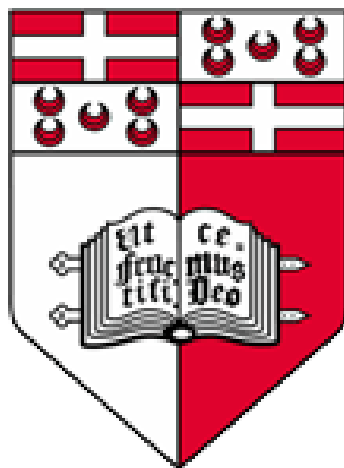


MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2015

Statistical Report



**MATSEC Examinations Board
University of Malta**

FOREWORD

The annual statistical report on the Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examinations held in May/June and September offers an opportunity to consider trends in the registrations, choice of subjects and the results obtained by students at the upper secondary level. In 2015, while the total number of candidates in the May/June sessions was very similar to last year's registrations, the number of candidates in the September session increased from 1651 last year to 2810 this year. Part of this difference is explained by an increase of 15% over last year's figure in the number of candidates who sat for the examinations for the first time in September. Furthermore, in September 2015 there were more 17-year-old candidates than 18-year-olds, a clear indication that the majority of candidates in this session were probably students in the first year of upper secondary education.

The most popular subjects at Advanced level have remained the same over the years, however after many years, English has gained the place of the most popular subject with 724 candidates, followed by Biology (672 candidates), Pure Mathematics (549 candidates) and Maltese (518 candidates). A close look at the registrations data shows that significantly more females than males sit for Matriculation examinations so one expects to find more females registering for all subjects. However, when these different proportions of male and female candidates are taken into account, significant differences emerge in only a few subjects including English and Maltese in favour of females, and in Computing, IT, Physics and Pure Mathematics in favour of males. Yet when one considers the overall results, there are no significant differences between males and females in these subjects though there may be gender differences when one considers candidates who obtain Grades A and B. Further analysis shows that some subjects are becoming less popular and new subjects, such as Psychology, are quite popular causing displacement of students from other subjects.

The percentage of the 18-year-olds who qualify for the Matriculation Certificate each year has increased over the years from 19.2% in 2001 to 26.5% this year. There is also a substantial gender difference in this statistic in favour of females which seems to be decreasing gradually. In fact, over the last 12 years, an average of 12.2% more female than male 18-year-olds qualified for the certificate but this difference has decreased from an average of 12.5% up to 2005 to 10.5% in 2015. These data along with the other general information in the present report provide an indication of how upper secondary education is performing while the data by subject provide more specific information which can be useful to students, tutors and parents.

Finally a word of thanks is due to Gilbert Zahra who compiled the report with the assistance of Margaret Borg who retrieved the data, Gianluca Scicluna who inputted the data and maintained the files, and Mr Christian Attard who checked the data. Thanks are also due to the Director, Mr Dario Pirotta, and all the other members of staff of the MATSEC Support Unit whose commitment and sense of duty is exemplary, the examiners who gave up much of their time to meet our demands, and the Director, Mr Raymond J. Camilleri, and the staff of the Examinations Department on whom we rely for the smooth-running of the examinations.

Prof Frank Ventura
Chairman, MATSEC Examinations Board
February 2015

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Executive Summary

This document reports on the Matriculation Examination of 2015. The registrations and results of all candidates and of candidates of the 1997 cohort who turned 18 years of age in 2015 are 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 examination sessions held in May-June and September. It also presents general statistics of the May and September sessions which have taken place between 1997 – 2015, to indicate some trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate examinations were introduced in the Maltese Islands. 2015 was the third full session of Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examinations after the change in regulations which came into effect on the 1st September 2012

In total, 4,001 candidates (1,715 males and 2,286 females) registered for the examination of the May 2015 session while in September, there were 2,810 (1,185 males and 1,625 females) candidates. Of these, 1,088 candidates (38.7%) did not sit for any examination in the May session. These consisted of 419 males and 669 females. This was possible since the 2012 regulations establish that the September session of examinations is a new and separate session from the May session. One can note that while the number of May registrations has decreased along with a decreasing number of births, September registrations have increased. In September, there were more 17-year-olds than 18-year-olds who registered for one or more examinations. **A total of 5,205 candidates sat for Matriculation Examinations in 2015.**

In 2015, the largest number of registrations belonged to the 1997 cohort. These are the candidates who turned eighteen in 2015. In total, **1,886 from the 4,835 children (39.0%) born in 1997 registered for the Matriculation examinations in May 2015.** These consisted of 826 males and 1,060 females, that is, 32.4% of the 2,547 males and 46.3% of the 2,288 females born in 1997 registered for these examinations in this session. In 2015, similar to previous years, females outnumbered males in the registrations of the Matriculation examinations.

The most popular subjects at Advanced Matriculation Level English (724 candidates) and Maltese (518 candidates) from Group 1; Accounting (484 candidates) and Marketing (443 candidates) from Group 2; and Computing (159 candidates) and Home Economics & Human Ecology (142 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in Group 3 subjects are, with the exception of Applied Mathematics, of a comparable magnitude although Biology (672 candidates) and Pure Mathematics (549 candidates) are the two subjects with largest number of registrations. **All these subjects but Pure Mathematics and Computing are marked by a higher number of female candidates.** This is true in most subjects, with notable exceptions such as Physics, IT, History and, although subjects with a few candidates, Engineering Drawing, Music and Graphical Communication. In these subjects, there are more male than female candidates.

At Intermediate Matriculation Level, the popularity of English (1,355 candidates), Psychology (919 candidates) and IT (205 candidates) is notable in their respective group. Other popular choices include Maltese (322 candidates) from Group 1; Philosophy (402 candidates) from Group 2; Pure Mathematics (621 candidates) and Physics (658 candidates) from Group 3; and Computing (102 candidates) from Group 4. Again, most subjects are marked by a stronger female presence.



However, this is in line with the fact that more female than male candidates applied for Matriculation examinations in 2015. In some subjects, such as Group 1 subjects, Sociology, Art, and Environmental Science this is more visible. This is even more visible in Home Economics & Human Ecology, and Biology where 83.3% and 79.7% of candidates are female. Considerably more male candidates applied for subjects such as Religion, Applied Mathematics, Computing, Information Technology, and Engineering Drawing & Graphical Communication.

The small decrease in the percentage of 18-year-olds registering for Matriculation examinations, this was due to a decrease in the percentage of females applying for these examinations. In fact, **this year there are more subjects which have more male than female candidates than last year, although the majority of subjects still have more female candidates.** Only Group 3 subjects studied at Advanced Matriculation and Group 4 subjects studied at Intermediate Matriculation Level remain areas where most of the candidates are male.

At Advanced level, for the May session, **when overall passes (Grades A to E) are considered, the range of pass rates in the different subjects varied from over 90%** (Graphical Communication, Music and Russian) **to less than 40%** (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% (Arabic, German, Home Economics & Human Ecology, Information Technology, and Music) to less than 50% (Chemistry).

In 2015, 1,387 candidates (586 males and 801 females) obtained the Matriculation Certificate after the May session, while 341 candidates (161 males and 180 females) did so after the September session. This means that **1,728 candidates obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2015.** These include 1,281 candidates (1,086 from May and 220 from September) from the 1997 cohort, meaning that 26.5% of the children born 18 years before (21.5% of males and 32% of females) qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2015. Although, from the 1997 cohort, 10.5% more females than males were awarded the Matriculation Certificate, this difference, along with that in 2010, is the smallest since 2004. Also, this percentage is slightly smaller than the percentage passes in the previous two years since the change in regulations, however higher than that in the years before the change in regulations. **While the percentage pass rate of 18-year-olds averaged at 23.2% between 2004 and 2011, it averages at 26.7% between 2013 and 2015.**

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 8.5% for subjects at Advanced Level and 3.1% for subjects at Intermediate Level in the May session, while in the September session they averaged 5.5% and 2.7% for Advanced and Intermediate Level respectively. Of these, 1.0%, 7.7%, 2.8%, and 11.4% respectively had their grade revised. There appears to be no obvious trend in the percentage registrations for, or upgrades from, revision of papers along the years, however, **in 2015, the percentage of upgrades through revision of papers for Intermediate Matriculation subjects was relatively high.**



1. Introduction

1.01. Background

The Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate (MATSEC) Examinations Board was set up in 1991. It is responsible for external examinations at two levels: (a) the Matriculation 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 MATSEC Examinations Board offers examinations at Advanced (AM) and Intermediate Matriculation (IM) levels. Some candidates may sit for an examination in a single subject while other candidates may sit for several subjects in order to qualify for the Matriculation Certificate.

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 normally study two subjects at Advanced level and another four at Intermediate level, including Systems of Knowledge. Some students may choose to sit for a different mix of Advanced and Intermediate examinations and this option is covered in the regulations. Although any of the subjects offered may be chosen, there are some restrictions laid out in the regulations for the award of the Matriculation Certificate (<http://www.um.edu.mt/matsec/regulations/legalnotices>).

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 general entry requirement into the University of Malta. In addition, 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-June while a second 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. These regulations were amended in 2012 to give candidates the opportunity to qualify for the Matriculation certificate over a period of five years but the other criteria were not changed. These criteria require candidates to obtain a pass in at least one of the subjects offered in each of Groups 1, 2 and 3 and Systems of Knowledge and gain at least 44 grade points. The Certificate is issued once and it is not graded. The results of the



individual subjects are graded A to E, with Grade A being the highest grade. Grade points are awarded as follows:

Table 1.1: Grade Points Awarded per Grade

Grade	Grade Points Awarded	
	Advanced Level	Intermediate Level
A	30	10
B	24	8
C	18	6
D	12	4
E	6	2

In the September session, candidates are allowed to sit for one subject at Advanced level, up to a maximum of four subjects at Intermediate level – one from each of Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 – and Systems of Knowledge. The same restrictions apply to candidates irrespective of whether they are re-sitting for the examinations or sitting for them for the first time in September.

The present document reports on the Matriculation examinations which took place in 2015. The report first gives an overview of the administration aspect of the examinations and then presents the registration data and results of the session in May and the second session in September. It also presents general statistics of the May and September sessions which have taken place between 1997 and 2015 to indicate the trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations was introduced in the Maltese Islands.

