender imbalance in this figure in favour of females: while 28.8% of females born in 1990 (744 out of 2,582) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2008, only 17.3 % of males born in the same year (482 out of 2,786) obtained the same qualification.

At Advanced level, when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the range of pass rates in the different subjects varied from over 90% (French, Geography, German, Home Economics, Information Technology, Music, Russian and Spanish) to 43% in Applied Mathematics.

At Intermediate level, when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the range of pass rates in the different subjects also varied from over 90% (Accounting, German, Information Technology, Music and Spanish) to 70% in Sociology.

MATSEC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE 2008

SECTION 1.0: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate (MATSEC) Board was set up in 1991. It is responsible for external examinations at two levels: (a) the Matriculation Certificate examinations which have replaced the GCE A-levels and (b) the Secondary Education Certificate (SEC) examinations which have replaced the General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (GCE O-level) offered by English examination boards.

The Matriculation Certificate is based on the International Baccalaureate model that maintains that students develop into more mature individuals if their studies cover both the areas of the Humanities and the Sciences. In the Matriculation Certificate examination, subjects are divided into four groups and students must choose one subject from each of Groups 1, 2 and 3 and any other two subjects. This structure ensures that candidates choose subjects from both the Humanities and the Sciences areas. In addition, all students are obliged to sit for Systems of Knowledge, a pass in which is obligatory in order to be awarded the certificate. In this system of examinations, students study two subjects at Advanced level and another four at Intermediate level, including Systems of Knowledge. Although any of the subjects offered may be chosen, there are some restrictions laid out in the regulations (See Appendix A). The regulations permit candidates to sit for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level only.

The Matriculation Certificate requirements are intended to provide an opportunity for all students finishing post-secondary school education to obtain external certification for the subjects studied at school. The Matriculation Certificate is the obligatory entry requirement into the University of Malta. However, certain Faculties have special course requirements in terms of the subjects needed for admission and the grades that are acceptable for further studies in particular areas. Students already in possession of the Matriculation Certificate have the opportunity to apply for specific subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels to fulfil special course requirements.

The main session of the examinations is held in May while the supplementary session is held in September. The regulations of these examinations were first published in 1994, and candidates took the examinations for the first time in 1997. To be awarded the Matriculation Certificate, candidates must obtain a pass in at least one of the subjects offered in each of Groups 1, 2 and 3 and Systems of Knowledge in one session (which includes the supplementary session) and gain at least 44 grade points. Grade points are awarded as follows:

For subjects at Advanced Level:

Grade A = 30 grade points
Grade B = 24 grade point
Grade C = 18 grade points
Grade D = 12 grade points
Grade E = 6 grade points.

For subjects at Intermediate Level:

Grade A = 10 grade points
Grade B = 8 grade points
Grade C = 6 grade points
Grade D = 4 grade points
Grade E = 2 grade points

The Certificate is awarded with an overall grade A, B, or C on the basis of the candidates' performance in the five subjects and in Systems of Knowledge.

Grade A is awarded to candidates who score between 80 and 100 grade points.

Grade B is awarded to candidates who score between 64 and 78 grade points.

Grade C is awarded to candidates who score between 44 and 62 grade points.

Candidates are allowed to resit a maximum of three subjects in the supplementary session as follows: one subject at Advanced level, one subject at Intermediate level and Systems of Knowledge.

Candidates who narrowly fail to obtain the overall Grade C in the supplementary session are awarded a Grade N. These candidates have the option to resit one failed/low graded subject or sit for another subject from the same group and at the same level in the next session of examinations.

Table 1.1 below shows the numbers of candidates who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations during the period 1997 – 2008.

Table 1.1: Registrations for Matriculation Certificate 1997-2008

Year	Males	Females	Total
1997	628	681	1309
1998	756	874	1630
1999	784	937	1721
2000	811	1051	1862
2001	842	1139	1981
2002	869	1149	2018
2003	878	1181	2059
2004	976	1257	2233
2005	1028	1427	2455
2006	1052	1498	2550
2007	1071	1461	2532
2008	995	1361	2356

Table 1.2 shows the numbers of candidates who have registered for Single Subjects at Advanced Matriculation level during the period 1997– 2007.

Table 1.2: Registrations for Single Subjects 1997-2008

Year	Males	Females	Total
1997	713	760	1473
1998	558	635	1193
1999	610	800	1410
2000	556	671	1227
2001	643	874	1517
2002	586	739	1325
2003	522	733	1255
2004	478	700	1178
2005	471	658	1129
2006	435	649	1084
2007	369	663	1032
2008	411	699	1110

The present document reports on the Matriculation Certificate examinations which took place in 2008. It also presents data on the entries for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in the same year. The report first gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration and results data of the main session in May and the supplementary session in September. It also presents general statistics from the May and September sessions which have taken place between 1997 – 2008 to indicate the trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations was introduced in the Maltese Islands.

1.2 Administrative Information

The regulations of the Matriculation Certificate examinations 2008 are presented in Appendix A.

2008 May Session

The timetable for the May session was issued in mid-October 2007 (a copy is available in Appendix B). Registration for the examinations took place between 29th October and 9th November 2007 (See Appendix C for a copy of the registration forms). Late applications were received on 21st and 23rd January 2008. All applications were received at the Examinations Department, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo. They were processed by the Examinations Department, Floriana. There were 2356 candidates (995 males and 1361 females) who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations of May 2008. In addition, there were 1110 candidates (411 males and 699 females) who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level.

The written examinations took place between 28th April and 31st May 2008.

The following subjects were offered for examination:

Accounting,	Applied Mathematics,	Arabic,
Art,	Biology,	Chemistry,
Computing,	Economics,	Engineering Drawing**,
Eng. Drawing/Graph. Comm.*,	English,	Environmental Science*,
French,	Geography,	German,
Graph. Comm.**,	Greek,	History,
Home Economics,	Information Technology,	Italian,
Maltese,	Marketing,	Music,
Philosophy,	Physics,	Pure Mathematics,
Religious Knowledge,	Russian,	Sociology,
Spanish,	Systems of Knowledge*.	

* Offered at Intermediate Level only.

** Offered at Advanced Level only.

These subjects were grouped as follows:

Group 1:

Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Maltese, Russian and Spanish.

Group 2:

Accounting, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Religious Knowledge and Sociology.

Group 3:

Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, and Pure Mathematics.

Group 4:

Art, Computing, Engineering Drawing, Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication, Graphical Communication, Home Economics, Information Technology, Music.

Systems of Knowledge.

The results of these examinations were published on 15th July 2008. In this session, there were 2298 of the Matriculation Certificate candidates (2356) who applied to receive their results by sms. There were 1040 of the Single Subject registrants (1061) who also applied for this service. Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place between 28th July and 31st July 2008 at the Gateway Building, University of Malta. (See Appendix D for a copy of the form).

2008 September Session

The timetable for the September session was issued on the mid-October 2008 (see Appendix B).

Registration for the examinations took place between 28th July and 31st July 2008. All applications were received and processed by the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta. There were 1061 candidates who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations (454 males and 607 females) and 161 candidates who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level (55 males and 106 females) for the supplementary session.

The examinations were held between 1st and 6th September 2008.

All the subjects offered for examination in the May session were offered in the September session.

The results of these examinations were published on 26th September 2008. In this session, 1047 (94.3%) of the Matriculation Certificate candidates (1110) registered to receive their result by sms. A further 153 of the Single Subject candidates also registered for this service.

Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place on 3rd October 2008 at the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

1.3 Requests for Special Arrangements

Requests for Special Arrangements during MATSEC examinations were received during the period of registration. Candidates needed to fill in a special form (see Appendix E for a copy of the form). This year, there were 34 applications for special arrangements that were considered by the Access Disability Support Committee of the University of Malta.

1.4 Registrations for Special Course Requirements

Registrations for Special Course Requirements were introduced in 2004 for students who had already obtained the Matriculation Certificate but needed to satisfy the special requirements for courses at the University. Registrations for Special Course Requirements were received during the period of registration for the Matriculation Certificate. This year, there were 112 such registrations for the main session (59 males and 53 females) in May and 23 for the September supplementary session (11 males and 12 females).

1.5 The Examination Centres

In Malta, the administration of the examinations in the different centres was the responsibility of the Examinations Department, Floriana.

In Gozo, the administration of the examinations in the different centres was the responsibility of the Examinations Centre, Victoria.

In 2008 the following examination centres were used in Malta:

May 2008

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Goivanni Curmi Higher Secondary School, Naxxar	540
St Aloysius College, B'Kara	638

The services of 4 supervisors and 51 invigilators were used.

September 2008

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
St Aloysius College, B'Kara	638

The services of 2 supervisors and 23 invigilators were used.

In Gozo, the following two examination centres were used in 2008 for the May and September sessions:

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Examinations Centre, Victoria	145
Sir M.A. Refalo Post-Secondary School, Victoria	400

In May 2008, the services of 4 supervisors and 74 invigilators were used whereas in September 2008, the services of 2 supervisors and 22 invigilators were used.

1.6 Oral Examinations

Tables 1.3 and 1.4 show the dates of the oral examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels.

Table 1.3: Oral Examinations – Advanced Level

Subject	Dates
French	12 th April
German	14 th April
Italian	10 th , 11 th April
Russian	14 th April
Spanish	14 th April

Table 1.4: Oral Examinations – Intermediate Level

Subject	Dates
English	16 th , 17 th , 18 th , 19 th April
French	15 th April
German	23 rd April
Italian	24 th , 25 th April
Maltese	7 th , 8 th , 9 th April
Spanish	23 rd April

In Malta, the oral examinations were held at St Aloysius College, B’Kara. In Gozo, the examinations were held at the Examinations Centre, Victoria.

Teachers were recruited for the oral examinations on the basis of the recommendation of the Chairperson of the respective subjects.

Tables 1.5 and 1.6 show the numbers of examiners involved in the different subjects at the two levels.

Table 1.5: Examiners used for Orals of Advanced Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
French	8	2	10
German	2	1	3
Italian	7	1	8
Russian	1	-	1
Spanish	2	1	3
Total	20	5	25

Table 1.6: Examiners used for Orals of Intermediate Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
Arabic	-	-	-
English	15	4	19
French	11	2	12
German	2	1	3
Italian	7	1	8
Maltese	10	4	14
Spanish	1	1	2
Total	46	12	58

1.7 Coursework

There were five subjects at Advanced Level with coursework in May 2008. These were: Art, Computing, Geography, Home Economics and Information Technology. The coursework of the private candidates was to be submitted to the Examinations Department, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by 14th March 2008.

There were four subjects at Intermediate Level with coursework in May 2008. These were: Art, Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge. The coursework of the private candidates was to be submitted to the Examinations Department, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by 28th February 2008.

It is important to note that some candidates were called for an interview in relation to the work presented for the coursework component of the subjects under consideration.

1.8 Practical Examinations

Practical examinations at Advanced Level were held in the following subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Music and Physics. Table 1.7 shows the dates of these examinations:

Table 1.7: Practical Examinations – Advanced Level

Subject	Dates
Art	31 st May
Biology	29 th , 30 th May, 4 th , 9 th June
Chemistry	27 th May, 3 rd , 10 th June
Music	2 nd , 5 th May
Physics	2 nd , 5 th , 6 th June

In Malta, the practical examinations for Biology, Chemistry and Physics were held at the University laboratories. In Gozo, they were held at the laboratories of Sir M.A. Refalo Post-Secondary School, Victoria.

In May 2008, the Music practical examination was held at the Music Studies Room, Mediterranean Institute, University of Malta and at the Ministry for Gozo, Victoria, Gozo.

1.9 Revision of Papers

Candidates who are not satisfied with the grade awarded to them in any subject may register for the service of a Revision of Papers. Information about the registration period for this service is posted to the candidates with their result slip. For each subject, an additional examiner is appointed to review the papers of the candidates who ask for a Revision of Papers. A brief report on the performance of the candidate is written in each case. This is forwarded to the candidate. A fee of €34.94 per subject is paid on registration. This fee is refundable in cases where the Board of Examiners recommends a change in the original grade. In the May 2008 session, there were 341 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 419 at Intermediate Level. In the September 2008 session, there were 50 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 35 at Intermediate Level.

1.10 Examiners' Reports

For each subject, the Chairperson is required to write an Examiners' Report on the performance of the candidates on the examination. The information for this report is usually compiled from notes and comments made by the different markers involved in the process. This report provides statistical data on the grades awarded and gives detailed feedback on the performance of the candidates. These reports, complemented with copies of the respective examination papers, were published in January 2009. They were circulated to all post-secondary schools and to the University Library as well as the Public Libraries in Malta and Gozo.

These reports are available on the MATSEC website <http://www.home.um.edu.mt/matsec>

SECTION 2.0: MAY 2008 REGISTRATIONS

Table 2.1 presents the numbers of candidates who registered in May 2008 for the Matriculation Certificate by year of birth and gender.

**Table 2.1: 2008 Matriculation Certificate Registrations
By Year of Birth and Gender**

Year	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1987	11	7	18
1987	13	18	31
1988	44	38	82
1989	217	251	468
1990	706	1042	1748
1991	4	5	9
Total	995	1361	2356

In total, there were 2,356 candidates in May 2008: 995 males and 1,361 females. There were 2127 candidates from Malta (914 males and 1213 females) and 229 candidates from Gozo (81 males and 148 females).