1.02. Administrative Information

The following subjects were offered for examination:

Accounting	Applied Mathematics	Arabic
Art	Biology	Chemistry
Classical Studies*	Computing	Economics
Engineering Drawing**	Engineering Drawing/Graphical Communication*	
English	Environmental Science*	French
Geography	German	Graphical Communication**
Greek	History	Home Economics
Information Technology	Italian	Latin
Maltese	Marketing	Music
Philosophy	Physics	Psychology*
Pure Mathematics	Religious Knowledge	Russian
Sociology	Spanish	Systems of Knowledge*
Theatre and Performance*		
*Offered at Intermediate Level only		
**Offered at Advanced Level only		



The subjects are grouped as follows:

Group 1	Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Maltese, Russian and Spanish.
Group 2	Accounting, Classical Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Psychology, 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 & Human Ecology, Information Technology, Music, and Theatre and Performance.
	Systems of Knowledge

The timetable for the both the May and September session was issued in mid-October 2014 (a copy is available in Appendix A). Registration for the May examinations took place between 27th October and 7th November 2014. Late applications were received on 6th and 7th January 2015. All applications were received at the Department of Examinations, Floriana and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo. They were processed by the Examinations Department, Floriana. Registration for the September session was online and took place between the 17th and the 28th July 2015. Late applications were received between the 3rd August 2015. September applications were received and processed by the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

A total of 4,001 candidates (1,715 males and 2,286 females) registered for the Matriculation examinations of May 2015. Most candidates sat for Advanced and Intermediate Level subject in order to qualify for the Matriculation Certificate. Other candidates sat for Advanced Level and Intermediate Level subjects as single subjects. A total of 2,810 candidates (1,185 males and 1,625 females) sat for the Matriculation examinations of September 2015. Most candidates had sat for one or more examinations in the May 2015 session, while 1,088 were new applicants (419 males and 669 females). Table 1.2 below shows the number of subject registrations for the Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examinations in May and September 2015.

Table 1.2: Registrations for Matriculation Examinations 2015

Session	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
May	1467	1939	3406	1413	1812	3225
September	587	713	1300	908	1319	2227

The written examinations took place between 24th April and 30th May 2015 for the May session and results were sent via sms and results slips on the 13th July 2015. In this session, there were 3,981 (99.5%) of the Matriculation Examination candidates who applied to receive their results by sms. For the September session, written examinations took place between 31st August and 5th September 2015. Results were sent on the 25th September by post and, for the 2,699 (96.0%)



candidates who applied for the service, by sms. For the first time, in the September 2015 session candidates were given the option to receive results by registered mail. 2,037 (50.9%) candidates applied for this option.

Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place between 17th and the 28th July 2015 at the MATSEC Building, University of Malta for the May session and on the 1st October 2015 for the September session. These were accepted at the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

1.03. Request 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 available from the MATSEC website. This year, there were 74 applicants who were granted special arrangements after being considered by the Access Disability Support Committee of the University of Malta.

1.04. 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.

1.05. 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
Arabic	-
English	17, 20, 21, 22, 23 April
French	18 March
German	11 April
Italian	18 April
Maltese	27, 30 March
Music	25 April
Russian	11 April
Spanish	11 April



Table 1.4: Oral Examinations – Intermediate Level

Subject	Dates
Arabic	16 April
English	9, 10, 13, 14, 15 April
French	17 April
German	16 April
Italian	21 April
Maltese	23, 24, 25 April
Russian	-
Spanish	16 April
Theatre & Performance Studies	10, 12, 16 March

Oral examinations were held at St Aloysius College, Birkirkara for the May Session and at the G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida for the September session in Malta. Gozitan candidates had their oral examinations at the Examinations Centre, Victoria for both sessions.

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
Arabic	0	0	0
English	22	2	24
French	4	1	5
German	2	1	3
Italian	6	1	7
Maltese	14	2	16
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	2	1	3
Total	51	8	59

Table 1.6: Examiners Used for Orals of Intermediate Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
Arabic	1	0	1
English	15	2	17
French	10	1	11
German	2	1	3
Italian	7	1	8
Maltese	6	1	7
Russian	0	0	0
Spanish	2	1	3
Total	43	7	50



1.06. Coursework

There were five subjects at Advanced Level with a coursework component in 2015. These were: Art, Computing, Geography, Home Economics & Human Ecology and Information Technology. Four subjects had a coursework component at Intermediate Level in May 2015. These were: Art, Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge.

The coursework of private candidates for both Advanced and Intermediate Level subjects was to be presented to the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by the 13th March 2015 for the May session and by the 17th August for the September session. The deadline to submit the coursework for Advanced Level and Intermediate Level Art was the 4th June 2015 for the May session and the 7th September for the September session. Candidates for both IM and AM Music were to present two copies of the composition (if chosen) to the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta and the Examinations Centre, Victoria, Gozo by the 29th April 2015.

Private candidates and a sample of school candidates were called for an interview in relation to the work presented for the coursework component of the subjects under consideration.

1.07. Practical Examinations

Practical examinations at Advanced Level were held in the following subjects: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Music, Physics and Graphical Communication (CAD). Table 1.7 shows the dates of these examinations and the examination centres used for the May session. Table 1.8 shows the data for the September session.

Table 1.7: Advanced Level Practical Examinations (May Session)

Subject	Dates (2015)	Examination Centres
Art	30 May	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara Gozo Exams Centre, Victoria
Biology	5 June	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida Stella Maris College, Gżira Gozo College Boys Secondary, Victoria
Chemistry	12 June	Stella Maris College, Gżira University of Malta, Msida Gozo College Boys Secondary, Victoria
Music	24, 25 April 9 May	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara Gozo School of Music
Physics	2 June	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida Gozo College Boys Secondary, Victoria
CAD	29 January 26 February 28 May	Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, Naxxar G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida Sir M.A. Refalo, Victoria



Table 1.8: Advanced Level Practical Examinations (September Session)

Subject	Dates (2015)	Examination Centres
Art	1, 2 September	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida Gozo Exams Centre, Victoria
Biology	28 August	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida
Chemistry	28 August	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida
Music	1, 3 September	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida
Physics	28 August	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida

Practical examination at Intermediate level were held for Art, Physical Education and Music. Table 1.9 shows the dates and examination centres for these examinations for the May session while Table 1.10 shows the data for the September session.

Table 1.9: Intermediate Level Practical Examinations (May Session)

Subject	Dates (2015)	Examination Centres
Art	30 May	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara
Physical Education	23 March 30 March	University of Malta, Msida St Aloysius College, Birkirkara
Music	12 May	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara Gozo School of Music

Table 1.10: Intermediate Level Practical Examinations (September Session)

Subject	Dates (2015)	Examination Centres
Art	5 September	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida
Physical Education	28 August	Marsa Sports Club, Marsa
Music	3 September	G.F. Abela Junior College, Msida Gozo School of Music

1.08. 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 €40 per Intermediate Level subject and of €40 per Advanced Level subject is paid on registration. This fee is refundable in cases where the examiners' panel recommends a change in the original grade, which can only be an upgrade. In the May 2015 session, there were 497 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 284 at Intermediate Level. In the September 2015 session, there were 72 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 88 at Intermediate Level.



1.09. Examiners' Reports

For each subject, the Chairperson is required to write an Examiners' Report on the performance of the candidates in the examination. The information for this report is compiled from notes and comments made by the subject 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 were posted on the MATSEC website after January 2015.



2. May 2015 Registrations

The total number of candidates who registered for the May 2015 session of examinations is given in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Total Number of Candidates Sitting for Matriculation Examinations

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	1715	2286	4001
1997 Cohort	826	1060	1886

Table 2.2 presents the number of registrations for Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations in May 2015 by year of birth and gender.

Table 2.2: Registrations in May 2015 by Year of Birth and Gender

Year	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1994	120	295	415	40	98	138
1994	54	51	105	36	39	75
1995	111	137	248	91	119	210
1996	342	388	730	292	359	651
1997	773	999	1772	806	1033	1839
1998	67	69	136	147	164	311
1999	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	<i>1467</i>	<i>1939</i>	<i>3406</i>	<i>1413</i>	<i>1812</i>	<i>3225</i>

The largest number of registrations for both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, 52.0% and 57.0% respectively, belonged to the 1997 cohort. This is the cohort that turned eighteen years of age in 2015. There were 4,835 children born in 1997 (2,547 males and 2,288 females) in the Maltese Islands¹. This means that 36.6% of the 18-year-old cohort born in 1997 (30.3% of males and 43.7% of females) registered for Advanced Level examinations while 38.0% (31.6% of males and 45.1% of females) registered for Intermediate Level examinations in 2015.

Table 2.2 indicates that, in both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, there were more registrations from females than males. At Advanced Level, 56.9% of registrations were from females and 43.1% from males. At Intermediate Level, the total registrations were higher for females (56.2%) versus 43.8% for males.

¹ Data obtained from the National Statistics Office and used as the best estimate of 18-year-olds in the year covered in the present report.



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

Table 2.3: May 2015 Matriculation Examination Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	197	287	484	48	28	76
Applied Mathematics	4	4	8	44	25	69
Arabic	0	0	0	3	7	10
Art	23	48	71	6	27	33
Biology	241	431	672	60	241	301
Chemistry	211	305	516	5	19	24
Classical Studies	-	-	-	9	11	20
Computing	116	43	159	78	24	102
Economics	93	97	190	19	32	51
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	-	-	-	60	15	75
Engineering Drawing	6	0	6	-	-	-
English	222	502	724	649	706	1355
Environmental Science	-	-	-	159	222	381
French	21	33	54	30	100	130
Geography	24	31	55	54	43	97
German	5	11	16	4	14	18
Graphical Communication	9	2	11	-	-	-
History	66	36	102	29	31	60
Home Economics & Human Ecology	15	127	142	12	60	72
Information Technology	46	16	62	119	86	205
Italian	63	97	160	67	72	139
Maltese	148	370	518	120	202	322
Marketing	212	231	443	135	114	249
Music	8	6	14	3	3	6
Philosophy	46	75	121	206	196	402
Physical Education	0	0	0	75	42	117
Physics	300	135	435	319	339	658
Psychology	-	-	-	257	662	919
Pure Mathematics	381	168	549	291	330	621
Religious Knowledge	50	57	107	127	108	235
Russian	0	1	1	0	0	0
Sociology	49	154	203	66	118	184
Spanish	7	26	33	7	15	22
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	930	1122	2052
Theatre & Performance	-	-	-	11	29	40



Figures 2.1 to 2.4 and Figures 2.5 to 2.8 that follow present the numbers of male and female registrations per subject at Advanced (AM) and Intermediate (IM) levels respectively.

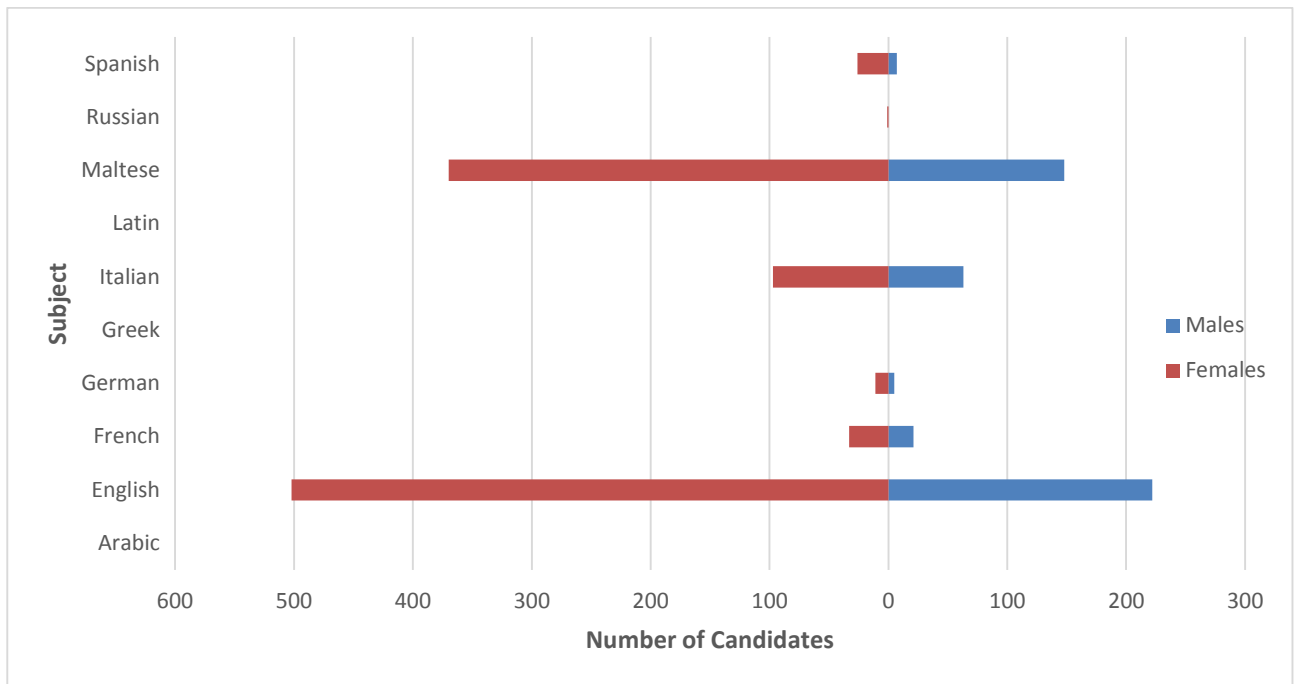


Figure 2.1: AM Registration by Gender: Group 1

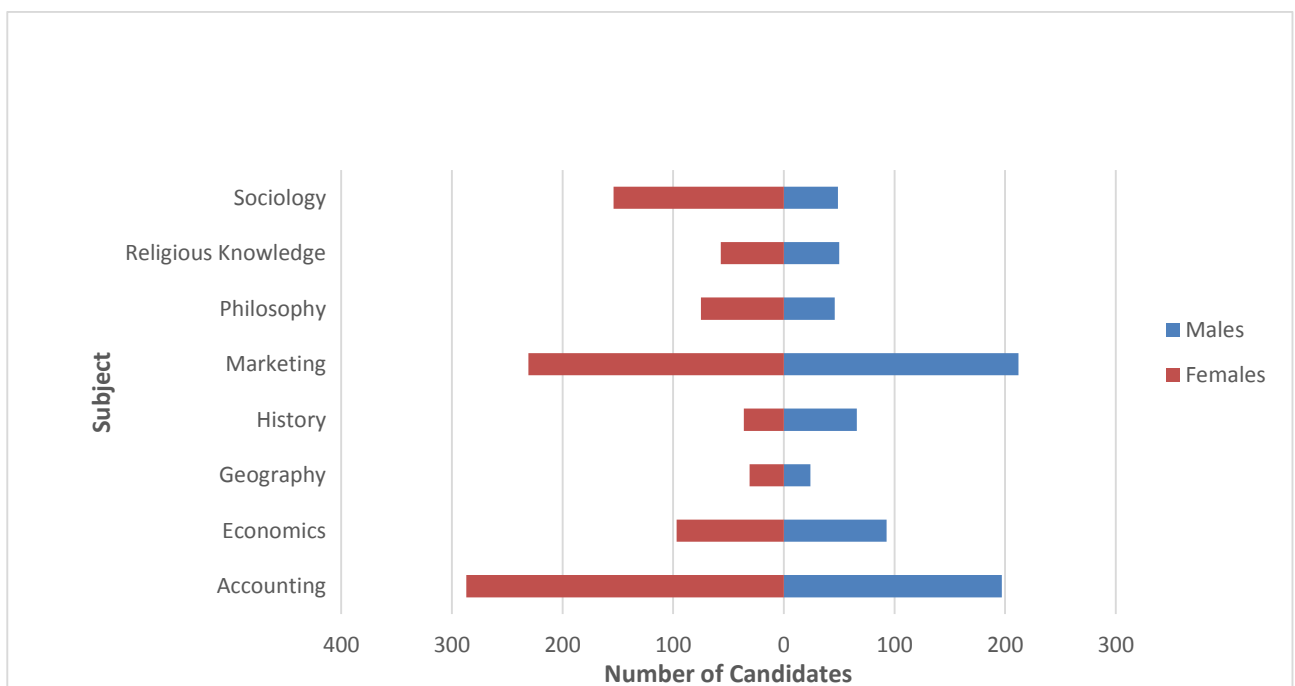


Figure 2.2: AM Registration by Gender: Group 2



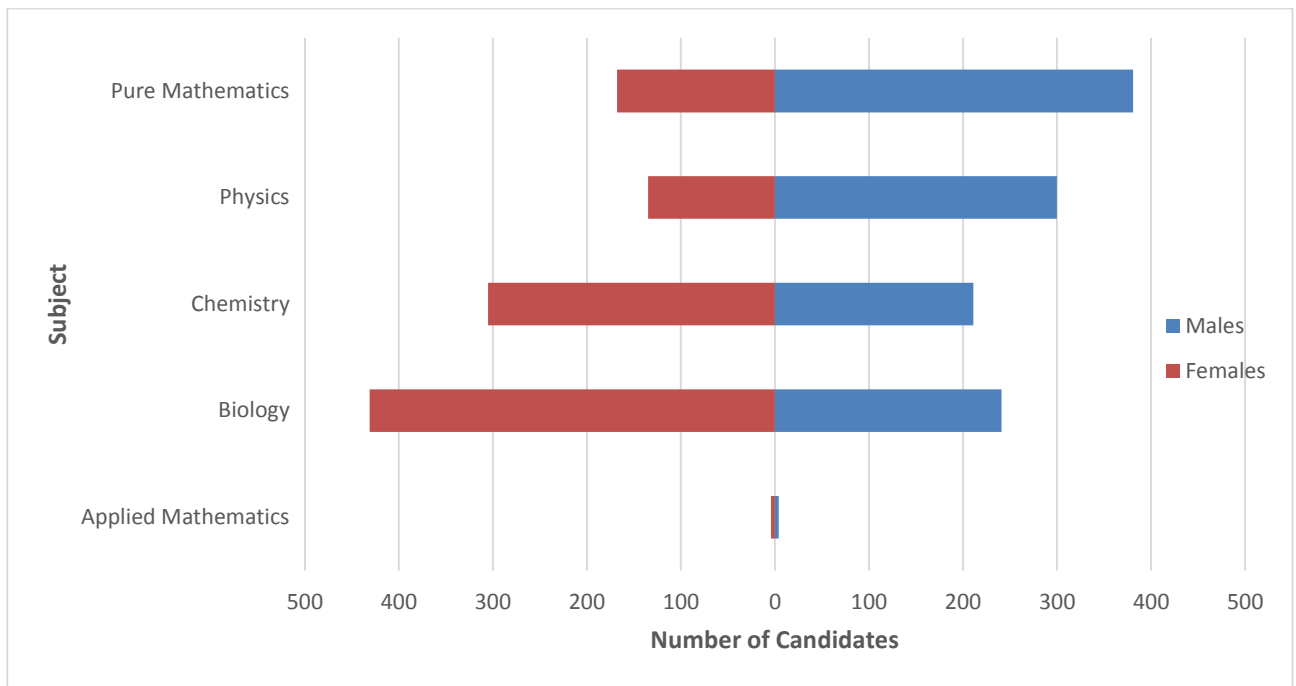


Figure 2.3: AM Registration by Gender: Group 3

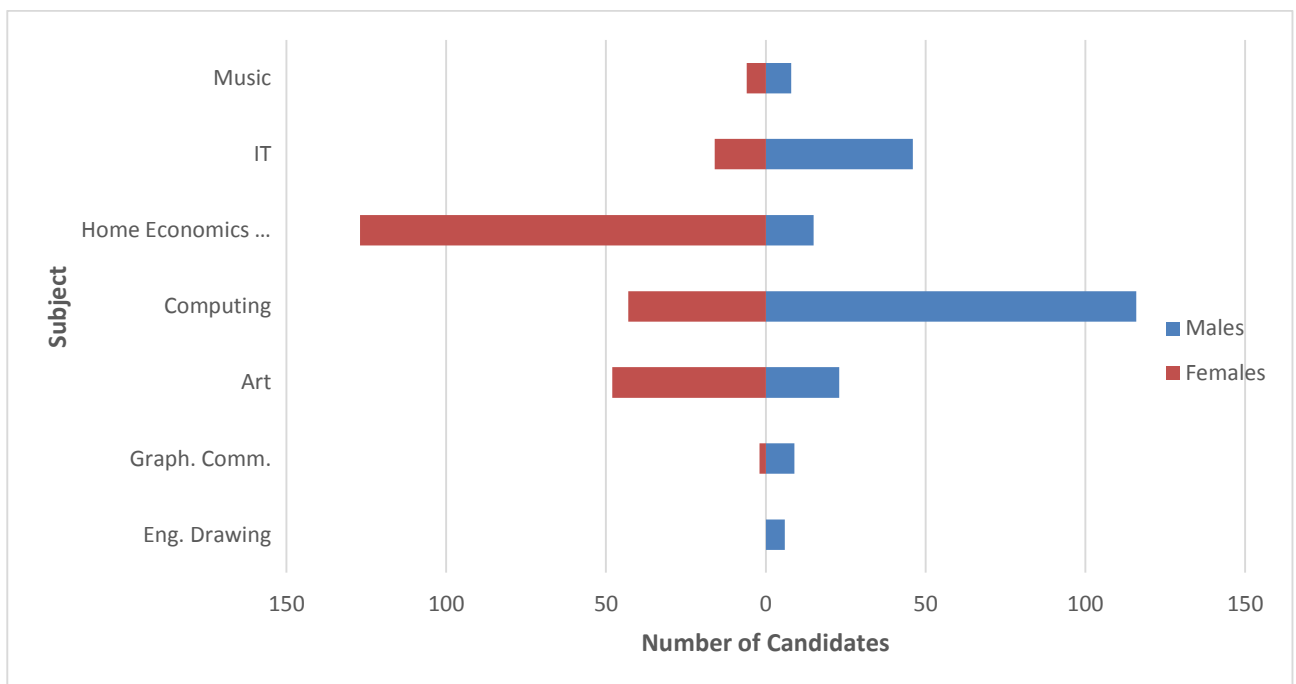


Figure 2.4: AM Registration by Gender: Group 4



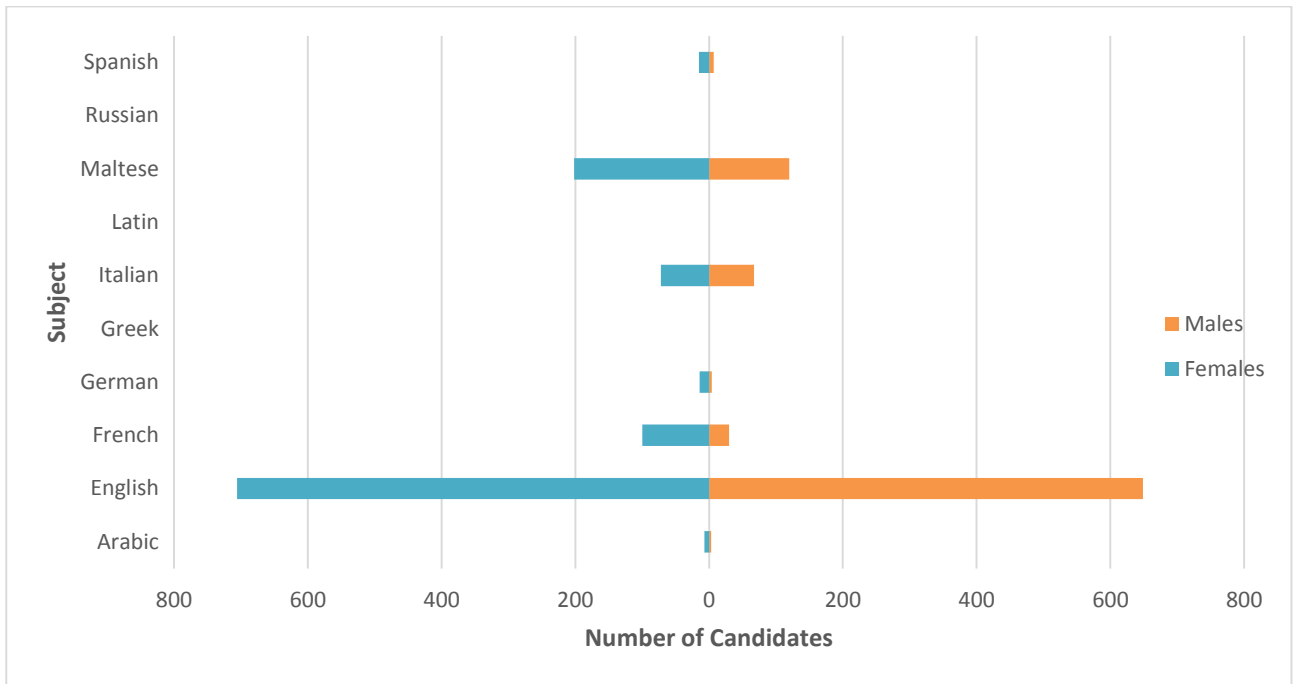


Figure 2.5: IM Registration by Gender: Group 1

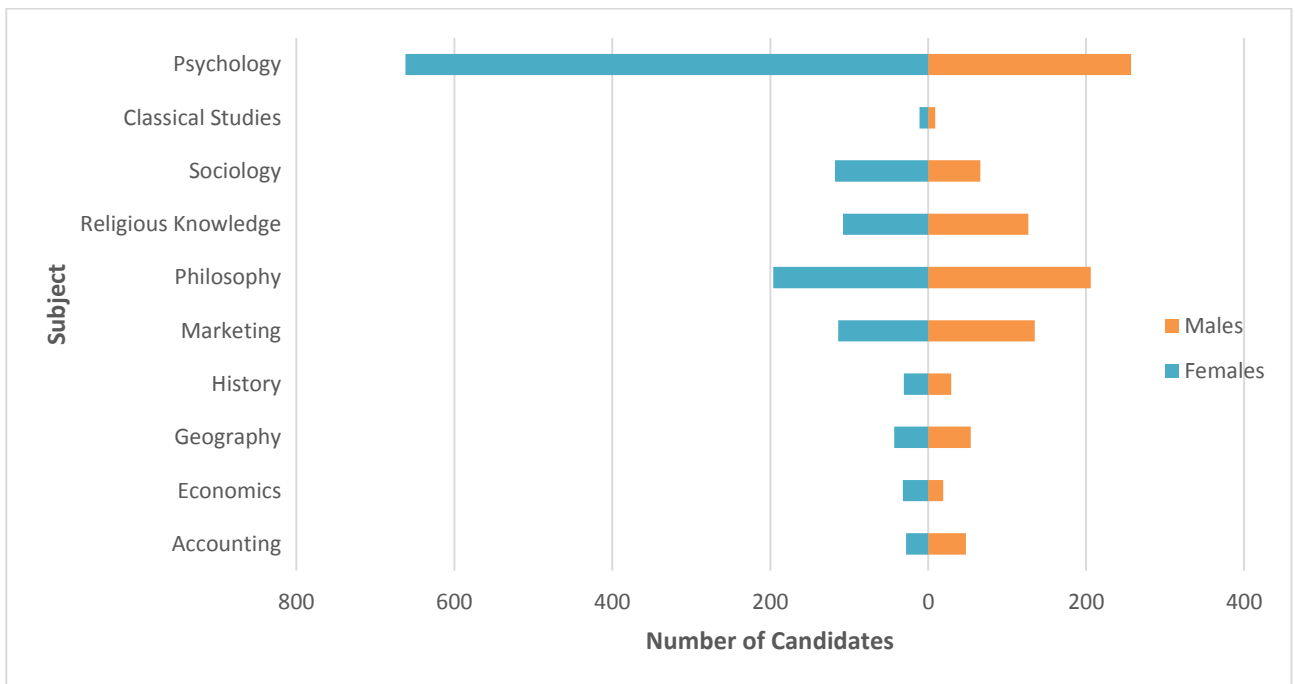


Figure 2.6: IM Registration by Gender: Group 2



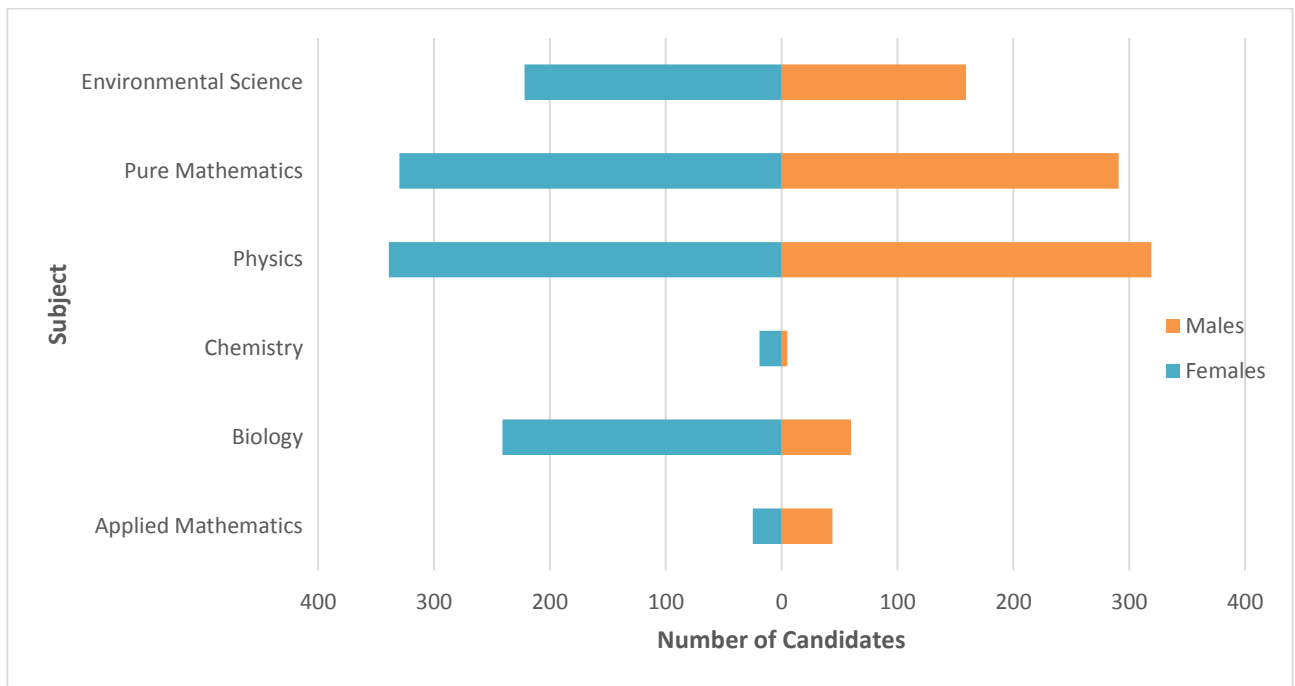


Figure 2.7: IM Registration by Gender: Group 3

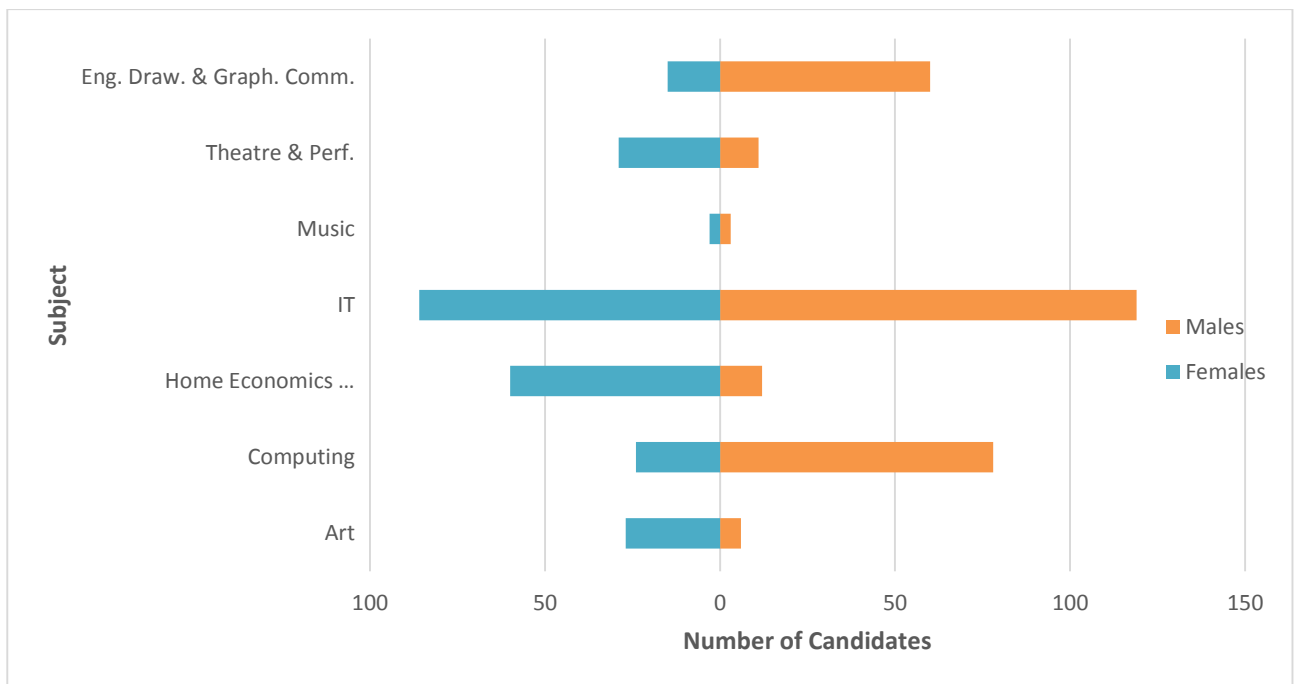


Figure 2.8: IM Registration by Gender: Group 4

The most popular subjects at AM level were English (724 candidates) and Maltese (518 candidates) from Group 1; Accounting (484 candidates) and Marketing (443 candidates) from Group 2; and Computing (159 candidates) and Home Economics & Human Ecology (142 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in Group 3 subjects are, with the exception of Applied

Mathematics, of a comparable magnitude although Biology (672 candidates) and Pure Mathematics (549 candidates) are the two subjects with largest number of registrations.

All these subjects but Pure Mathematics and Computing are marked by a higher number of female candidates. This is true in most subjects, with notable exceptions such as Physics, IT, History and, although subjects with a few candidates, Engineering Drawing, Music and Graphical Communication. In these subjects, there are more male than female candidates.

At IM level, the popularity of English (1,355 candidates), Psychology (919 candidates) and IT (205 candidates) is notable in their respective group. Other popular choices include Maltese (322 candidates) from Group 1; Philosophy (402 candidates) from Group 2; Pure Mathematics (621 candidates) and Physics (658 candidates) from Group 3; and Computing (102 candidates) from Group 4. Again, most subjects are marked by a stronger female presence. However, this is in line with the fact that more female than male candidates applied for Matriculation examinations in 2015. In some subjects, such as Group 1 subjects, Sociology, Art, and Environmental Science this is more visible. This is even more visible in Home Economics & Human Ecology, and Biology where 83.3% and 79.7% of candidates are female. Considerably more male candidates applied for subjects such as Religion, Applied Mathematics, Computing, Information Technology, and Engineering Drawing & Graphical Communication.

Figures 2.9 and 2.10 below present the numbers of male and female registrations per Group of subjects at Advanced (AM) and Intermediate (IM) levels respectively.