The largest number of registrations (74.2%) belonged to the 1990 cohort. This is the cohort that turned eighteen in 2008. There were 5,368 infants born in 1990 (2,786 males and 2,582 females) in the Maltese Islands. This means that 32.6% of the infants born in 1990 (25.3% of males and 40.4% of females) registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations in 2008.

Table 2.2 presents the numbers of candidates who registered in May 2008 for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level by year of birth and gender.

**Table 2.2: 2008 Single Subjects Registrations
by Year of Birth and Gender**

Year	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1987	137	275	412
1987	26	47	73
1988	64	73	137
1989	96	153	249
1990	57	98	155
1991	30	51	81
1992	1	1	2
1993	-	1	1
Total	411	699	1110

Table 2.2 shows that there were 1,110 candidates who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in 2008: 411 males and 699 females. There were 1041 candidates from Malta (387 males and 654 females) and 69 candidates from Gozo (24 males and 45 females).

The largest category of registrations for single subjects belonged to the pre-1987 cohort (37.1%). These candidates were over 21 years old when they applied for these examinations. The second largest categories of registrations came from the 19-year-olds (22.4%).

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 show that females outnumbered males in the registrations of both the Matriculation Certificate and the Single Subjects Advanced Matriculation examinations. In both cases, the relative proportions of males and females that made up the total registrations were higher for females (57.8% females versus 42.2% males for the Matriculation Certificate and 63.0% females versus 37.0% males for the Single Subjects).

Table 2.3 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for the Matriculation Certificate examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects.

Table 2.3: May 2008 Matriculation Certificate Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	139	178	317	68	75	143
Applied Mathematics	6	4	10	62	22	84
Art	18	43	61	23	18	41
Biology	173	325	498	40	168	208
Chemistry	152	201	353	16	22	38
Computing	101	75	176	96	41	137
Economics	97	64	161	37	43	80
Engineering Drawing	2	0	2	-	-	-
Engineering/Graph. Com	-	-	-	91	29	120
English	111	288	399	609	770	1379
Environmental Science	-	-	-	131	358	489
French	16	85	101	34	102	136
Geography	23	39	62	45	45	90
German	4	19	23	11	20	31
Graphical Communication	13	3	16	-	-	-
History	35	42	77	45	36	81
Home Economics	10	88	98	9	47	56
Information Technology	35	49	84	179	140	319
Italian	56	127	183	112	99	211
Maltese	71	244	315	200	347	547
Marketing	77	129	206	98	125	223
Music	4	4	8	1	5	6
Philosophy	44	87	131	267	408	675
Physics	337	156	493	265	358	623
Pure Mathematics	382	239	621	220	276	496
Religious Knowledge	39	42	81	196	209	405
Sociology	45	181	226	128	304	432
Spanish	0	10	10	2	16	18
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	995	1361	2356

Figures 1-4 and 5-8 that follow, present the numbers of male and female registrations per subject at Advanced and Intermediate levels. Please note that in these figures, AM refers to Advanced level subjects and IM refers to Intermediate level subjects.

Figure 1: AM Registration by Gender: Group 1

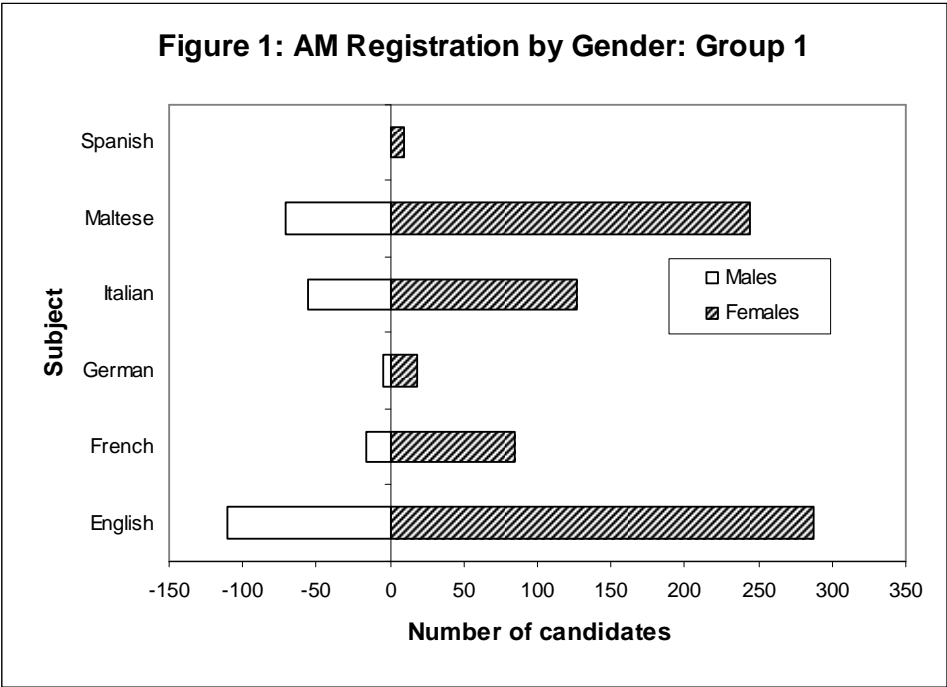
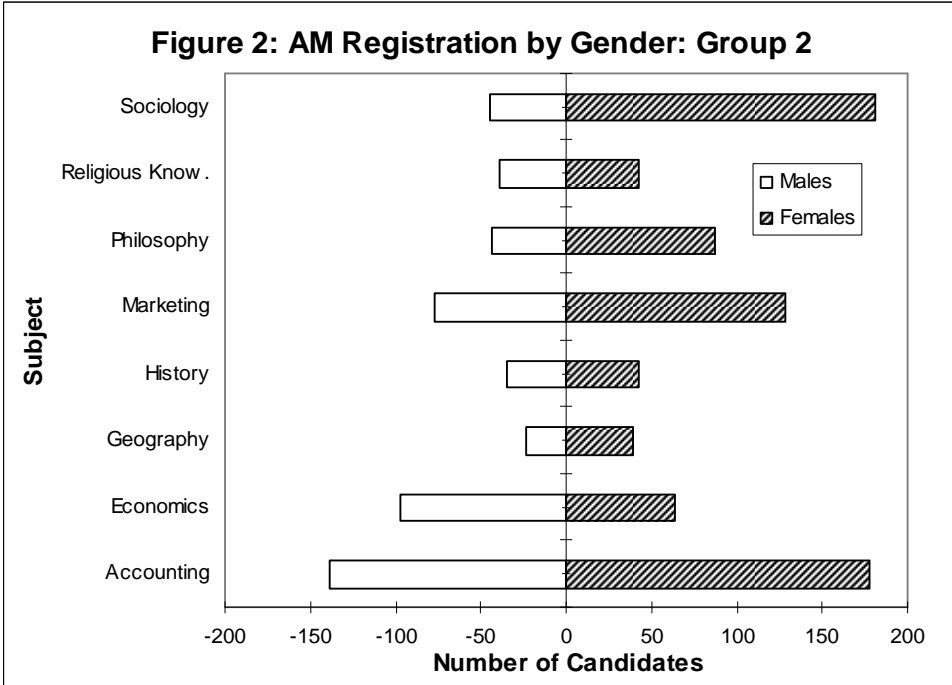
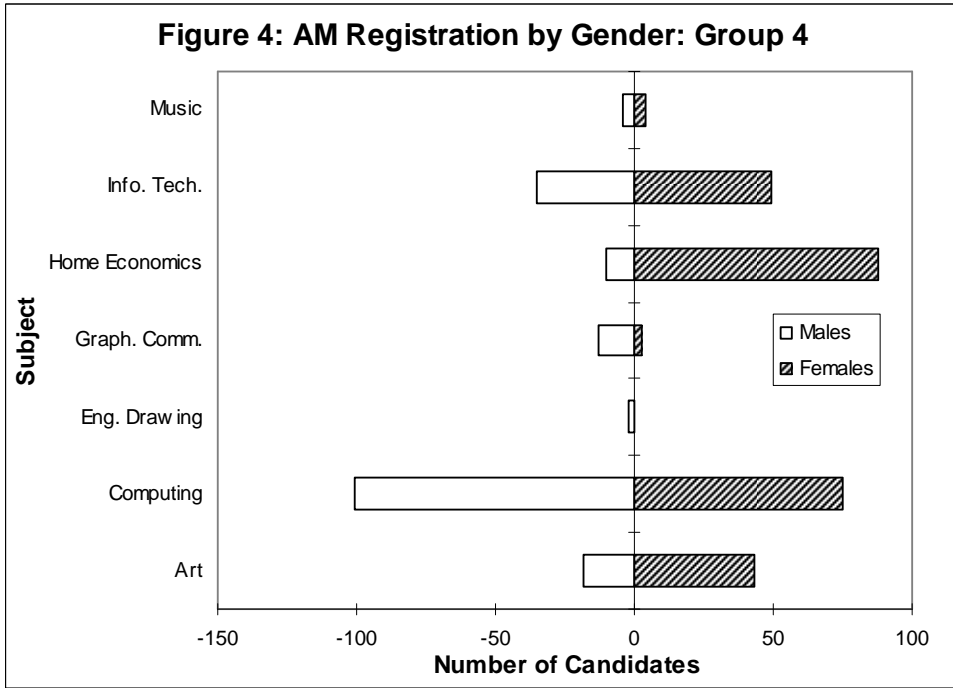
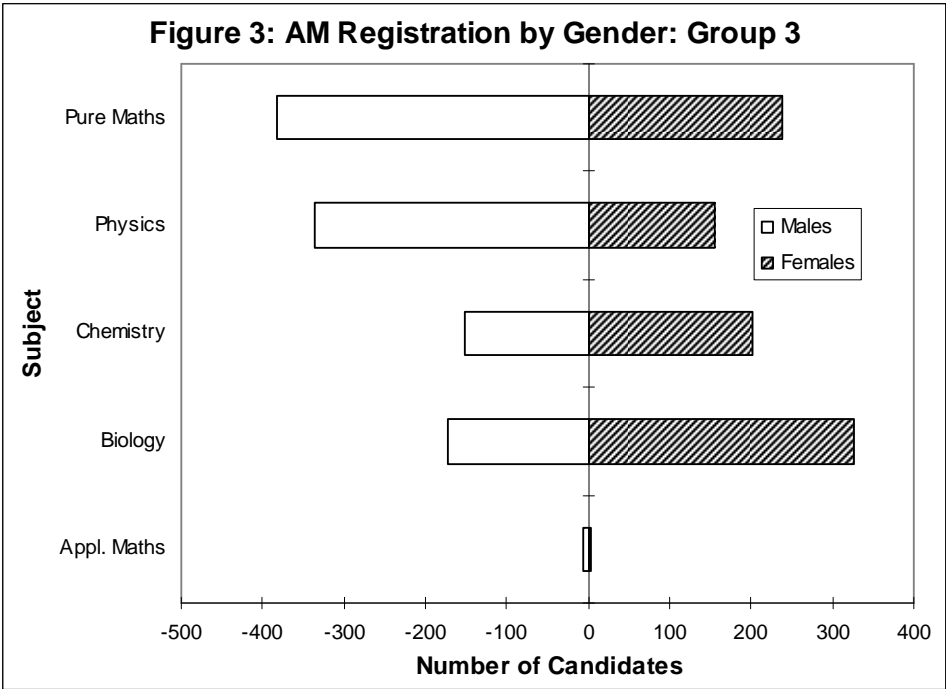
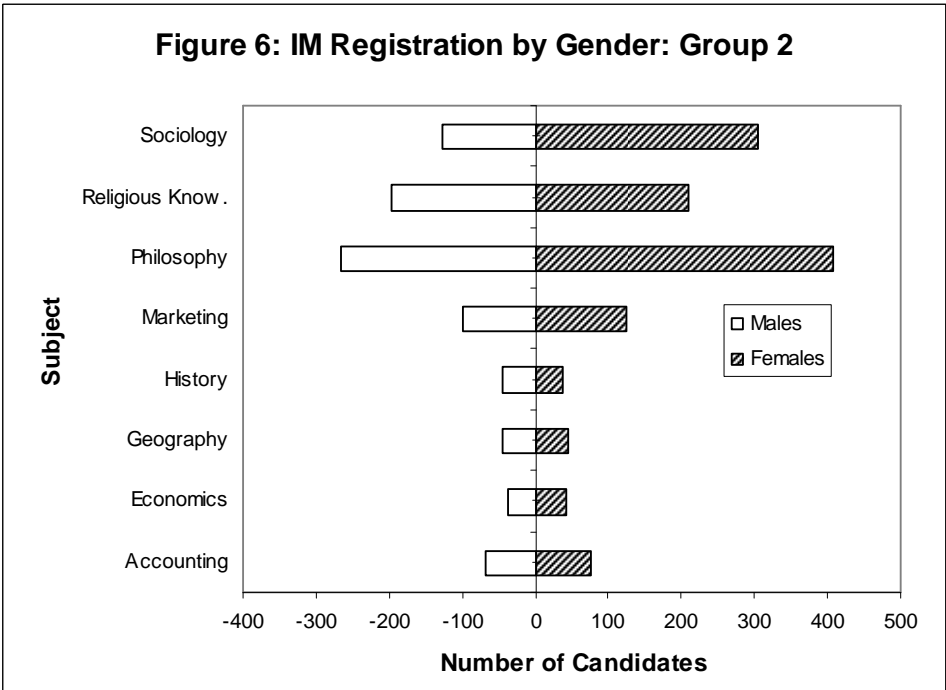
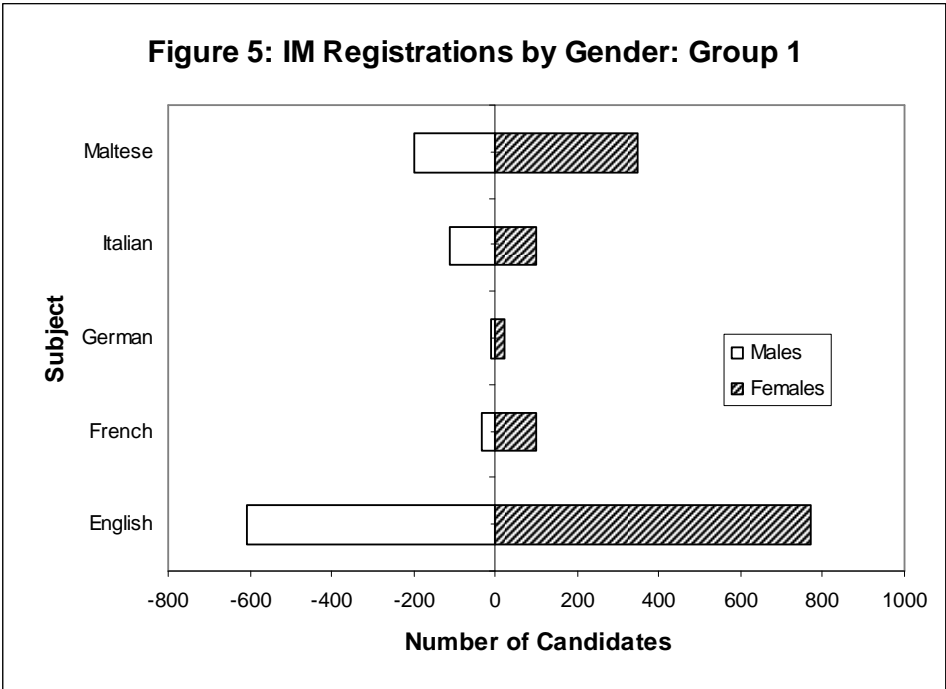
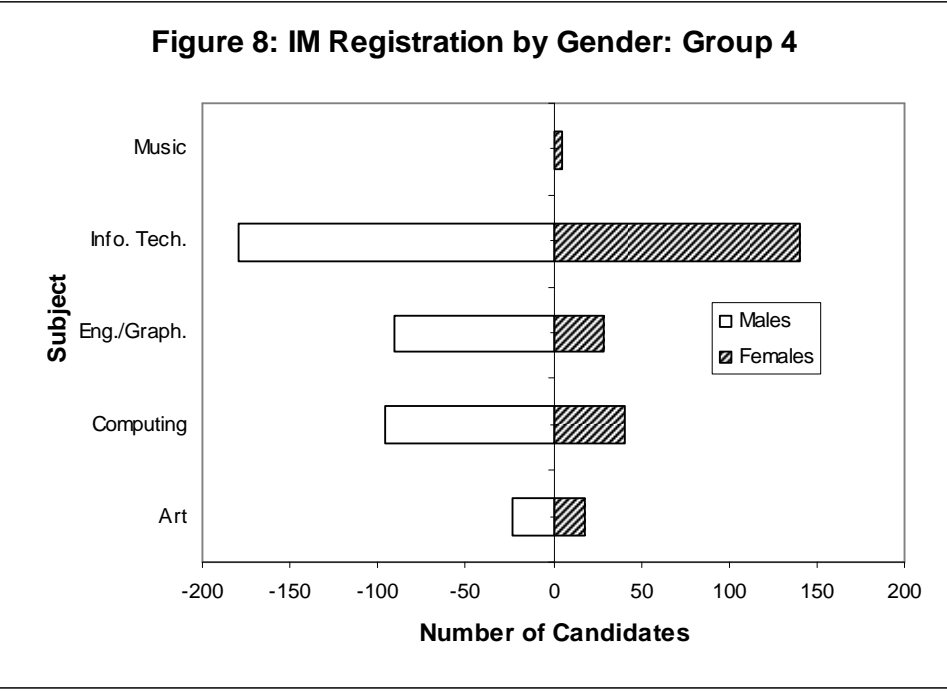
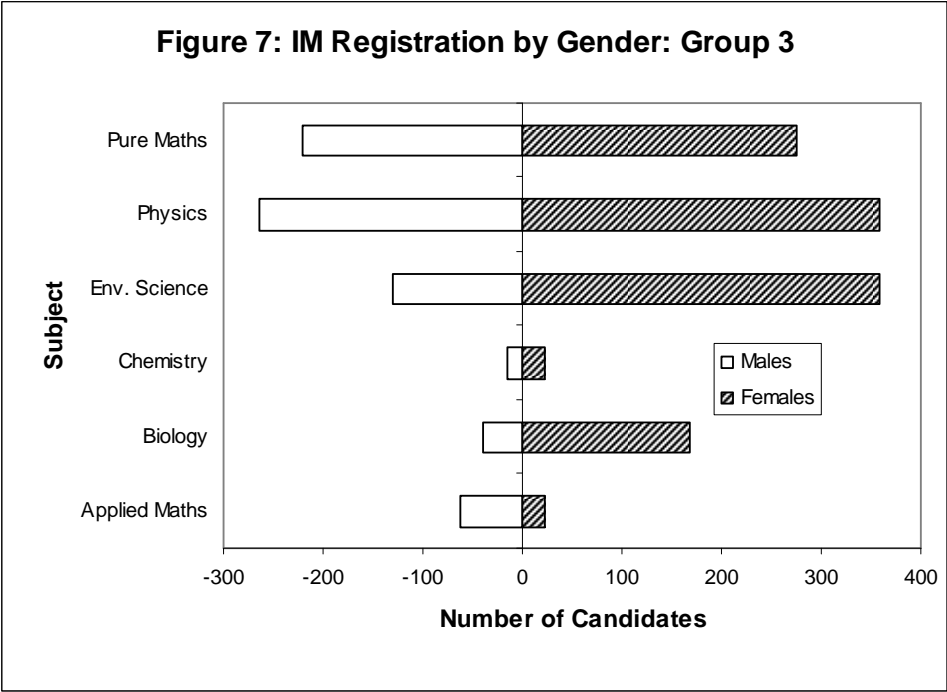