Figure 2.9: AM Registration per Group by Gender





Figure 2.10: IM Registration per Group by Gender

For most group of subjects studied at AM and IM levels there are more female candidates, as expected given that more female candidates have applied for matriculation examination in 2015. This difference is biggest for Group 1 AM subjects where 69.1% of registrations were from female candidates. This is, however, not the case for Group 3 subjects studied at AM and Group 4 subjects studied at IM.

Although the award of the Matriculation Certificate depends on passes in two subjects at Advanced Level, three at Intermediate Level and Systems of Knowledge, a number of candidates sit for more examinations than required. Table 2.4 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied for one to six subjects at Advanced Matriculation Level and at Intermediate Level in the different subjects, including Systems of Knowledge.

Table 2.4 shows that most registrations were for two Advanced and four Intermediate Level subjects, which included Systems of Knowledge. This indicates that most candidates were aiming at obtaining the Matriculation Certificate in May. A significant number of candidates registered for one Advanced Level examination only and a small number attempted three Advanced Level examinations. Three candidates attempted four subjects at AM Level. Similarly, a small number of candidates registered for five Intermediate Level subjects while one male candidate registered for six.

Table 2.4: May 2015 Registrations by Number of Subjects, Level and Gender

Number of Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	409	628	1037	279	417	696
2	1020	1269	2289	283	347	630
3	36	41	77	258	282	540
4	2	1	3	580	744	1324
5	0	0	0	12	22	34
6	0	0	0	1	0	1

This year there were 74 candidates who requested 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 access the examinations. In general, special arrangements included extra time and rest periods, large print, as well as special instructions to examiners of oral components, invigilators and markers.

Table 2.5: Number of Requests for Special Arrangements by Presenting Condition in 2015

Condition	Number of Candidates
ADD/ADHD	15
Autism Spectrum Disorder	6
DCD/ Dyspraxia	3
Hearing Impairment	2
Last minute Injuries	6
Medical Condition	3
Mental Health	9
Mobility Problems	3
SpLD/ADHD	4
SpLD/Dyslexia	15
Stammer	3
Visual Impairment	5
<i>Total</i>	<i>74</i>

Table 2.6 shows the number of registrations by subject at Advanced and Intermediate levels made by candidates who requested special arrangements.



Table 2.6: Number of Registrations by Subject by Candidates who Requested Access Arrangements in May 2015