Figure 2: AM Registration by Gender: Group 2









In the Matriculation Certificate, the most popular subjects at Advanced level were Pure Mathematics (621 candidates), Biology (498), Physics (493), and English (399). At Intermediate level, the most popular subject was English (1379 candidates). This was followed by Philosophy (675), Physics (623) and Maltese (547).

At Advanced level, subjects with a significantly higher proportion of females included the languages, Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Home Economics, Marketing, Philosophy and Sociology. Males predominated in Advanced level Computing, Economics, Physics and Pure Mathematics.

At Intermediate level, a higher proportion of females than males was observed in Biology, Environmental Science, French, Home Economics, Maltese, Philosophy, Physics and Sociology. It is interesting to note that more males than females tended to study Physics and Pure Mathematics at Advanced level, while more females than males tended to study this subject at Intermediate level. Males only predominated in three subjects at Intermediate level: Applied Mathematics, Computing and Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication.

In 2008, there were 8 candidates (2 males and 6 females) who were classified as Narrowly Failed (N) in 2006 and applied to sit for one subject in May 2008. Furthermore, there were 104 candidates (51 males and 53 females) classified as Narrowly Failed in 2007, who applied to sit for one subject in May 2008. As explained in Section 1.1, these candidates had the option to re-sit one failed/low graded subject or sit for another subject from the same group at the same level. These candidates are followed through as a subgroup of the Matriculation Certificate examination in the different sections of this report.

Table 2.4 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in the different subjects. Systems of Knowledge was the only subject that was offered as a single subject at Intermediate level. The registration numbers show that in 2008, the most popular single subjects were English (196 candidates), and two commercial subjects: Marketing (210 candidates) and Accounting (229 candidates).

This year there were 34 candidates who made requests for special arrangements at this level. Table 2.5 shows the presenting conditions of these candidates. It is important to point out that applications by candidates with disability were processed by the Access Disability Support Committee of the University of Malta. This committee decides on appropriate arrangements to enable these candidates to take the examinations. In general, special arrangements included extra time, rest periods, large print, provision of amanuenses as well as special instructions to examiners of oral components, invigilators and markers.

Table 2.4: May 2008 Single Subjects Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level		
	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	69	160	229
Applied Mathematics	3	1	4
Arabic	0	0	0
Art	13	33	46
Biology	5	26	31
Chemistry	7	25	32
Computing	37	11	48
Economics	11	11	22
Engineering Drawing	2	0	2
English	59	137	196
French	1	8	9
Geography	0	3	3
German	2	8	10
Graphical Communication	7	2	9
Greek	1	0	1
History	15	15	30
Home Economics	2	19	21
Information Technology	9	0	9
Italian	15	46	61
Latin	1	0	1
Maltese	23	66	89
Marketing	78	132	210
Music	1	2	3
Philosophy	16	21	37
Physics	50	17	67
Pure Mathematics	54	17	71
Religious Knowledge	24	44	68
Russian	3	5	8
Sociology	13	31	44
Spanish	3	16	19
	Intermediate Level		
Systems of Knowledge	1	1	2

Table 2.5: May 2008 Registration of Requests for Special Arrangements by Presenting Condition

Condition	Candidates
ADD/ADHD	1
Autism/Asperger's	3
Colour blindness	4
Hearing impairment	1
Handwriting difficulties	2
Emotional/behavioural difficulties/anxiety	3
Learning difficulties	1
Medical condition	2
Mobility problems	2
Physical impairment	2
SPLD/Dyslexia	13

Table 2.6 below shows that candidates who made requests for special arrangements registered for a variety of subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels.

Table 2.6: May 2008 Registrations of Requests for Special Arrangements by Subject

Subject	Advanced	Intermediate
Accounting	1	3
Applied Mathematics	-	1
Art	-	2
Biology	8	4
Chemistry	8	-
Computing	1	2
Economics	-	-
Engineering Drawing	-	-
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Com.	-	2
English	5	10
Environmental Science	-	4
French	2	1
Geography	2	3
German	-	1
History	2	-
Home Economics	1	-
Information Technology	-	-
Italian	-	6
Maltese	3	3
Marketing	2	1
Philosophy	5	3
Physics	5	6
Pure Mathematics	4	1
Religious Knowledge	4	2
Sociology	3	2
Systems of Knowledge	-	19
Total	56	76

Table 2.7 below shows the Advanced and Intermediate level subjects that a subgroup of candidates registered for in order to satisfy special course requirements (N=112).

Table 2.7: May 2008 Registrations for Special Course Requirements

Subject	Advanced	Intermediate
Applied Mathematics	-	1
Biology	53	7
Chemistry	47	3
Computing	-	3
English	3	27
Environmental Science	-	3
French	-	1
Geography	-	1
Information Technology	1	1
Italian	-	5
Maltese	-	21
Marketing	1	1
Philosophy	1	14
Physics	1	47
Pure Maths	8	7
Religious Knowledge	-	10
Sociology	1	3

Tables 2.8 and 2.9 below show the number of candidates who registered for the Matriculation Certificate examinations from the different localities in Malta and Gozo.

Table 2.8: May 2008 Registrations of Matriculation Certificate Candidates by Region and Locality in Malta (Page 1 of 2)

Locality - Malta	Males	Females	Total
Southern Harbour	138	162	300
Birgu	3	2	5
Bormla	2	4	6
Fgura	32	36	68
Floriana	1	6	7
Kalkara	13	5	18
Luqa	11	20	31
Marsa	2	3	5
Paola	13	10	23
Santa Luċija	8	12	20
Tarxien	15	16	31
Valletta	4	8	12
Xgħajra	3	1	4
Żabbar	31	39	70
Northern Harbour	277	369	646
Birkirkara	34	63	97
Fleur-de-Lys	3	2	5
G`Mangia	4	6	10
Gżira	16	14	30
Hamrun	9	12	21
Ibraġġ	7	10	17
Kappara	4	12	16
Msida	15	19	34
Pembroke	13	15	28
Pieta'	2	4	6
Qormi	29	49	78
San Ġiljan	24	26	50
San Ġwann	38	41	79
Santa Venera	7	19	26
Sliema	29	36	65
St Andrews	1	0	1
Swatar	3	2	5
Swieqi	37	30	67
Ta' Xbiex	2	8	10
Blata l-Bajda	0	1	1

Table 2.8: May 2008 Registrations of Matriculation Certificate Candidates by Region and Locality in Malta (Page 2 of 2)

South Eastern	131	207	338
Birżebbuġa	18	28	46
Għaxaq	6	13	19
Gudja	10	12	22
Kirkop	6	10	16
Marsascala	25	36	61
Marsaxlokk	14	12	26
Mqabba	6	13	19
Qrendi	3	10	13
Safi	5	4	9
Żejtun	24	32	56
Żurrieq	14	37	51
Western	196	236	432
Attard	62	69	131
Baħrija	1	1	2
Balzan	16	14	30
Dingli	5	14	19
Iklin	25	21	46
Lija	13	16	29
Mdina	2	1	3
Mriehel	2	1	3
Mtarfa	2	4	6
Rabat	21	44	65
Siggiewi	24	24	48
Żebbuġ	23	27	50
Northern	172	239	411
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq	1	3	4
Buġibba	5	8	13
Burmarrad	2	1	3
Għargħur	2	13	15
Madliena	9	7	16
Mellieħa	16	22	38
Mgarr	2	18	20
Mosta	60	78	138
Naxxar	46	53	99
Qawra	15	10	25
San Pawl il-Baħar	13	24	37
San Pawl tat-Tarġa	-	2	2
Xemxija	1	-	1
Total	914	1213	2127

Table 2.9: May 2008 Registrations of Matriculation Certificate Candidates by Locality in Gozo

Locality - Gozo	Males	Females	Total
Fontana	2	4	6
Għajnsielem	1	9	10
Għarb	4	7	11
Kerċem	7	10	17
Munxar	-	5	5
Nadur	8	14	22
Qala	6	5	11
San Lawrenz	-	3	3
Sannat	6	6	12
Santa Lucija	1	1	2
Victoria	24	36	60
Xagħra	11	19	30
Xewkija	8	26	34
Żebbug	3	3	6
Total	81	148	229

The data are grouped by locality as well as by region. In Malta, the largest number of registrations for the Matriculation Certificate were from the Northern Harbour region.

Table 2.10 below shows the numbers of candidates who registered for a Revision of Papers after the May 2008 results were issued.

Table 2.10: May 2008 Registrations for Revision of Papers*

Subject	Advanced			Intermediate		
	Reg.	Requests	%	Reg.	Requests	%
Accounting	549	17	3.1	143	5	3.5
Applied Mathematics	15	1	6.7	85	2	2.4
Art	107	9	8.4	41	5	12.2
Biology	586	29	4.9	218	3	1.4
Chemistry	439	55	12.5	41	2	4.9
Computing	225	13	5.8	140	3	2.1
Economics	183	5	2.7	-	-	-
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Com.	-	-	-	120	9	7.5
English	600	46	7.7	1431	95	6.6
Environmental Science	-	-	-	500	8	1.6
French	111	6	5.4	138	4	2.9
Geography	65	3	4.6	91	7	7.7
Graphical Communication	25	1	4.0	-	-	-!
German	33	2	6.1	31	1	3.2
History	107	2	1.9	81	2	2.5
Home Economics	119	2	1.7	56	1	1.8
Information Technology	94	1	1.1	320	3	0.9
Italian	245	9	3.7	220	6	2.7
Maltese	405	16	4.0	578	28	4.8
Marketing	419	7	1.7	226	11	4.9
Music	11	1	9.1	-	-	-
Philosophy	171	4	2.3	692	28	4.0
Physics	565	45	8.0	678	12	1.8
Pure Mathematics	710	40	5.6	520	5	1.0
Religious Knowledge	149	2	1.3	415	12	2.9
Sociology	273	25	9.2	439	47	10.7
Spanish	-	-	-	18	1	5.6
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	2358	119	5.0
Total	6206	341	5.5	9580	419	4.4

*The number of registrations and requests for revision of papers from all candidates are included.

Table 2.10 shows that the overall percentage of requests for a Revision of Papers was higher for subjects at Advanced level compared to the Intermediate level (5.5% and 4.4% respectively). Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.

SECTION 3.0: MAY 2008 RESULTS

The following tables present the May 2008 results.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 present the Advanced and Intermediate level results by gender obtained in the different subjects for all candidates. Tables 3.3 and 3.4 present the Advanced and Intermediate level results by gender obtained in the different subjects studied as part of the Matriculation Certificate. Table 3.5 presents the results of the Single Subjects studied at Advanced level. Tables 3.6 and 3.7 present the Advanced and Intermediate results by gender of the candidates applying for special course requirements.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 show the Advanced and Intermediate level results of all candidates. These tables show the distribution of grades in all of the subjects and for males and females separately. In this session, at Advanced level, chi square tests showed statistically significant gender differences in favour of females only in English ($\chi^2 = 16.070$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$), and in favour of males in Biology ($\chi^2 = 13.425$, $df=5$, $p<0.02$), Chemistry ($\chi^2 = 18.107$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$) and Economics ($\chi^2 = 17.025$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$). At Intermediate level, there were significant gender differences in favour of females in Maltese ($\chi^2 = 11.490$, $df=5$, $p<0.05$) and French ($\chi^2 = 10.816$, $df=4$, $p<0.05$), and in favour of males in Physics ($\chi^2 = 15.665$, $df=5$, $p<0.01$).

The overall results are followed by the Advanced and Intermediate level results of the candidates sitting for the Matriculation Certification in May 2008 which are presented in Tables 3.3 and 3.4. These tables show the distribution of grades in all of the subjects overall and for males and females separately. Table 3.5 then focuses on the results of the Advanced level results of those candidates who applied for single subjects. This table shows the distribution of grades in all of the subjects overall and for males and females separately. In Tables 3.6 and 3.7 the results of the candidates requesting special course requirements after having obtained the Matriculation Certificate. Comparatively speaking the numbers in these tables are small, however once again, the overall distribution of grades in all of the subjects is given followed by the results for males and females separately.

**Table 3.1: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	17	76	155	61	64	117	59	549
Females	9	40	101	40	39	73	39	341
Males	8	36	54	21	25	44	20	208
Applied Maths	0	1	0	1	4	6	3	15
Females	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Males	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	10
Art	4	14	35	22	10	12	10	107
Females	2	12	28	13	8	6	7	76
Males	2	2	7	9	2	6	3	31
Biology	73	129	132	91	78	58	25	586
Females	34	82	88	58	57	40	21	380
Males	39	47	44	33	21	18	4	206
Chemistry	31	65	148	49	52	76	18	439
Females	8	33	89	26	36	47	12	251
Males	23	32	59	23	16	29	6	188
Computing	10	39	64	33	26	43	10	225
Females	4	16	31	13	10	12	0	86
Males	6	23	33	20	16	31	10	139
Economics	11	29	50	40	16	26	11	183
Females	8	8	15	24	4	10	6	75
Males	3	21	35	16	12	16	5	108
Eng. Drawing	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	4
English	16	32	167	128	79	111	67	600
Females	14	21	127	100	52	66	49	429
Males	2	11	40	28	27	45	18	171
French	8	23	37	21	15	5	2	111
Females	6	19	34	18	11	4	2	94
Males	2	4	3	3	4	1	0	17
Geography	4	10	25	18	4	3	1	65
Females	4	7	15	12	1	3	0	42
Males	0	3	10	6	3	0	1	23
German	7	7	7	8	1	2	1	33
Females	5	7	5	6	1	2	1	27
Males	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	6
Graph. Comm.	2	2	5	2	1	13	0	25
Females	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	5
Males	2	1	5	2	1	9	0	20
Greek	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
History	4	30	31	15	6	10	11	107
Females	2	16	20	4	4	6	5	57
Males	2	14	11	11	2	4	6	50

**Table 3.1: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Home Econ.	8	19	52	21	10	6	3	119
Females	8	18	48	17	7	6	3	107
Males	0	1	4	4	3	0	0	12
Info. Technology	7	21	26	21	11	4	4	94
Females	4	12	10	11	8	3	1	49
Males	3	9	16	10	3	1	3	45
Italian	18	31	70	34	25	58	9	245
Females	11	20	47	26	19	44	7	174
Males	7	11	23	8	6	14	2	71
Latin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Maltese	16	77	160	43	51	26	32	405
Females	10	54	129	35	38	18	27	311
Males	6	23	31	8	13	8	5	94
Marketing	22	68	139	42	43	49	56	419
Females	13	43	90	25	27	25	38	261
Males	9	25	49	17	16	24	18	158
Music	2	2	5	2	0	0	0	11
Females	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	6
Males	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	5
Philosophy	9	41	55	15	13	24	14	171
Females	7	23	39	11	10	12	7	109
Males	2	18	16	4	3	12	7	62
Physics	26	81	135	129	65	97	32	565
Females	4	25	49	46	19	21	10	174
Males	22	56	86	83	46	76	22	391
Pure Maths	30	83	145	69	81	252	50	710
Females	9	33	66	33	27	84	10	262
Males	21	50	79	36	54	168	40	448
Religious Know.	14	29	46	16	11	11	22	149
Females	9	21	22	10	7	4	13	86
Males	5	8	24	6	4	7	9	63
Russian	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	8
Females	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Males	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Sociology	7	16	66	55	52	56	21	273
Females	5	9	57	44	42	40	18	215
Males	2	7	9	11	10	16	3	58
Spanish	6	13	6	0	2	0	2	29
Females	6	12	4	0	2	0	2	26
Males	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3

**Table 3.2: May 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	15	27	30	28	26	17	0	143
Females	10	18	15	14	13	5	0	75
Males	5	9	15	14	13	12	0	68
Applied Mathematics	12	8	25	9	18	11	2	85
Females	6	1	5	3	2	6	0	23
Males	6	7	20	6	16	5	2	62
Art	1	3	15	6	9	7	0	41
Females	1	0	7	3	5	2	0	18
Males	0	3	8	3	4	5	0	23
Biology	18	48	41	24	39	36	12	218
Females	16	40	31	16	32	32	9	176
Males	2	8	10	8	7	4	3	42
Chemistry	4	4	10	4	5	11	3	41
Females	3	2	7	2	3	6	2	25
Males	1	2	3	2	2	5	1	16
Computing	8	23	46	25	15	21	2	140
Females	2	6	14	4	5	10	0	41
Males	6	17	32	21	10	11	2	99
Economics	2	10	26	18	9	14	1	80
Females	1	5	13	11	5	8	0	43
Males	1	5	13	7	4	6	1	37
Eng. Draw. & Graph. Comm.	13	14	29	14	14	34	2	120
Females	1	4	5	6	3	10	0	29
Males	12	10	24	8	11	24	2	91
English	77	186	335	241	237	321	34	1431
Females	39	114	192	135	137	155	16	788
Males	38	72	143	106	100	166	18	643
Environmental Science	24	41	151	63	105	91	25	500
Females	22	28	111	48	66	69	20	364
Males	2	13	40	15	39	22	5	136
French	5	20	16	39	37	21	0	138
Females	5	9	14	33	30	13	0	104
Males	0	11	2	6	7	8	0	34
Geography	3	10	18	18	11	24	7	91
Females	1	3	9	11	6	11	4	45
Males	2	7	9	7	5	13	3	46
German	5	5	7	8	3	3	0	31
Females	4	3	5	6	1	1	0	20
Males	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	11
History	5	8	30	17	6	11	4	81
Females	2	3	13	10	2	4	2	36
Males	3	5	17	7	4	7	2	45
Home Economics	3	14	17	7	6	6	3	56
Females	3	13	15	6	5	3	2	47
Males	0	1	2	1	1	3	1	9
Information Technology	45	78	100	44	32	18	3	320
Females	20	35	47	16	11	9	2	140
Males	25	43	53	28	21	9	1	180

**Table 3.2: May 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Italian	15	32	82	30	27	26	8	220
Females	10	19	33	17	8	12	5	104
Males	5	13	49	13	19	14	3	116
Maltese	23	65	197	137	68	73	15	578
Females	17	43	119	97	42	36	13	367
Males	6	22	78	40	26	37	2	211
Marketing	21	40	60	29	36	31	9	226
Females	16	23	39	12	16	18	4	128
Males	5	17	21	17	20	13	5	98
Music	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
Females	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	62	101	206	88	79	133	23	692
Females	35	59	118	52	46	87	16	413
Males	27	42	88	36	33	46	7	279
Physics	46	99	216	96	88	105	28	678
Females	14	58	134	55	52	55	15	383
Males	32	41	82	41	36	50	13	295
Pure Mathematics	28	42	153	66	100	113	18	520
Females	10	25	91	39	62	57	9	293
Males	18	17	62	27	38	56	9	227
Religious Knowledge	12	38	130	143	45	30	17	415
Females	5	20	70	81	19	11	11	217
Males	7	18	60	62	26	19	6	198
Sociology	7	15	67	53	121	156	20	439
Females	3	13	48	39	92	98	14	307
Males	4	2	19	14	29	58	6	132
Spanish	2	5	4	5	1	1	0	18
Females	2	5	4	3	1	1	0	16
Males	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Systems of Knowledge	51	385	1200	116	33	541	32	2358
Females	33	222	695	63	16	316	17	1362
Males	18	163	505	53	17	225	15	996

**Table 3.3: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	16	63	113	41	36	44	4	317
Females	9	31	69	23	21	22	3	178
Males	7	32	44	18	15	22	1	139
Applied Maths	0	0	0	1	2	5	2	10
Females	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4
Males	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	6
Art	2	7	20	15	8	6	3	61
Females	1	5	15	9	6	4	3	43
Males	1	2	5	6	2	2	0	18
Biology	57	100	120	85	74	49	13	498
Females	27	67	79	55	53	34	10	325
Males	30	33	41	30	21	15	3	173
Chemistry	23	46	120	43	45	65	11	353
Females	5	24	75	22	32	36	7	201
Males	18	22	45	21	13	29	4	152
Computing	10	34	52	28	19	29	4	176
Males	4	15	27	11	7	11	0	75
Females	6	19	25	17	12	18	4	101
Economics	11	28	49	34	16	20	3	161
Females	8	8	15	21	4	7	1	64
Males	3	20	34	13	12	13	2	97
Eng. Drawing	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
English	11	22	136	102	57	61	10	399
Females	10	14	104	81	35	36	8	288
Males	1	8	32	21	22	25	2	111
French	8	21	33	20	14	4	1	101
Females	6	18	30	17	10	3	1	85
Males	2	3	3	3	4	1	0	16
Geography	4	10	24	18	4	1	1	62
Females	4	7	14	12	1	1	0	39
Males	0	3	10	6	3	0	1	23
German	4	6	6	4	1	2	0	23
Females	3	6	5	2	1	2	0	19
Males	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
Graph.Comm.	2	2	2	1	1	8	0	16
Females	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Males	2	1	2	1	1	6	0	13