Subject	Advanced Level	Intermediate Level
Accounting	7	0
Applied Mathematics	0	3
Arabic	0	0
Art	4	3
Biology	9	6
Chemistry	8	0
Classical Studies	0	0
Computing	4	1
Economics	4	1
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	0	3
Engineering Drawing	0	0
English	7	23
Environmental Science	0	6
French	2	6
Geography	1	5
German	0	0
Graphical Communication	0	0
History	0	1
Home Economics & Human Ecology	3	1
Information Technology	1	3
Italian	1	2
Maltese	11	8
Marketing	7	7
Music	0	0
Philosophy	1	8
Physical Education	0	1
Physics	11	11
Pure Mathematics	11	8
Psychology	0	10
Religious Knowledge	2	7
Russian	0	0
Sociology	4	3
Spanish	1	0
Systems of Knowledge	0	32
Theatre & Performance	0	0

Table 2.7 below presents the number of candidates who registered for the Matriculation examinations from the different localities in Malta and Gozo. The data are grouped by locality as well as by region. Figure 2.11 graphically represents the number of candidates from different regions.



Table 2.7: May 2015 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality

Locality	Males	Females	Total
Southern Harbour	209	321	530
Birgu	2	4	6
Bormla	8	5	13
Fgura	46	67	113
Floriana	1	13	14
Isla	4	6	10
Kalkara	11	17	28
Luqa	10	30	40
Marsa	10	8	18
Paola	19	34	53
Santa Luċija	7	11	18
Tarxien	26	43	69
Valetta	12	10	22
Xghajra	7	9	16
Żabbar	46	64	110
Northern Harbour	452	609	1061
Birkirkara	76	105	181
Blata l-Bajda	0	1	1
Fleur-de-Lys	2	1	3
G`Mangia	8	6	14
Gżira	15	37	52
Hamrun	14	26	40
Ibraġġ	10	16	26
Kappara	24	12	36
Msida	15	33	48
Pembroke	39	41	80
Pieta'	11	7	18
Qormi	47	60	107
San Ġiljan	31	40	71
San Ġwann	44	59	103
Santa Venera	21	34	55
Sliema	47	56	103
St Andrews	0	1	1
Swatar	16	20	36
Swieqi	27	49	76
Ta'Xbiex	3	3	6
Ta' Ġiorni	2	2	4



Table 2.7: May 2015 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality (Part 2)

Locality	Males	Females	Total
South Eastern	254	339	593
Birżebbuġa	40	44	84
Għaxaq	21	36	57
Gudja	12	21	33
Kirkop	13	13	26
Marsascala	39	70	109
Marsaxlokk	12	19	31
Mqabba	17	20	37
Qrendi	13	12	25
Safi	6	12	18
Żejtun	41	34	75
Żurrieq	40	58	98
Western	291	364	655
Attard	71	81	152
Bahrija	3	4	7
Balzan	19	22	41
Dingli	23	23	46
Iklin	21	25	46
Lija	19	13	32
Mdina	0	0	0
Mtarfa	13	20	33
Rabat	30	49	79
Siggiewi	39	48	87
Żebbuġ	53	79	132
Northern	320	394	714
Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq	3	3	6
Buġibba	10	19	29
Burmarrad	2	2	4
Għarghur	7	23	30
Madliena	10	13	23
Manikata	0	5	5
Mellieha	29	36	65
Mġarr	20	27	47
Mosta	112	129	241
Mriehel	3	0	3
Naxxar	77	80	157
Qawra	13	7	20
San Pawl il-Bahar	26	42	68
San Pawl tat-Tarġa	3	3	6
Xemxija	5	5	10



Table 2.7: May 2015 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality (Part 3)