**Table 3.3: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Home Economics	8	18	43	15	8	5	1	98
Females	8	17	40	11	6	5	1	88
Males	0	1	3	4	2	0	0	10
Info. Technology	7	19	25	18	10	4	1	84
Females	4	12	10	11	8	3	1	49
Males	3	7	15	7	2	1	0	35
Italian	14	27	58	29	17	36	2	183
Females	7	16	40	22	11	29	2	127
Males	7	11	18	7	6	7	0	56
Maltese	14	68	134	32	40	15	12	315
Females	9	48	109	27	30	11	10	244
Males	5	20	25	5	10	4	2	71
Marketing	17	52	78	19	18	14	8	206
Females	8	36	50	13	10	5	7	129
Males	9	16	28	6	8	9	1	77
Music	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	8
Females	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Males	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Philosophy	9	37	45	11	11	12	6	131
Females	7	22	33	9	8	5	3	87
Males	2	15	12	2	3	7	3	44
Physics	26	74	120	119	61	78	15	493
Females	4	22	45	43	16	21	5	156
Males	22	52	75	76	45	57	10	337
Pure Maths	30	81	136	62	73	217	22	621
Females	9	31	62	32	24	76	5	239
Males	21	50	74	30	49	141	17	382
Religious Know.	8	18	30	8	5	6	6	81
Females	4	14	13	4	2	2	3	42
Males	4	4	17	4	3	4	3	39
Sociology	7	15	62	52	46	37	7	226
Females	5	9	54	42	37	28	6	181
Males	2	6	8	10	9	9	1	45
Spanish	2	6	1	0	0	0	1	10
Females	2	6	1	0	0	0	1	10
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 3.4: May 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	15	27	30	28	26	17	0	143
Females	10	18	15	14	13	5	0	75
Males	5	9	15	14	13	12	0	68
Applied Maths	12	8	25	9	18	10	2	84
Females	6	1	5	3	2	5	0	22
Males	6	7	20	6	16	5	2	62
Art	1	3	15	6	9	7	0	41
Females	1	0	7	3	5	2	0	18
Males	0	3	8	3	4	5	0	23
Biology	17	45	41	22	37	34	12	208
Females	16	37	31	15	30	30	9	168
Males	1	8	10	7	7	4	3	40
Chemistry	4	4	9	4	4	11	2	38
Females	3	2	6	2	2	6	1	22
Males	1	2	3	2	2	5	1	16
Computing	8	23	45	25	14	20	2	137
Females	2	6	14	4	5	10	0	41
Males	6	17	31	21	9	10	2	96
Economics	2	10	26	18	9	14	1	80
Females	1	5	13	11	5	8	0	43
Males	1	5	13	7	4	6	1	37
Eng.Draw/GraphComm.	13	14	29	14	14	34	2	120
Females	1	4	5	6	3	10	0	29
Males	12	10	24	8	11	24	2	91
English	67	182	326	231	225	317	31	1379
Females	37	113	189	132	130	154	15	770
Males	30	69	137	99	95	163	16	609
Env. Science	24	40	149	63	100	90	23	489
Females	22	28	109	48	64	69	18	358
Males	2	12	40	15	36	21	5	131
French	5	18	16	39	37	21	0	136
Females	5	7	14	33	30	13	0	102
Males	0	11	2	6	7	8	0	34
Geography	3	9	18	18	11	24	7	90
Females	1	3	9	11	6	11	4	45
Males	2	6	9	7	5	13	3	45
German	5	5	7	8	3	3	0	31
Females	4	3	5	6	1	1	0	20
Males	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	11
History	5	8	30	17	6	11	4	81
Females	2	3	13	10	2	4	2	36
Males	3	5	17	7	4	7	2	45

**Table 3.4: May 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Home Economics	3	14	17	7	6	6	3	56
Females	3	13	15	6	5	3	2	47
Males	0	1	2	1	1	3	1	9
Info. Technology	45	77	100	44	32	18	3	319
Females	20	35	47	16	11	9	2	140
Males	25	42	53	28	21	9	1	179
Italian	13	31	79	29	27	26	6	211
Females	8	18	32	17	8	12	4	99
Males	5	13	47	12	19	14	2	112
Maltese	23	61	187	130	68	67	11	547
Females	17	40	112	91	42	35	10	347
Males	6	21	75	39	26	32	1	200
Marketing	21	40	59	29	35	30	9	223
Females	16	23	38	12	15	17	4	125
Males	5	17	21	17	20	13	5	98
Music	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
Females	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	60	95	201	86	79	133	21	675
Females	34	59	116	51	46	87	15	408
Males	26	36	85	35	33	46	6	267
Physics	40	79	199	94	86	104	21	623
Females	13	50	126	53	52	55	9	358
Males	27	29	73	41	34	49	12	265
Pure Mathematics	24	39	146	63	98	110	16	496
Females	10	22	84	38	60	54	8	276
Males	14	17	62	25	38	56	8	220
Religious Know.	12	36	126	142	44	30	15	405
Females	5	19	66	81	18	11	9	209
Males	7	17	60	61	26	19	6	196
Sociology	7	15	66	51	120	153	20	432
Females	3	13	48	39	91	96	14	304
Males	4	2	18	12	29	57	6	128
Spanish	2	5	4	5	1	1	0	18
Females	2	5	4	3	1	1	0	16
Males	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Systems of Know.	51	385	1200	116	33	539	32	2356
Females	33	222	695	63	16	315	17	1361
Males	18	163	505	53	17	224	15	995

**Table 3.5: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	1	13	41	19	28	73	54	229
Females	0	9	31	16	18	51	35	160
Males	1	4	10	3	10	22	19	69
Applied Maths	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Art	2	7	15	7	2	6	7	46
Females	1	7	13	4	2	2	4	33
Males	1	0	2	3	0	4	3	13
Biology	0	4	4	4	4	9	6	31
Females	0	4	4	2	4	6	6	26
Males	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	5
Chemistry	0	1	7	5	5	11	3	32
Females	0	1	6	3	2	11	2	25
Males	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	7
Computing	0	5	12	5	7	13	6	48
Females	0	1	4	2	3	1	0	11
Males	0	4	8	3	4	12	6	37
Economics	0	1	1	6	0	6	8	22
Females	0	0	0	3	0	3	5	11
Males	0	1	1	3	0	3	3	11
Eng. Drawing	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
English	5	9	31	25	22	49	55	196
Females	4	6	23	18	17	30	39	137
Males	1	3	8	7	5	19	16	59
French	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	9
Females	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	8
Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Geography	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Females	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
German	3	1	1	4	0	0	1	10
Males	2	1	0	4	0	0	1	8
Females	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Graphical Comm.	0	0	3	1	0	5	0	9
Females	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Males	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	7
Greek	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

**Table 3.5: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
History	4	3	2	5	3	4	9	30
Females	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	15
Males	2	1	1	3	1	2	5	15
Home Economics	0	1	9	6	2	1	2	21
Females	0	1	8	6	1	1	2	19
Males	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Info. Technology	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	9
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	9
Italian	4	4	11	5	8	22	7	61
Females	4	4	6	4	8	15	5	46
Males	0	0	5	1	0	7	2	15
Latin	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Maltese	2	9	25	11	11	11	20	89
Females	1	6	19	8	8	7	17	66
Males	1	3	6	3	3	4	3	23
Marketing	5	15	61	23	25	34	47	210
Females	5	7	40	12	17	20	31	132
Males	0	8	21	11	8	14	16	78
Music	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Females	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	0	3	9	4	2	11	8	37
Females	0	1	5	2	2	7	4	21
Males	0	2	4	2	0	4	4	16
Physics	0	6	15	8	4	18	16	67
Females	0	3	4	2	3	0	5	17
Males	0	3	11	6	1	18	11	50
Pure Mathematics	0	2	6	4	5	28	26	71
Females	0	2	1	1	2	6	5	17
Males	0	0	5	3	3	22	21	54
Religious Know.	6	11	16	8	6	5	16	68
Females	5	7	9	6	5	2	10	44
Males	1	4	7	2	1	3	6	24
Russian	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	8
Females	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Males	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Sociology	0	1	4	3	5	17	14	44
Females	0	0	3	2	4	10	12	31
Males	0	1	1	1	1	7	2	13
Spanish	4	7	5	0	2	0	1	19
Females	4	6	3	0	2	0	1	16
Males	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3

**Table 3.6: May 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Special Course Requirements**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Biology	16	23	6	2	0	0	6	53
Females	7	9	4	1	0	0	5	26
Males	9	14	2	1	0	0	1	27
Chemistry	8	18	18	0	0	0	3	47
Females	3	8	7	0	0	0	2	20
Males	5	10	11	0	0	0	1	27
English	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Marketing	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Philosophy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Physics	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pure Mathematics	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	8
Females	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	5
Sociology	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 3.7: May 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Special Course Requirements**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biology	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	7
Females	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	5
Males	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Chemistry	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Females	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computing	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
English	10	3	4	1	3	3	3	27
Females	2	1	3	0	3	1	1	11
Males	8	2	1	1	0	2	2	16
Environmental Science	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Females	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geography	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Information	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Italian	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
Females	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Maltese	0	1	6	4	0	6	4	21
Females	0	0	5	3	0	1	3	12
Males	0	1	1	1	0	5	1	9
Marketing	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philosophy	2	6	5	0	0	0	1	14
Females	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
Males	1	6	3	0	0	0	1	11
Physics	6	20	14	1	1	0	5	47
Females	1	8	5	1	0	0	4	19
Males	5	12	9	0	1	0	1	28
Pure Mathematics	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	7
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Males	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	6
Religious Knowledge	0	2	4	1	1	0	2	10
Females	0	1	4	0	1	0	2	8
Males	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Sociology	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2

Table 3.8 presents information on the outcome of the requests made for a Revision of Papers of the different Advanced and Intermediate levels subjects after the May 2008 results were issued.

Table 3.8: May 2008 Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers*

Subjects	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded
Accounting	549	17	3.1	1	143	5	3.5	-
Applied Mathematics	15	1	6.7	-	85	2	2.4	-
Art	107	9	8.4	-	41	5	12.2	-
Biology	586	29	4.9	-	218	3	1.4	-
Chemistry	439	55	12.5	1	41	2	4.9	-
Computing	225	13	5.8	2	140	3	2.1	1
Economics	183	5	2.7	-	-	-	-	-
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Com.	-	-	-	-	120	9	7.5	1
English	600	46	7.7	-	1431	95	6.6	1
Environmental Science	-	-	-	-	500	8	1.6	1
French	111	6	5.4	-	138	4	2.9	-
Geography	65	3	4.6	-	91	7	7.7	-
Graphical Communication	25	1	4.0	-	-	-	-!	-
German	33	2	6.1	-	31	1	3.2	-
History	107	2	1.9	-	81	2	2.5	-
Home Economics	119	2	1.7	-	56	1	1.8	-
Information Technology	94	1	1.1	-	320	3	0.9	-
Italian	245	9	3.7	1	220	6	2.7	1
Maltese	405	16	4.0	-	578	28	4.8	2
Marketing	419	7	1.7	1	226	11	4.9	2
Music	11	1	9.1	-	-	-	-	-
Philosophy	171	4	2.3	-	692	28	4.0	-
Physics	565	45	8.0	-	678	12	1.8	-
Pure Mathematics	710	40	5.6	1	520	5	1.0	1
Religious Knowledge	149	2	1.3	-	415	12	2.9	2
Sociology	273	25	9.2	-	439	47	10.7	-
Spanish	-	-	-	-	18	1	5.6	-
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	2358	119	5.0	1
Total	6206	341	5.5	7	9580	419	4.4	13

* The number of registrations and requests for revision of papers from all candidates are included.

Table 3.8 shows that in May 2008, at Advanced level, 7 out of the 341 requests for a Revision of Papers had their grade revised. This means that 2.1% of the requests resulted in a different grade. At Intermediate level, 13 out of the 419 requests had their grade revised. At this level, 3.1% of the requests resulted in an upgrade.

The following set of Tables present data relating to the overall Matriculation Certificate grades awarded after the main examination session in May 2008. The information in Tables 3.9 and 3.10 includes all the 2008 candidates whereas Tables 3.11 focuses on the 1990 cohort, that is, those candidates who turned eighteen in 2008. Table 3.12 focuses on the Narrowly Failed candidates from the previous two years.

**Table 3.9: May 2008
Matriculation Certificate Distribution of Grades**

Grade	Males	Females	Total
A	94	89	183
B	152	240	392
C	187	324	511
Passes	433	653	1086
Fail	562	708	1270
Total	995	1361	2356

The data in Table 3.9 show that 46.1% of the May 2008 candidates (43.5% of males and 48.0% of females) were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the main examination session. Overall, 7.8% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 16.6% obtained Grade B and 21.7% obtained Grade C. This year, a larger proportion of males obtained Grade A (9.4% of males compared to 6.5% of females) and more females obtained Grade B (17.6% of females compared to 15.3% of males) and Grade C (23.8% of females compared to 18.8% of males).