Locality	Males	Females	Total
Gozo	189	259	448
Fontana	8	5	13
Ghajnsielem	14	28	42
Gharb	9	5	14
Ghasri	4	2	6
Kerċem	10	16	26
Marsalforn	3	2	5
Munxar	9	14	23
Nadur	17	25	42
Qala	9	19	28
San Lawrenz	4	4	8
Sannat	10	15	25
Santa Luċija	2	1	3
Victoria	37	54	91
Xaghra	19	33	52
Xewkija	19	28	47
Xlendi	0	0	0
Żebbuġ	15	8	23

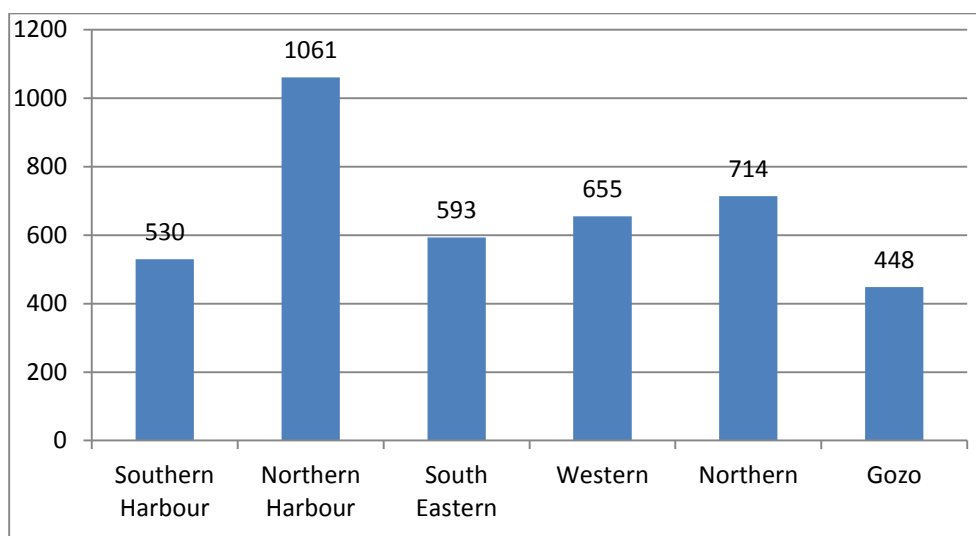


Figure 2.11: May 2015 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region

In Malta, the largest number of registrations for the Matriculation Certificate by region came from the Northern Harbour and Northern regions while least candidates come from Gozo and Southern Harbour regions. Most candidates come from Mosta (241 candidates), Birkirkara (181 candidates), Naxxar (157 candidates), Attard (152 candidates), and Żebbuġ (132 candidates). Most candidates from Gozo came from the locality of Victoria (91 candidates).



Table 2.8 below shows the numbers of candidates who registered for a Revision of Papers after the May 2015 results were issued.

Table 2.8: May 2015 Registration for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Registered	Requested	%	Registered	Requested	%
Accounting	484	22	4.5	76	1	1.3
Applied Mathematics	8	0	0	69	5	7.2
Arabic	0	0	0	10	0	0
Art	71	14	19.7	33	1	3.0
Biology	672	80	11.9	301	4	1.3
Chemistry	516	122	23.6	24	1	4.2
Classical Studies	0	0	0	20	0	0
Computing	159	12	7.5	102	1	1.0
Economics	190	10	5.3	51	1	2.0
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	0	0	0	75	0	0
Engineering Drawing	6	0	0	0	0	0
English	724	79	10.9	1355	52	3.8
Environmental Science	0	0	0	381	7	1.8
French	54	4	7.4	130	8	6.2
Geography	55	2	3.6	97	3	3.1
German	16	1	6.3	18	0	0
Graphical Communication	11	0	0	0	0	0
History	102	6	5.9	60	2	3.3
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	142	12	8.5	72	1	1.4
Information Technology	62	1	1.6	205	2	1.0
Italian	160	5	3.1	139	1	0.7
Maltese	518	34	6.6	322	15	4.7
Marketing	443	21	4.7	249	12	4.8
Music	14	0	0	6	0	0
Philosophy	121	5	4.1	402	16	4.0
Physical Education	0	0	0	117	6	5.1
Physics	435	27	6.2	658	14	2.1
Psychology	0	0	0	919	51	5.5
Pure Mathematics	549	27	4.9	621	15	2.4
Religious Knowledge	107	2	1.9	235	4	1.7
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	203	6	3.0	184	5	2.7
Spanish	33	5	15.2	22	0	0
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0	2052	54	2.6
Theatre & Performance	0	0	0	40	2	5.0
Total	5856	497	8.5	9045	284	3.1

The overall percentage of requests for a Revision of Papers was higher for subjects at Advanced level compared to the Intermediate level (8.5% and 3.1% respectively). Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.



3. May 2015 Results

Table 3.1 (Parts 1 to 3) presents the Advanced Level results by gender obtained in the different subjects for all candidates. Table 3.2 (Parts 1 to 3) presents the Intermediate Level results in the different subjects by gender.

Table 3.1: May 2015 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 1)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	18	66	120	77	62	91	50	484
Females	7	39	69	47	38	61	26	287
Males	11	27	51	30	24	30	24	197
Applied Mathematics	0	0	1	0	2	2	3	8
Females	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Males	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4
Art	5	6	14	15	16	11	4	71
Females	2	5	11	13	8	6	3	48
Males	3	1	3	2	8	5	1	23
Biology	79	155	161	115	76	50	36	672
Females	54	90	112	64	51	35	25	431
Males	25	65	49	51	25	15	11	241
Chemistry	38	80	147	75	48	107	21	516
Females	23	48	82	45	32	64	11	305
Males	15	32	65	30	16	43	10	211
Computing	13	34	40	33	18	13	8	159
Females	1	15	10	7	3	6	1	43
Males	12	19	30	26	15	7	7	116
Economics	21	32	50	34	16	25	12	190
Females	8	17	22	18	12	14	6	97
Males	13	15	28	16	4	11	6	93
Engineering Drawing	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	6
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	6
English	30	74	254	146	92	95	33	724
Females	21	55	180	103	60	64	19	502
Males	9	19	74	43	32	31	14	222
French	2	12	15	13	2	8	2	54
Females	1	8	9	7	1	5	2	33
Males	1	4	6	6	1	3	0	21
Geography	3	12	15	11	6	6	2	55
Females	2	9	8	5	4	3	0	31
Males	1	3	7	6	2	3	2	24



Table 3.1: May 2015 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
German	1	4	3	1	4	1	2	16
Females	0	2	2	1	3	1	2	11
Males	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	5
Graphical Communication	1	2	6	1	0	1	0	11
Females	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Males	1	1	5	1	0	1	0	9
History	5	12	34	16	10	10	15	102
Females	3	2	14	4	4	0	9	36
Males	2	10	20	12	6	10	6	66
Home Economics & Human Ecology	6	20	53	24	23	13	3	142
Females	6	20	47	21	22	9	2	127
Males	0	0	6	3	1	4	1	15
Information Technology	5	17	22	7	1	4	6	62
Females	2	3	9	2	0	0	0	16
Males	3	14	13	5	1	4	6	46
Italian	10	18	45	27	13	29	18	160
Females	4	13	25	15	8	18	14	97
Males	6	5	20	12	5	11	4	63
Maltese	17	112	177	89	66	37	20	518
Females	13	86	125	63	47	21	15	370
Males	4	26	52	26	19	16	5	148
Marketing	21	57	110	66	47	81	61	443
Females	15	37	61	31	25	36	26	231
Males	6	20	49	35	22	45	35	212
Music	1	6	2	4	1	0	0	14
Females	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	6
Males	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	8
Philosophy	7	20	29	14	17	17	17	121
Females	5	12	18	9	11	9	11	75
Males	2	8	11	5	6	8	6	46
Physics	24	58	126	97	65	47	18	435
Females	8	14	37	31	27	13	5	135
Males	16	44	89	66	38	34	13	300



Table 3.1: May 2015 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 3)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Pure Mathematics	42	105	138	29	57	137	41	549
Females	13	36	36	11	19	43	10	168
Males	29	69	102	18	38	94	31	381
Religious Knowledge	11	12	28	20	11	7	18	107
Females	8	5	14	8	4	2	16	57
Males	3	7	14	12	7	5	2	50
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	11	25	49	36	27	27	28	203
Females	11	20	38	25	20	18	22	154
Males	0	5	11	11	7	9	6	49
Spanish	5	3	6	11	3	4	1	33
Females	4	3	4	8	2	4	1	26
Males	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	7



Table 3.2: May 2015 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	6	12	14	13	11	16	4	76
Females	2	6	6	3	4	7	0	28
Males	4	6	8	10	7	9	4	48
Applied Mathematics	9	10	12	9	14	12	3	69
Females	3	6	5	2	7	2	0	25
Males	6	4	7	7	7	10	3	44
Arabic	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	10
Females	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	7
Males	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Art	1	3	12	5	7	4	1	33
Females	1	3	11	3	5	3	1	27
Males	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	6
Biology	28	51	76	38	44	39	25	301
Females	25	42	63	34	29	31	17	241
Males	3	9	13	4	15	8	8	60
Chemistry	0	0	1	3	5	10	5	24
Females	0	0	1	2	5	7	4	19
Males	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	5
Classical Studies	1	3	5	1	1	8	1	20
Females	1	2	4	1	0	3	0	11
Males	0	1	1	0	1	5	1	9
Computing	7	17	31	23	11	12	1	102
Females	2	3	3	7	2	7	0	24
Males	5	14	28	16	9	5	1	78
Economics	4	7	13	6	8	7	6	51
Females	4	5	7	3	3	6	4	32
Males	0	2	6	3	5	1	2	19
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	5	9	19	15	9	16	2	75
Females	0	0	2	3	3	6	1	15
Males	5	9	17	12	6	10	1	60
English	97	207	428	292	137	166	28	1355
Females	45	110	209	153	84	92	13	706
Males	52	97	219	139	53	74	15	649
Environmental Science	17	30	98	104	54	49	29	381
Females	7	17	55	65	35	29	14	222
Males	10	13	43	39	19	20	15	159
French	8	21	30	35	18	16	2	130
Females	8	19	22	27	12	10	2	100
Males	0	2	8	8	6	6	0	30



Table 3.2: May 2015 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Geography	10	12	39	15	3	10	8	97
Females	2	8	18	6	2	5	2	43
Males	8	4	21	9	1	5	6	54
German	2	8	4	3	1	0	0	18
Females	2	7	4	1	0	0	0	14
Males	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
History	2	8	20	14	5	5	6	60
Females	1	2	13	7	1	4	3	31
Males	1	6	7	7	4	1	3	29
Home Economics & Human Ecology	13	16	23	9	5	1	5	72
Females	12	14	19	8	2	1	4	60
Males	1	2	4	1	3	0	1	12
Information Technology	19	58	67	27	14	7	13	205
Females	6	28	36	9	4	0	3	86
Males	13	30	31	18	10	7	10	119
Italian	7	30	46	19	18	12	7	139
Females	4	21	27	8	7	2	3	72
Males	3	9	19	11	11	10	4	67
Maltese	10	37	104	72	42	49	8	322
Females	6	25	66	40	27	34	4	202
Males	4	12	38	32	15	15	4	120
Marketing	29	49	69	39	29	23	11	249
Females	10	21	40	18	14	8	3	114
Males	19	28	29	21	15	15	8	135
Music	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	6
Females	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
Males	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
Philosophy	39	64	105	57	43	70	24	402
Females	21	33	51	29	20	31	11	196
Males	18	31	54	28	23	39	13	206
Physical Education	6	14	32	21	11	29	4	117
Females	2	7	11	11	6	5	0	42
Males	4	7	21	10	5	24	4	75



Table 3.2: May 2015 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 3)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Physics	45	96	163	98	88	141	27	658
Females	17	55	80	48	53	71	15	339
Males	28	41	83	50	35	70	12	319
Psychology	45	83	200	181	107	243	60	919
Females	34	66	153	126	74	161	48	662
Males	11	17	47	55	33	82	12	257
Pure Mathematics	46	59	119	86	111	147	53	621
Females	26	30	78	49	61	65	21	330
Males	20	29	41	37	50	82	32	291
Religious Knowledge	12	31	68	52	30	28	14	235
Females	7	13	33	23	10	13	9	108
Males	5	18	35	29	20	15	5	127
Sociology	12	18	49	29	26	34	16	184
Females	8	16	33	17	16	18	10	118
Males	4	2	16	12	10	16	6	66
Spanish	1	3	6	4	2	5	1	22
Females	1	3	5	2	0	3	1	15
Males	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	7
Systems of Knowledge	86	352	722	364	310	181	37	2052
Females	55	214	416	201	136	88	12	1122
Males	31	138	306	163	174	93	25	930
Theatre & Performance	4	6	8	6	6	9	1	40
Females	2	4	8	4	4	6	1	29
Males	2	2	0	2	2	3	0	11

Table 3.3 shows that in May 2014, at Advanced level, 5 out of the 497 requests for a Revision of Papers had their grade revised. This means that 1.0% of the requests resulted in a higher grade. At Intermediate level, 22 out of the 284 requests had their grade revised. At this level, 7.7% of the requests resulted in an upgrade.



Table 3.3: May 2015 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Accounting	484	22	0	0.0	76	1	0	0.0
Applied Mathematics	8	0	0	0	69	5	0	0.0
Arabic	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Art	71	14	0	0.0	33	1	0	0.0
Biology	672	80	0	0.0	301	4	0	0.0
Chemistry	516	122	2	1.6	24	1	1	100
Classical Studies	-	-	-	-	20	0	0	0
Computing	159	12	0	0.0	102	1	0	0.0
Economics	190	10	1	10.0	51	1	1	100
Eng. Drawing/Grap. Comm.	-	-	-	-	75	0	0	0
Engineering Drawing	6	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
English	724	79	0	0.0	1355	52	0	0.0
Environmental Science	-	-	-	-	381	7	2	28.6
French	54	4	0	0.0	130	8	1	12.5
Geography	55	2	0	0.0	97	3	0	0.0
German	16	1	0	0.0	18	0	0	0
Graphical Communication	11	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
History	102	6	0	0.0	60	2	1	50.0
Home Econ./Hum. Ecology	142	12	0	0.0	72	1	0	0.0
Information Technology	62	1	0	0.0	205	2	0	0.0
Italian	160	5	0	0.0	139	1	0	0.0



Table 3.3: May 2015 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers (Part 2)

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Maltese	518	34	0	0.0	322	15	0	0.0
Marketing	443	21	1	4.8	249	12	0	0.0
Music	14	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Philosophy	121	5	1	20.0	402	16	0	0.0
Physical Education	0	0	0	0	117	6	0	0.0
Physics	435	27	0	0.0	658	14	0	0.0
Psychology	-	-	-	-	919	51	0	0.0
Pure Mathematics	549	27	0	0.0	621	15	1	6.7
Religious Knowledge	107	2	0	0.0	235	4	0	0.0
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	203	6	0	0.0	184	5	1	20.0
Spanish	33	5	0	0.0	22	0	0	0
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	2052	54	14	25.9
Theatre & Performance	-	-	-	-	40	2	0	0.0
Total	5856	497	5	1.0	9045	284	22	7.7



Table 3.4 presents data relating to the number of candidates awarded the Matriculation Certificate after the main examination session in May 2015.

Table 3.4: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in May 2015

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	586	801	1387
1997 Cohort	455	615	1070

The data in Table 3.4 show that 34.7% of the 4,001 candidates who sat for the May session in 2015 (34.2% males and 35.0% females) managed to qualify for the award of the Matriculation Certificate. These proportions include 56.78% of the 1,886 candidates of the 1997 cohort (55.1% males and 58.0% females).



4. September 2015 Registrations

Since 2012 the September session for Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation Level of examination is no longer a supplementary session but a separate session from the session in May. Thus, while many candidates, probably the majority, register for the September session to re-sit examinations other candidates register for Advanced and/or Intermediate examinations for the first time. A total of 1,088 candidates (38.7%) from the 2,810 candidates registering for the September session did not register for any examination in May of the same year. The data in the following Tables suggest that many of the latter candidates are students in their first year of post-secondary who take the opportunity of the new regulations to spread the examinations in six subjects required for the award of the Matriculation Certificate over two or more sessions without possibly missing out a year at University in case of a failure.

The total number of candidates who registered for the September 2015 session of examinations is given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Total Number of Candidates Sitting for Matriculation Examinations

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	1185	1625	2810
1997 Cohort	373	520	893

The numbers of candidates who registered for Advanced Level and Intermediate Level examinations are given in Tables 4.2 below. The data is presented by gender and date of birth.

Table 4.2: Registrations in September 2015 by Year of Birth and Gender

Year	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1993	28	72	100	12	25	37
1993	7	9	16	6	10	16
1994	22	27	49	16	24	40
1995	47	44	91	37	42	79
1996	156	135	291	141	124	265
1997	233	308	541	272	420	692
1998	93	116	209	418	664	1082
1999	1	2	3	6	10	16
Total	587	713	1300	908	1319	2227

Tables 4.2 show that the largest number of registrations for Advanced Level examinations were made by the 1997 cohort. This is followed by the number of registrations from the 1996 cohort, who are likely to be candidates that have repeated a year. There were also many 17-year-olds and a few 16-year-olds of the 1998 and 1999 cohorts respectively who registered for these examinations. As noted before, it is quite likely that these were students in their first year of post-secondary studies. Of these registrations from younger candidates, the majority are for



Intermediate Level examinations to the extent that, for this level, there are more registrations from the 1998 cohort rather than the 1999 one.

Table 4.3 below provides information on the numbers of candidates, males and females, who applied to sit for Matriculation examinations at Advanced and Intermediate levels in the different subjects in September 2015.

Table 4.3: September 2015 Matriculation Examination Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	57	83	140	23	17	40
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	10	4	14
Arabic	1	1	2	1	1	2
Art	5	8	13	0	1	1
Biology	29	47	76	26	119	145
Chemistry	18	30	48	6	12	18
Classical Studies	0	0	0	2	1	3
Computing	19	14	33	9	3	12
Economics	13	13	26	15	27	42
Eng. Drawing/Graph. Comm.	0	0	0	21	11	32
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	78	123	201	351	517	868
Environmental Science	0	0	0	59	102	161
French	6	5	11	7	13	20
Geography	3	4	7	18	23	41
German	2	8	10	1	7	8
Graphical Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greek	0	0	0	0	0	0
History	15	7	22	20	9	29
Home Ec./Hum. Ecology	4	23	27	3	47	50
Information Technology	4	1	5	24	20	44
Italian	10	24	34	25	17	42
Latin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	55	106	161	56	85	141
Marketing	82	83	165	66	65	131
Music	1	0	1	1	2	3
Philosophy	15	18	33	44	37	81
Physical Education	0	0	0	12	22	34
Physics	40	25	65	93	118	211
Psychology	0	0	0	106	236	342
Pure Mathematics	93	37	130	136	134	270
Religious Knowledge	18	18	36	79	84	163
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	16	30	46	32	37	69
Spanish	3	5	8	1	4	5
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0	131	147	278
Theatre & Performance	0	0	0	2	8	10



In the September session, at Advanced Matriculation level, the subjects with most candidates were English (201 candidates), Marketing (165 candidates), Maltese (161 candidates), Accounting (140 candidates), and Pure Mathematics (136 candidates). At Intermediate Level, these were English (868 candidates), Psychology (342 candidates), Systems of Knowledge (278 candidates), Pure Mathematics (270 candidates), and Physics (211 candidates).

A total of 1,300 candidates (587 males and 713 females) applied to sit for an Advanced Level examination in September 2015. Table 4.4 shows the number of subjects that candidates applied for in the September session. One should note that the September session is a restricted session where candidates can apply for one Advanced Level examination, one Intermediate Level subjects from each group and Systems of Knowledge. Most candidates applied for one Intermediate Level examination.

Table 4.4: September 2015 Intermediate Level Registrations by Number of Subjects and Gender

Intermediate Level			
Number of Subjects	Males	Females	Total
1	518	794	1312
2	313	446	759
3	72	72	144
4	5	7	12
5	0	0	0

Table 4.5 below shows the number of requests, by subject, made for a Revision of Papers after the publication of the September 2015 results. Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section. For Advanced and Intermediate Level examination, 5.5% and 2.7% of the respective papers were revised following registrations for Revision of Papers.