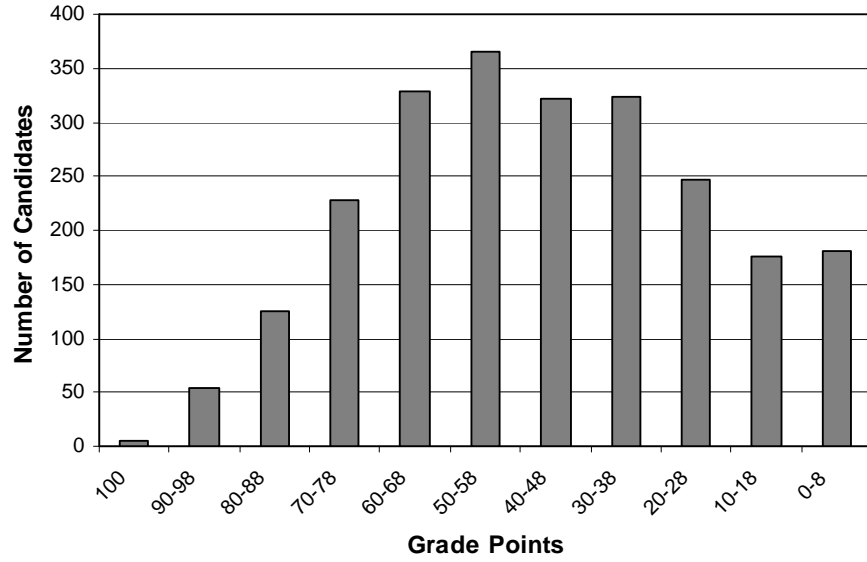
**Table 3.10: May 2008 Failed/Missing Component/s
in Matriculation Certificate**

Missing Component/s	Males	Females	Total
Group 1 only	74	43	117
Group 2 only	20	57	77
Group 3 only	52	93	145
Systems of Knowledge	82	149	231
Total: One Component	228	342	570
Passed - Not enough points	123	137	260
More than One Component	211	229	440
Total	562	708	1270

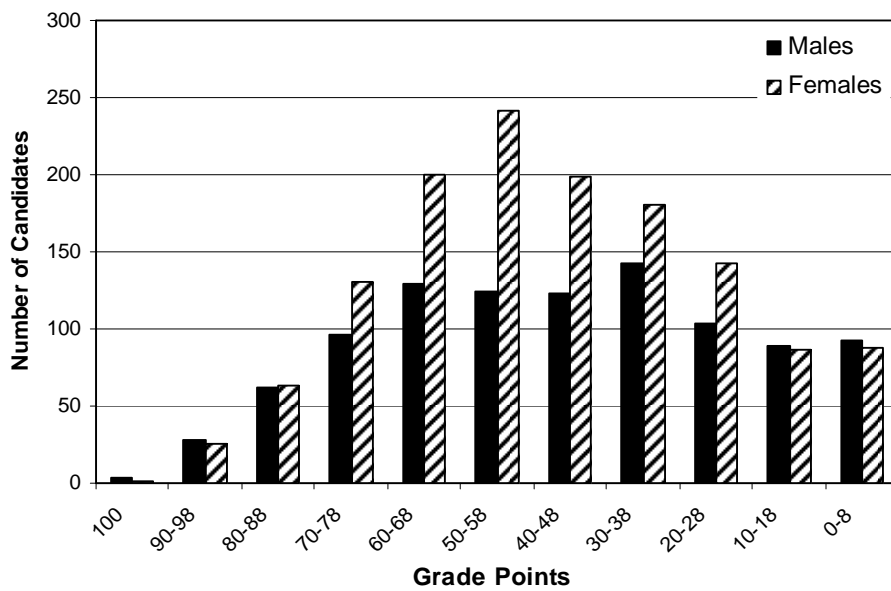
Table 3.10 shows that there were 1270 candidates who failed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in May 2008 (53.9% of all candidates). The largest category (44.9%) included the students who had one component missing.

Figures 9 and 10 show the distributions of the grade points obtained in the Matriculation Certificate examinations of May 2008 by all the candidates and by males and females separately. These figures show an overall normal distribution of grade points. However, there is an unexpectedly high number of candidates who obtained eight points or less. There were five candidates (4 males and 1 female) who obtained 100 points in this session.

**Figure 9: Distribution of Grade Points
May 2008**



**Figure 10: Distribution of Grade Points by Gender May
2008**



**Table 3.11: May 2008 Matriculation Certificate
Distribution of Grades: 1990 Cohort**

Grade	Males	Females	Total
A	89	86	175
B	129	226	355
C	150	251	401
Passes	368	563	931
Fail	338	479	817
Total	706	1042	1748

The data in Table 3.11 show that 53.3% of the candidates (52.1% of males and 54.0% of females) that were born in 1990 were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the May 2008 examination session. Overall, 10.0% of these candidates were awarded Grade A, 20.3% were awarded Grade B, and 22.9% were awarded Grade C. For Grade A, the proportion of males (12.6%) was higher than the proportion of females (8.3%). The proportion of females who obtained Grade B was higher (18.3% of males compared to 21.7% of females). For Grade C, the proportion of females was higher: 24.1% of females compared to 21.2% of males obtained this grade.

Table 3.12: May 2008 Results of the Narrowly Failed Candidates (2006 and 2007)

	Males	Females	Total
Narrowly Failed in 2006 & 2007	8	7	15
Applied in May 2008	2	6	8
May 2008 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	0	0	0
Grade C	0	4	4
Passed in May 2008	0	4	4
Still Narrowly Failed May 2008	2	2	4
Narrowly Failed in 2007	69	75	144
Applied in May 2008	51	53	104
May 2008 Results			
Grade A	0	1	1
Grade B	6	4	10
Grade C	28	34	62
Passed in May 2008	34	39	73
Still Narrowly Failed May 2008	17	14	31

Table 3.12 shows that out of the 15 candidates who had been classified as Narrowly Failed in 2006, there were 4 who managed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in May 2008. Out of the 104 candidates who were Narrowly Failed in 2007 and applied in May 2008, there were 73 (70.2%) who managed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in May 2008. Most of these candidates obtained an overall Grade C.

SECTION 4.0: SEPTEMBER 2008 REGISTRATIONS

Table 4.1 below shows the numbers of candidates who applied for the Supplementary session in September 2008. This table indicates the Matriculation Certificate grades they were awarded after the main session in May 2008.

**Table 4.1: September 2008 Registrations
by Matriculation Certificate Grades obtained in May 2008**

Grade in May	Registration in September		
	Males	Females	Total
A	1	0	1
B	12	13	25
C	73	109	182
Fail	368	485	853
Total	454	607	1061

In total, 45.0% of the candidates who sat for the Matriculation Certificate in May 2008 applied for the supplementary session in September. In particular, 45.6% of the male candidates and 44.6% of the female candidates who applied for the May session also applied for the September session. As expected, the majority of the candidates who applied for the supplementary session were the ones who failed in May (80.4%).

It is interesting to note that 17.2% of the September candidates had already obtained an overall Grade C in May. A smaller number (2.4%) had obtained a Grade B in May. This year there were one candidate who applied for the September session who had already obtained an overall Grade A in May 2008.

Table 4.2 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for the Matriculation Certificate examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects in September 2008.

Table 4.2: September 2008 Matriculation Certificate Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	28	32	60	4	7	11
Applied Mathematics	0	2	2	4	2	6
Art	2	5	7	-	-	-
Biology	20	62	82	2	21	23
Chemistry	24	29	53	5	5	10
Computing	13	5	18	7	4	11
Economics	6	8	14	0	1	1
Engineer/Graphical	-	-	-	5	3	8
English	25	52	77	106	112	218
Environ. Science	-	-	-	13	28	41
French	4	4	8	4	3	7
Geography	1	3	4	5	7	12
German	-	-	-	2	1	3
Graphical Comm.	4	1	5	-	-	-
History	3	0	3	1	2	3
Home Economics	0	3	3	2	1	3
Info. Technology	0	4	4	3	4	7
Italian	10	24	34	10	4	14
Maltese	9	28	37	13	30	43
Marketing	6	9	15	5	5	10
Music	0	1	1	-	-	-
Philosophy	3	6	9	20	44	64
Physics	56	25	81	26	35	61
Pure Mathematics	104	71	175	21	25	46
Religious Knowledge	7	1	8	8	16	24
Sociology	15	39	54	13	53	66
Spanish	-	-	-	0	1	1
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	120	175	295

In the September session, at Advanced level, the subjects with most candidates were English (77), Physics (81), Biology (82) and Pure Mathematics (175). At Intermediate level, Systems of Knowledge (295) and English (218) were the subjects with the highest registrations in September 2008. In this session, subjects with higher numbers of registrations from females included Advanced level Biology, English, Italian, Maltese, and Sociology. At the same time, there were more registrations from males than females for Advanced level Physics and Pure Mathematics. At Intermediate level, there were more registrations from females than males in Biology, Environmental Science, Philosophy, Physics, and Systems of Knowledge. At Intermediate level, there were more registrations from males than females in Computing and Italian, although in both cases the number of registrations was small.

Table 4.3 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who registered for single subjects at Advanced Matriculation level in the September 2008 supplementary session.

Table 4.3: September 2008 Single Subjects Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subjects	Advanced Level		
	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	8	26	34
Biology	0	2	2
Chemistry	2	4	6
Computing	3	2	5
Economics	1	3	4
English	9	24	33
German	0	2	2
Graphical Comm.	0	1	1
History	0	1	1
Italian	1	7	8
Maltese	3	6	9
Marketing	11	15	26
Philosophy	0	3	3
Physics	6	3	9
Pure Mathematics	9	4	13
Sociology	2	3	5

In the Supplementary session, the single subjects with the highest registrations were Accounting (34), English (33) and Marketing (26). In this session, single subjects with higher registrations from females than males were Accounting and English. At the same time, there were more registrations from males than females for Physics and Pure Mathematics.

Table 4.4 below shows that the number of registrations for subjects they need to satisfy special course requirements for this session was small (N=23).

Table 4.4: September 2008 Registration for Special Course Requirements

Subject	Advanced	Intermediate
Accounting	-	-
Applied Mathematics	-	1
Biology	1	2
Chemistry	1	1
English	-	3
Information Technology	-	-
Maltese	-	7
Marketing	-	1
Philosophy	1	-
Physics	-	1
Pure Mathematics	3	-
Sociology	-	1

Table 4.5 below shows the number of requests made for a Revision of Papers, by subject, after the September 2008 results were issued. Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.

Table 4.5: September 2008 Registrations for Revision of Papers*

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Reg.	Requests	%	Reg.	Requests	%
Accounts	95	1	1.1	0	-	0
Biology	85	10	11.8	26	1	3.8
Chemistry	60	1	1.7	11	1	9.1
Computing	23	2	8.7	-	-	-
English	110	11	10.0	223	14	6.3
Environmental Science	-	-	-	42	4	9.5
French	8	0	0.0	7	1	14.3
Geography	4	1	25.0	-	-	-
Italian	42	1	2.4	-	-	-
Maltese	46	5	10.9	-	-	-
Marketing	42	1	2.4	-	-	-
Philosophy	13	1	7.7	64	1	1.6
Physics	93	7	7.5	67	2	3.0
Pure Mathematics	192	6	3.1	48	1	2.1
Religious Knowledge	8	0	0.0	24	2	8.3
Sociology	60	3	5.0	-	-	-
Systems of Knowledge	0	-	-	295	8	2.7
Total	881	50	5.7	807	35	4.3

* The number of registrations and requests for revision of papers from all candidates are included.

SECTION 5.0: SEPTEMBER 2008 RESULTS

The following tables present the results of the Supplementary session that took place in September 2008. Tables 5.1 and 5.2 present the Advanced and Intermediate level results for all candidates by gender. Tables 5.3 and 5.4 present the Advanced and Intermediate level results of the candidates that sat for these subjects as part of their Matriculation Certificate. It is important to remember that students taking the Matriculation Certificate examinations were restricted to re-apply for one subject at Advanced level, one subject at Intermediate level and Systems of Knowledge. Table 5.5 presents the results of the candidates who registered for Single Subjects at Advanced level in the September 2008 supplementary session. Tables 5.6 and 5.7 present the results of the candidates who have the Matriculation Certificate and apply to sit for subjects that are special course requirements. Although there are some exceptions, generally the absence or low incidence of high grades is apparent in most of the subjects in these tables.

**Table 5.1: September 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	10	31	15	14	16	9	95
Males	0	5	11	7	3	7	3	36
Females	0	5	20	8	11	9	6	59
Applied Maths	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Art	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	7
Males	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Females	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5
Biology	0	0	7	19	33	19	7	85
Males	0	0	3	5	5	6	2	21
Females	0	0	4	14	28	13	5	64
Chemistry	0	1	14	12	16	10	7	60
Males	0	0	8	4	6	5	4	27
Females	0	1	6	8	10	5	3	33
Computing	0	2	4	5	6	6	0	23
Males	0	1	3	3	4	5	0	16
Females	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	7
Economics	0	1	8	3	1	0	5	18
Males	0	0	3	0	1	0	3	7
Females	0	1	5	3	0	0	2	11
English	0	0	15	25	32	28	10	110
Males	0	0	7	7	9	7	4	34
Females	0	0	8	18	23	21	6	76
French	0	0	1	3	2	2	0	8
Males	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	4
Females	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	4
Geography	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Females	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
German	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Graphical Comm.	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	6
Males	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Females	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.1: September 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
History	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Males	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Home Economics	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Information Technology	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Italian	0	0	16	8	12	6	0	42
Males	0	0	1	3	6	1	0	11
Females	0	0	15	5	6	5	0	31
Maltese	0	2	15	3	14	9	3	46
Males	0	1	3	0	3	3	2	12
Females	0	1	12	3	11	6	1	34
Marketing	1	5	8	7	4	6	11	42
Males	0	3	2	4	1	3	5	18
Females	1	2	6	3	3	3	6	24
Music	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	0	3	5	0	0	4	1	13
Males	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
Females	0	2	3	0	0	3	1	9
Physics	0	1	21	32	14	17	8	93
Males	0	1	14	21	9	14	6	65
Females	0	0	7	11	5	3	2	28
Pure Mathematics	1	7	58	28	27	58	13	192
Males	1	3	37	15	20	34	7	117
Females	0	4	21	13	7	24	6	75
Religious Knowledge	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	8
Males	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	7
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sociology	5	20	13	10	3	7	2	60
Males	1	7	3	2	0	3	1	17
Females	4	13	10	8	3	4	1	43

*Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.2: September 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	0	4	1	3	3	0	11
Males	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
Females	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	7
Applied Maths	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	7
Males	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4
Females	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Art	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Biology	0	4	3	4	7	5	3	26
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Females	0	4	3	4	6	4	3	24
Chemistry	0	0	4	0	3	4	0	11
Males	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	5
Females	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	6
Computing	0	0	2	1	2	6	0	11
Males	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	7
Females	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
Economics	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Engineering/Graphical	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	8
Males	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	5
Females	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
English	13	31	59	39	28	53	0	223
Males	7	17	32	16	17	19	0	108
Females	6	14	27	23	11	34	0	115
Environmental Science	0	0	1	3	18	17	3	42
Males	0	0	1	0	5	7	1	14
Females	0	0	0	3	13	10	2	28
French	0	1	2	1	0	3	0	7
Males	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
Females	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Geography	2	6	0	2	0	1	1	12
Males	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	5
Females	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	7
German	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
History	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Home Economics	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Males	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.2: September 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
All Candidates (Page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Information Technology	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	7
Males	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Females	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Italian	0	0	5	1	4	4	0	14
Males	0	0	5	1	1	3	0	10
Females	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Maltese	1	6	11	8	8	16	0	50
Males	0	0	5	4	4	5	0	18
Females	1	6	6	4	4	11	0	32
Marketing	1	2	1	0	2	3	2	11
Males	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	5
Females	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	6
Philosophy	0	3	12	19	7	22	1	64
Males	0	1	3	6	3	7	0	20
Females	0	2	9	13	4	15	1	44
Physics	0	3	21	13	17	7	6	67
Males	0	1	6	5	7	5	4	28
Females	0	2	15	8	10	2	2	39
Pure Mathematics	0	0	5	8	16	19	0	48
Males	0	0	2	4	7	8	0	21
Females	0	0	3	4	9	11	0	27
Religious Knowledge	0	1	4	7	3	6	3	24
Males	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	8
Females	0	1	4	4	2	3	2	16
Sociology	0	2	23	12	17	7	6	67
Males	0	0	1	2	4	4	2	13
Females	0	2	22	10	13	3	4	54
Spanish	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Systems of Knowledge	0	39	160	34	8	54	0	295
Males	0	10	57	23	6	24	0	120
Females	0	29	103	11	2	30	0	175

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.3: September 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	10	20	11	5	10	4	60
Males	0	5	10	5	2	4	2	28
Females	0	5	10	6	3	6	2	32
Applied Maths	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Art	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	7
Males	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Females	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5
Biology	0	0	7	18	33	18	6	82
Males	0	0	3	4	5	6	2	20
Females	0	0	4	14	28	12	4	62
Chemistry	0	1	11	12	15	10	4	53
Males	0	0	7	4	6	5	2	24
Females	0	1	4	8	9	5	2	29
Computing	0	2	2	5	3	6	0	18
Males	0	1	2	3	2	5	0	13
Females	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	5
Economics	0	1	7	3	1	0	2	14
Males	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	6
Females	0	1	4	3	0	0	0	8
English	0	0	15	20	22	13	7	77
Males	0	0	7	6	7	2	3	25
Females	0	0	8	14	15	11	4	52
French	0	0	1	3	2	2	0	8
Males	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	4
Females	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	4
Geography	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Females	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Graphical Comm.	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5
Males	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
History	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Males	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Economics	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Information Technology	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	4

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this table.

**Table 5.3: September 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Italian	0	0	13	6	10	5	0	34
Males	0	0	1	2	6	1	0	10
Females	0	0	12	4	4	4	0	24
Maltese	0	2	14	3	10	6	2	37
Males	0	1	3	0	2	2	1	9
Females	0	1	11	3	8	4	1	28
Marketing	0	1	5	4	1	1	3	15
Males	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	6
Females	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	9
Music	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	9
Males	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Females	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Physics	0	1	17	30	12	15	6	81
Males	0	1	11	20	7	12	5	56
Females	0	0	6	10	5	3	1	25
Pure Mathematics	1	7	51	28	23	55	10	175
Males	1	3	32	15	16	32	5	104
Females	0	4	19	13	7	23	5	71
Religious Knowledge	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	8
Males	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	7
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sociology	4	19	11	10	3	6	1	54
Males	1	7	2	2	0	3	0	15
Females	3	12	9	8	3	3	1	39

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this table.

**Table 5.4: September 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 1 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	0	4	1	3	3	0	11
Males	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
Females	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	7
Applied Maths	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	6
Males	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Biology	0	4	2	4	6	5	2	23
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Females	0	4	2	4	5	4	2	21
Chemistry	0	0	4	0	3	3	0	10
Males	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	5
Females	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	5
Computing	0	0	2	1	2	6	0	11
Males	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	7
Females	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
Economics	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Eng. Draw./Graph. Comm.	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	8
Males	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	5
Females	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
English	12	30	57	39	27	53	0	218
Males	7	17	31	16	16	19	0	106
Females	5	13	26	23	11	34	0	112
Env. Science	0	0	1	3	17	17	3	41
Males	0	0	1	0	4	7	1	13
Females	0	0	0	3	13	10	2	28
French	0	1	2	1	0	3	0	7
Males	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4
Females	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
Geography	2	6	0	2	0	1	1	12
Males	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	5
Females	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	7
History	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Home Economics	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Males	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Info. Technology	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	7
Males	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Females	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4

*Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table

**Table 5.4: September 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Matriculation Certificate (page 2 of 2)**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
German	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Italian	0	0	5	1	4	4	0	14
Males	0	0	5	1	1	3	0	10
Females	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Maltese	0	6	9	7	7	14	0	43
Males	0	0	3	3	3	4	0	13
Females	0	6	6	4	4	10	0	30
Marketing	1	2	0	0	2	3	2	10
Males	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	5
Females	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	5
Philosophy	0	3	12	19	7	22	1	64
Males	0	1	3	6	3	7	0	20
Females	0	2	9	13	4	15	1	44
Physics	0	1	20	13	17	5	5	61
Males	0	1	6	5	7	3	4	26
Females	0	0	14	8	10	2	1	35
Pure Mathematics	0	0	5	7	15	19	0	46
Males	0	0	2	4	7	8	0	21
Females	0	0	3	3	8	11	0	25
Religious Knowledge	0	1	4	7	3	6	3	24
Males	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	8
Females	0	1	4	4	2	3	2	16
Sociology	0	2	23	12	17	7	5	66
Males	0	0	1	2	4	4	2	13
Females	0	2	22	10	13	3	3	53
Spanish	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Systems of Know.	0	39	160	34	8	54	0	295
Males	0	10	57	23	6	24	0	120
Females	0	29	103	11	2	30	0	175

*Subjects with no registrations are not included in this Table.

**Table 5.5: September 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Single Subjects**

Subjects*	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Accounting	0	0	11	4	9	6	4	34
Males	0	0	1	2	1	3	1	8
Females	0	0	10	2	8	3	3	26
Biology	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Chemistry	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	6
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Females	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	4
Computing	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	5
Males	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
Females	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Economics	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
English	0	0	0	5	10	15	3	33
Males	0	0	0	1	2	5	1	9
Females	0	0	0	4	8	10	2	24
German	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Graph. Communication	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
History	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Italian	0	0	3	2	2	1	0	8
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	7
Maltese	0	0	1	0	4	3	1	9
Males	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Females	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	6
Marketing	1	4	3	2	3	5	8	26
Males	0	3	0	2	1	2	3	11
Females	1	1	3	0	2	3	5	15
Philosophy	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Physics	0	0	3	2	0	2	2	9
Males	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	6
Females	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Pure Mathematics	0	0	5	0	2	3	3	13
Males	0	0	3	0	2	2	2	9
Females	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	4

* Subjects with no registrations are not included in this table.

**Table 5.6: September 2008 Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Special Course Requirements**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Biology	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philosophy	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pure Mathematics	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Males	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 5.7: September 2008 Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender:
Special Course Requirements**

Subjects	A	B	C	D	E	F	Abs	Total
Applied Maths	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Biology	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Chemistry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
English	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Females	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Maltese	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	7
Males	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	5
Females	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Marketing	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Physics	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sociology	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Table 5.8 below presents information on the outcome of the requests for a Revision of Papers made for the different subjects at Advanced and Intermediate levels after the September 2008 results were issued.

Table 5.8: September 2008 Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers*

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded	Reg.	Requests	%	Upgraded
Accounts	95	1	1.1	-	-	-	-	-
Biology	85	10	11.8	-	26	1	3.8	0
Chemistry	60	1	1.7	-	11	1	9.1	0
Computing	23	2	8.7	-	-	-	-	-
English	110	11	10.0	1	223	14	6.3	0
Environ. Science	-	-	-	-	42	4	9.5	0
French	8	0	0.0	-	7	1	14.3	0
Geography	4	1	25.0	-	-	-	-	-
Italian	42	1	2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Maltese	46	5	10.9	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing	42	1	2.4	1	-	-	-	-
Philosophy	13	1	7.7	-	64	1	1.6	0
Physics	93	7	7.5	-	67	2	3.0	0
Pure Mathematics	192	6	3.1	1	48	1	2.1	0
Religious Knowledge	8	-	-	-	24	2	8.3	0
Sociology	60	3	5.0	-	-	-	-	-
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	295	8	2.7	0
Total	881	50	5.7	3	807	35	4.3	0

*The number of registrations and requests for revision of papers from all candidates are included.

Table 5.8 shows that at Advanced level, only three out of the 50 requests for a Revision of Papers had the grade revised. At Intermediate level, none of the 35 requests for a Revision of Papers had a grade revised.

The following set of Tables present data related to the overall Matriculation Certificate grades awarded after the supplementary examination session of September 2008. The information in Tables 5.9 and 5.10 includes all the 2008 candidates whereas Tables 5.11 focuses on the 1990 cohort, that is, those candidates who turned eighteen in 2008. Table 5.12 focuses on the Narrowly Failed candidates from 2006-7.

**Table 5.9: September 2008
Matriculation Certificate Distribution of Grades**

	Males	Females	Total
A	6	5	11
B	53	61	114
C	185	285	470
Passed	244	351	595
Narrowly Failed	54	75	129
Fail	156	181	337
Total	454	607	1061

The data in Table 5.9 shows that 56.1% of the candidates (53.7% of males and 57.8% of females) who sat for the Supplementary session in September 2008 managed to get a pass in the Matriculation Certificate. Overall, 1.0% of the candidates obtained Grade A, 10.7% obtained Grade B and 44.3% obtained Grade C. There were 12.2% of the candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed.

**Table 5.10: Failed/Missing Component/s
of Narrowly Failed Candidates in September 2008**

Missing Component/s	Males	Females	Total
Group 1 only	9	12	21
Group 2 only	1	7	8
Group 3 only	15	18	33
Systems of Knowledge	6	8	14
Total: One Missing Component	31	45	76
Passed, but not enough points	23	30	53
Total	54	75	129

Table 5.10 gives a detailed breakdown of the failed/missing components of the candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed. Many of the candidates who had one missing component either did not obtain a pass in a Group 1 or a Group 3 subject.

**Table 5.11: September 2008 Matriculation Certificate
Distribution of Grades: 1990 Cohort**

	Males	Females	Total
A	5	4	9
B	38	51	89
C	138	225	363
Passed	181	280	461
Narrowly Failed	29	45	74
Fail	84	130	214
Total	294	455	749

The data in Table 5.11 show that 61.5% of the candidates (61.6% of males and 61.5% of females) born in 1990 who sat for the Supplementary session were awarded a pass in the Matriculation Certificate after the September 2008 examination session. Overall, 1.2% of these candidates obtained Grade A, 11.9% obtained Grade B and 45.8% obtained Grade C. There were 9.9% of the 1990 candidates who were classified as Narrowly Failed after this session.

Table 5.12: September 2008 Results of Narrowly Failed Candidates (2006 – 2007)

	Males	Females	Total
Narrowly Failed in 2006 & 2007	8	7	15
Applied in May 2008	2	6	8
Passed in May 2008	0	4	4
Still Narrowly Failed after May 2008	2	2	4
Applied in September 2008	1	1	2
September 2008 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	0	0	0
Grade C	0	1	1
Passes in September 2008	0	1	1
Not awarded Certificate in 2008	1	0	1
Narrowly Failed in 2007	69	75	144
Applied in May 2008	51	53	104
Passed in May 2008	34	39	73
Still Narrowly Failed after May 2008	17	14	31
Applied in September 2008	8	7	15
September 2008 Results			
Grade A	0	0	0
Grade B	1	1	2
Grade C	5	5	10
Passes in September 2008	6	6	12
Not awarded Certificate in 2008	2	1	3

Table 5.12 shows that five of the 2006 Narrowly Failed candidates managed to obtain the Matriculation Certificate in September 2008. There were 85 of the 2007 Narrowly Failed Candidates who were awarded the Matriculation Certificate in September 2008. A further three remained Narrowly Failed after the September 2008 session. These candidates have the opportunity to complete the Matriculation Certificate in 2009.

In 2008, a total of 1473 out of 2356 candidates (62.5%) obtained a pass in the Matriculation Certificate. The pass rate for females was higher than the pass rate for males: 64.8 % (882 out of 1361) and 59.4 % (591 out of 995) respectively.

The analysis on the 1990 cohort shows that 70.1% of the candidates born in that year (1226 out of 1,748) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2008. This means that 22.8% of the infants born in 1990 (1,226 out of 5,368) obtained the obligatory entry requirements for University in 2008. There was a gender imbalance in this figure in favour of females: while 28.8% of females born in 1990 (744 out of 2,582) obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2008, only 17.3% of males born in the same year (482 out of 2,786) obtained the same qualification.

The following tables indicate the percentage passes in the different subjects in 2008. Table 5.13 presents the data for the Advanced level subjects. Data for the candidates taking the Matriculation Certificate and those sitting for particular subjects as single subjects are presented separately although the overall pass rate is also given for each subject. Table 5.14 presents the data for the Intermediate level subjects.

Table 5.13: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2008 (page 1 of 3)

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Accounting	546	395	72.3
Matriculation Certificate	317	281	88.6
Single Subject	229	114	49.8
Applied Mathematics	14	6	42.9
Matriculation Certificate	10	4	40.0
Single Subject	4	2	50.0
Art	107	86	80.4
Matriculation Certificate	61	53	86.9
Single Subject	46	33	71.7
Biology	529	464	87.7
Matriculation Certificate	498	448	90.0
Single Subject	31	16	51.6
Chemistry	385	307	79.7
Matriculation Certificate	353	288	81.6
Single Subject	32	19	59.4
Computing	224	178	79.5
Matriculation Certificate	176	147	83.5
Single Subject	48	31	64.6
Economics	183	152	83.1
Matriculation Certificate	161	144	89.4
Single Subject	22	8	36.4

Table 5.13: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2008 (page 2 of 3)

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Engineering Drawing	4	3	75
Matriculation Certificate	2	2	100
Single Subject	2	1	50
English	594	439	73.9
Matriculation Certificate	399	340	85.2
Single Subject	195	99	50.8
French	110	104	94.5
Matriculation Certificate	101	97	96.0
Single Subject	9	7	77.8
Geography	65	61	93.8
Matriculation Certificate	62	60	96.8
Single Subject	3	1	33.3
German	33	30	90.9
Matriculation Certificate	23	21	91.3
Single Subject	10	9	90.0
Graphical Comm.	25	17	68.0
Matriculation Certificate	16	12	75.0
Single Subject	9	5	55.6
History	107	88	82.2
Matriculation Certificate	77	70	90.9
Single Subject	30	18	60.0
Home Economics	119	110	92.4
Matriculation Certificate	98	92	93.9
Single Subject	21	18	85.7
Information Technology	93	85	91.4
Matriculation Certificate	84	79	94.0
Single Subject	9	6	66.7
Italian	244	194	79.5
Matriculation Certificate	183	160	87.4
Single Subject	61	34	55.7
Maltese	405	353	87.2
Matriculation Certificate	315	290	92.1
Single Subject	90	63	70.0
Marketing	416	324	77.9
Matriculation Certificate	206	188	91.3
Single Subject	210	136	64.8
Music	11	11	100.0
Matriculation Certificate	8	8	100.0
Single Subject	3	3	100.0
Philosophy	168	134	79.8
Matriculation Certificate	131	116	88.5
Single Subject	37	18	48.6

Table 5.13: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2008 (page 3 of 3)

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Physics	560	440	78.6
Matriculation Certificate	493	405	82.2
Single Subject	67	35	52.2
Pure Mathematics	692	444	64.2
Matriculation Certificate	621	425	68.4
Single Subject	71	19	26.8
Religious Knowledge	149	118	79.2
Matriculation Certificate	81	71	87.7
Single Subject	68	47	69.1
Russian	8	8	100.0
Matriculation Certificate	-	-	-
Single Subject	8	8	100.0
Sociology	270	207	76.7
Matriculation Certificate	226	193	85.4
Single Subject	44	14	31.8
Spanish	29	27	94.7
Matriculation Certificate	10	9	90.0
Single Subject	19	18	94.7

Table 5.13 shows that in Advanced level subjects, the overall pass rate was:

- *over 90% in eight subjects:*
French, Geography, German, Home Economics, Information Technology, Music Russian and Spanish.
- *between 80-89% in five subjects:*
Art, Biology, Economics, History, and Maltese.
- *between 70-79% in ten subjects:*
Accounting, Chemistry, Computing, Engineering Drawing, English, Italian, Marketing, Philosophy, Physics and Religious Knowledge.
- *between 60-69% in two subjects:*
Graphical Communication and Pure Mathematics.
- *between 50-59% none.*
- *between 40-49 in one subject:*
Applied Mathematics.

Table 5.14: Passes in Intermediate Level Subjects in 2008

Subject	Reg.	Grades A-E	
		N	%
Accounting	143	130	90.9
Applied Mathematics	84	74	88.1
Art	41	34	82.9
Biology	208	168	80.8
Chemistry	38	30	78.9
Computing	137	116	84.7
Economics	80	65	81.3
Eng. Drawing/Graph. Com	120	90	75.0
English	1379	1148	83.2
Environmental Science	489	388	79.3
French	136	116	85.3
Geography	90	69	76.7
German	31	29	93.5
History	81	67	82.7
Home Economics	56	47	83.9
Information Technology	319	301	94.4
Italian	211	184	87.2
Maltese	547	481	87.9
Marketing	223	187	83.9
Music	6	6	100.0
Philosophy	675	551	81.6
Physics	623	526	84.4
Pure Mathematics	496	383	77.2
Religious Knowledge	405	362	89.4
Sociology	432	303	70.1
Spanish	18	18	100.0
Systems of Knowledge	2356	2003	85.0

Table 5.14 shows that in Intermediate level subjects, the overall pass rate was:

- *over 90% in five subjects:*
Accounting, German, Information Technology, Music and Spanish.
- *between 80-89% in sixteen subjects:*
Applied Mathematics, Art, Biology, Computing, Economics, English, French, History, Home Economics, Italian, Maltese, Marketing, Philosophy, Physics, Religious Knowledge and Systems of Knowledge.
- *between 70-79% in six subjects:*
Chemistry, Engineering Drawing / Graphical Communication, Environmental Science, Geography, Pure Mathematics and Sociology.

SECTION 6.0: GENERAL STATISTICS

This section gives an overview of the general statistics of the Matriculation Certificate from 1997 to 2008. These data allow one to observe the trends that have been developing since this system of examinations was introduced in the Maltese Islands.

Table 6.1 shows the numbers of candidates that have qualified for the Matriculation Certificate annually and by session.

Table 6.1: Candidates qualified for the Matriculation Certification 1997-2008

Year	Candidates	Qualified in May		Qualified in Sept		Total Qualified	
	N	N	%	N	%	N	%
1997	1309	775	59.2	197	15.0	972	74.3
1998	1630	787	48.3	255	15.6	1042	63.9
1999	1721	878	51.0	238	13.8	1116	64.8
2000	1862	950	51.0	275	14.8	1225	65.8
2001	1981	1043	52.7	247	12.5	1290	65.1
2002	2018	1106	54.8	280	13.9	1386	68.7
2003	2059	1089	52.9	306	14.9	1395	67.8
2004	2233	1063	47.6	319	14.3	1382	61.9
2005	2455	1136	46.3	333	13.6	1469	59.8
2006	2550	1297	50.9	259	10.2	1556	61.0
2007	2532	1169	46.2	426	16.8	1595	63.0
2008	2356	1086	46.1	387	16.4	1473	62.5

This table shows that the overall percentage pass rate was highest in the first year of operation. Around three fourths of the candidates passed in 1997. For the next four years, the pass rate stabilised around 65%. In the following two years, the pass rate was around 68.0%. In 2004, the pass rate was lower, reaching 61.9%. In 2005, it was the lowest so far, at 59.8%. In 2006, the pass rate increased to 61%. In 2007, the pass rate increased further to 63.0% while in 2008, the pass rate remained at the same level as 2007. It is worth pointing out that, on average, around 14% of the candidates have qualified for the Matriculation Certificate because of the Supplementary Session. In 2008, this percentage was high, comparatively speaking, reaching 16.4%.

Table 6.2 below gives a breakdown of the statistics concerning the Supplementary session. This table shows how many candidates applied for the September session each year and how their performance in this session affected the overall grade of their certificate.

Table 6.2: Supplementary Sessions 1997-2008: Changes in Overall Grade

Year	Candidates	No Change in Certificate Grade		Upgraded Certificate Grade		Upgraded / Qualified for Certificate		Upgraded / F → N	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1997	646	326	50.5	54	8.4	197	30.5	69	10.7
1998	937	509	54.3	46	4.9	255	27.2	127	13.6
1999	836	461	55.1	20	2.4	238	28.5	117	14.0
2000	914	482	52.7	40	4.4	275	30.1	117	12.8
2001	1016	587	57.8	46	4.5	247	24.3	136	13.4
2002	970	538	55.5	53	5.5	280	28.9	99	10.2
2003	1006	527	52.4	45	4.5	306	30.4	128	12.7
2004	1151	633	55.0	35	3.0	319	27.7	164	14.3
2005	1310	730	55.7	77	5.9	333	25.4	170	13.0
2006	1195	734	61.4	40	3.3	259	21.7	162	13.6
2007	1232	621	50.4	54	4.4	426	34.6	131	10.6
2008	1061	506	47.7	39	3.7	387	36.5	129	12.2

Over the years, around half of the candidates who applied for the Supplementary session did not improve the grade of their certificate after sitting the September session. A relatively small number of candidates who had already obtained an overall pass in May improved their grade after the September session. This subgroup has generally been less than 5%. Each year, around a third of the candidates upgraded their overall grade in September and consequently qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. Also, each year, between 10% and 14% of the candidates were classified as Narrowly Failed (N) after the Supplementary session.

Table 6.3 gives a detailed breakdown of the four categories presented in the previous Table.

Table 6.3: Supplementary Sessions 1997-2008: Details of Changes in Overall Grade

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Reg. Candidates	646	937	836	914	1016	970	1006	1151	1310	1195	1232	1061
No Change in Grade	326 50.5%	509 54.3%	461 55.1%	482 52.7%	587 57.8%	538 55.5%	527 52.4%	633 55%	730 56%	734 61.4%	621 50.4%	506 47.7%
A → A	10	3	3	4	3	2	2	0	5	3	2	1
B → B	20	33	31	28	40	47	37	35	47	48	27	23
C → C	105	168	119	158	208	194	199	201	219	248	193	145
F → F	191	305	308	292	336	295	289	397	459	435	399	337
Upgraded	54 8.4%	46 4.9%	20 2.4%	40 4.4%	46 4.5%	53 5.5%	45 4.5%	35 3.0%	77 5.9%	40 3.3%	54 4.4%	39 3.7%
B → A	14	7	3	3	7	3	8	8	6	4	7	2
C → A	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
C → B	40	39	16	36	39	5	36	27	71	36	47	37
Upgraded/Qualified for Certificate	197 30.5%	255 27.2%	238 28.5%	275 30.1%	247 24.3%	280 29.0%	306 30.4%	319 27.7%	333 25.4%	259 21.7%	426 34.6%	387 36.5%
F → A	4	1	3	7	2	3	3	1	4	1	7	8
F → B	25	29	24	35	35	38	27	36	39	25	34	54
F → C	168	225	211	233	210	240	276	282	290	233	385	325
Upgraded to Narrowly Failed	69 10.7%	127 13.6%	117 14.0%	117 12.8%	136 13.4%	99 10.2%	128 12.7%	164 14.3%	170 13%	162 13.6%	131 10.6%	129 12.2%
F → N	69	127	117	117	136	99	128	164	170	162	131	129

This table shows that over the years Grade C has featured prominently in the different categories. Among those candidates who had no change in grade after the September session, the largest category (among those who had passed) remained with a Grade C. Amongst the candidates who had passed in May and improved their overall grade in September, the largest category has always been from Grade C to Grade B. Furthermore, among the candidates who upgraded their overall grade from a Fail to a Pass, the largest category upgraded to a Grade C. It is interesting to point out that the trends in the Matriculation Certificate results have remained stable over the past years.

SECTION 7.0: CONCLUSION

This report has been produced with the intention of providing important and valid information about various aspects of the Matriculation Certificate examination of 2008 in particular. The emphasis is on both the presentation of the information as well as on important analyses that are possible as a result of this information. However, it is possible for individuals and institutions to carry out further analyses on the data presented in this report. This report may be used as a basis of an evaluation of the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations that has been in operation for twelve years to date.

Comments on this report and recommendations on improving this or similar documents published by the MATSEC Support Unit are welcome. These are to be sent to matsec@um.edu.mt.

APPENDICES