Table 4.5: September 2015 Registration for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Registered	Requested	%	Registered	Requested	%
Accounting	140	11	7.9	40	0	0
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	14	0	0
Arabic	2	0	0	2	0	0
Art	13	0	0	1	0	0
Biology	76	4	5.3	145	1	0.7
Chemistry	48	2	4.2	18	1	5.6
Classical Studies	0	0	0	3	0	0
Computing	33	1	3.0	12	2	16.7
Economics	26	1	3.8	42	4	9.5
Eng. Drawing/Graph. Comm.	0	0	0	32	2	6.3
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	201	12	6.0	868	24	2.8
Environmental Science	0	0	0	161	2	1.2
French	11	2	18.2	20	1	5.0
Geography	7	0	0	41	3	7.3
German	10	0	0	8	0	0
Graphical Communication	0	0	0	0	0	0
History	22	1	4.5	29	2	6.9
Home Ec./Hum. Ecology	27	0	0	50	0	0
Information Technology	5	0	0	44	0	0
Italian	34	1	2.9	42	1	2.4
Maltese	161	6	3.7	141	4	2.8
Marketing	165	12	7.3	131	3	2.3
Music	1	0	0	3	0	0
Philosophy	33	0	0	81	4	4.9
Physical Education	0	0	0	34	1	2.9
Physics	65	10	15.4	211	1	0.5
Psychology	0	0	0	342	7	2.0
Pure Mathematics	130	3	2.3	270	11	4.1
Religious Knowledge	36	3	8.3	163	7	4.3
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sociology	46	3	6.5	69	0	0
Spanish	8	0	0	5	0	0
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0	278	6	2.2
Theatre & Performance	0	0	0	10	1	10.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1300</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>3310</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>2.7</i>



5. September 2015 Results

The following tables present the results of the September 2015 session of examinations. Table 5.1 (Parts 1 and 2) and Table 5.2 (Parts 1 and 2) respectively present the Advanced and Intermediate level results for candidates by gender. It is important to note that registrations in September are restricted to a maximum of six subjects: one subject at Advanced level, one subject from each of Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Group 4 subjects at Intermediate level, and Systems of Knowledge.

There were no registrations for Advanced Level Applied Mathematics, Engineering Drawing, Greek, Latin and Russian while there were also no registrations for Intermediate Level Greek, Latin and Russian in September 2015. These subjects are not shown in the tables below.

Table 5.1: September 2015 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	1	5	46	36	23	14	15	140
Females	0	1	29	24	12	10	7	83
Males	1	4	17	12	11	4	8	57
Arabic	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Art	0	0	4	2	0	6	1	13
Females	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	8
Males	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	5
Biology	1	1	11	25	13	22	3	76
Females	0	0	6	16	6	16	3	47
Males	1	1	5	9	7	6	0	29
Chemistry	0	1	9	17	4	13	4	48
Females	0	1	6	13	2	7	1	30
Males	0	0	3	4	2	6	3	18
Computing	1	7	4	10	6	5	0	33
Females	1	2	1	6	2	2	0	14
Males	0	5	3	4	4	3	0	19
Economics	2	3	5	6	1	4	5	26
Females	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	13
Males	0	2	2	4	0	3	2	13
English	0	12	64	54	28	27	16	201
Females	0	7	35	35	19	18	9	123
Males	0	5	29	19	9	9	7	78
French	0	0	3	6	1	0	1	11
Females	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	5
Males	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	6
Geography	0	0	4	2	0	1	0	7
Females	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
Males	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3



Table 5.1: September 2015 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
German	2	1	4	1	0	2	0	10
Females	2	1	3	0	0	2	0	8
Males	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
History	2	3	6	4	1	5	1	22
Females	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	7
Males	1	2	4	2	1	5	0	15
Home Economics & Human Ecology	0	0	7	6	9	5	0	27
Females	0	0	7	4	8	4	0	23
Males	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	4
Information Technology	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	5
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	4
Italian	1	4	11	6	5	5	2	34
Females	1	3	7	6	3	2	2	24
Males	0	1	4	0	2	3	0	10
Maltese	5	26	66	32	16	9	7	161
Females	4	18	44	24	9	3	4	106
Males	1	8	22	8	7	6	3	55
Marketing	0	10	53	30	29	21	22	165
Females	0	6	21	18	14	10	14	83
Males	0	4	32	12	15	11	8	82
Music	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	4	7	10	4	3	0	5	33
Females	3	2	5	4	1	0	3	18
Males	1	5	5	0	2	0	2	15
Physics	0	0	18	18	12	14	3	65
Females	0	0	7	7	8	3	0	25
Males	0	0	11	11	4	11	3	40
Pure Mathematics	2	14	34	14	20	35	11	130
Females	0	4	13	5	6	6	3	37
Males	2	10	21	9	14	29	8	93
Religious Knowledge	1	2	6	9	10	6	2	36
Females	1	1	4	5	4	2	1	18
Males	0	1	2	4	6	4	1	18
Sociology	1	1	9	5	7	9	14	46
Females	0	0	6	4	3	4	13	30
Males	1	1	3	1	4	5	1	16
Spanish	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	8
Females	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	5
Males	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3



Table 5.2: September 2015 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	3	10	10	8	3	5	1	40
Females	1	3	5	5	1	1	1	17
Males	2	7	5	3	2	4	0	23
Applied Mathematics	0	2	1	4	2	3	2	14
Females	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	4
Males	0	1	1	3	0	3	2	10
Arabic	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Females	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Art	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	11	41	46	17	9	8	13	145
Females	11	33	40	12	6	7	10	119
Males	0	8	6	5	3	1	3	26
Chemistry	0	0	5	4	3	1	5	18
Females	0	0	4	2	1	1	4	12
Males	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	6
Classical Studies	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Males	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Computing	0	2	2	3	4	1	0	12
Females	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
Males	0	1	2	3	2	1	0	9
Economics	3	7	5	2	10	10	5	42
Females	3	4	3	1	7	7	2	27
Males	0	3	2	1	3	3	3	15
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	2	3	4	8	3	12	0	32
Females	0	0	2	1	1	7	0	11
Males	2	3	2	7	2	5	0	21
English	41	101	268	230	96	116	16	868
Females	23	64	157	136	61	69	7	517
Males	18	37	111	94	35	47	9	351
Environmental Science	3	6	32	51	23	29	17	161
Females	3	3	22	32	13	18	11	102
Males	0	3	10	19	10	11	6	59
French	0	1	4	7	2	4	2	20
Females	0	0	3	5	2	2	1	13
Males	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	7
Geography	1	3	9	11	5	8	4	41
Females	1	1	5	5	4	5	2	23
Males	0	2	4	6	1	3	2	18



Table 5.2: September 2015 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
History	4	2	6	3	1	7	6	29
Females	0	1	2	2	0	1	3	9
Males	4	1	4	1	1	6	3	20
Home Economics & Human Ecology	8	7	13	7	3	7	5	50
Females	8	7	12	7	3	6	4	47
Males	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Information Technology	2	10	16	5	3	5	3	44
Females	0	7	6	1	2	3	1	20
Males	2	3	10	4	1	2	2	24
Italian	0	4	15	6	11	6	0	42
Females	0	1	8	3	2	3	0	17
Males	0	3	7	3	9	3	0	25
Maltese	0	9	49	28	28	20	7	141
Females	0	6	30	18	17	9	5	85
Males	0	3	19	10	11	11	2	56
Marketing	7	32	34	15	15	17	11	131
Females	3	20	17	6	7	8	4	65
Males	4	12	17	9	8	9	7	66
Music	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Females	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Philosophy	1	5	4	10	15	34	12	81
Females	0	4	1	6	7	13	6	37
Males	1	1	3	4	8	21	6	44
Physical Education	0	2	12	7	5	8	0	34
Females	0	2	7	5	3	5	0	22
Males	0	0	5	2	2	3	0	12
Physics	34	30	63	28	19	22	15	211
Females	20	12	38	17	11	12	8	118
Males	14	18	25	11	8	10	7	93
Psychology	15	24	74	75	36	86	32	342
Females	12	20	52	51	25	51	25	236
Males	3	4	22	24	11	35	7	106
Pure Mathematics	11	23	53	43	52	63	25	270
Females	7	12	31	20	20	31	13	134
Males	4	11	22	23	32	32	12	136
Religious Knowledge	2	2	17	25	28	79	10	163
Females	2	2	8	15	20	32	5	84
Males	0	0	9	10	8	47	5	79
Sociology	6	7	10	8	8	23	7	69
Females	3	3	6	5	3	12	5	37
Males	3	4	4	3	5	11	2	32



Table 5.2: September 2015 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 3)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Spanish	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	5
Females	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Systems of Knowledge	2	19	76	57	63	54	7	278
Females	2	9	49	26	27	30	4	147
Males	0	10	27	31	36	24	3	131
Theatre & Performance	0	1	3	0	1	5	0	10
Females	0	1	3	0	1	3	0	8
Males	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

Table 5.3 below presents information on the outcome of the requests for Revision of Papers in the various subjects at Advanced and Intermediate Levels after the September 2015 results were issued.



Table 5.3: September 2015 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Accounting	140	11	0	0.0	40	0	0	0
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0
Arabic	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Art	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Biology	76	4	0	0.0	145	1	0	0
Chemistry	48	2	0	0.0	18	1	0	0
Classical Studies	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	0
Computing	33	1	0	0.0	12	2	2	100
Economics	26	1	0	0.0	42	4	1	25.0
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	-	-	-	-	32	2	0	0
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
English	201	12	0	0.0	868	24	4	16.7
Environmental Science	-	-	-	-	161	2	0	0
French	11	2	0	0.0	20	1	0	0
Geography	7	0	0	0	41	3	0	0
German	10	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Graphical Communication	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
History	22	1	1	100	29	2	0	0
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	27	0	0	0	50	0	0	0
Information Technology	5	0	0	0	44	0	0	0



Table 5.3: September 2015 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers (Part 2)

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Italian	34	1	0	0.0	42	1	0	0
Maltese	161	6	0	0.0	141	4	0	0
Marketing	165	12	0	0.0	131	3	0	0
Music	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Philosophy	33	0	0	0	81	4	0	0
Physical Education	-	-	-	-	34	1	0	0
Physics	65	10	0	0.0	211	1	0	0
Psychology	-	-	-	-	342	7	0	0
Pure Mathematics	130	3	1	33.3	270	11	2	18.2
Religious Knowledge	36	3	0	0.0	163	7	0	0
Sociology	46	3	0	0.0	69	0	0	0
Spanish	8	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	278	6	1	16.7
Theatre & Performance	-	-	-	-	10	1	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1300</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>3310</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11.4</i>



Table 5.4 presents the numbers of the Matriculation Certificate awarded to all candidates and to candidates of the 1997 cohort by gender in the September session.

Table 5.4: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in September 2015

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	161	180	341
1997 Cohort	93	118	211

The data in Table 5.4 show that 12.1% of the 2,810 candidates who sat for the September session in 2015 (13.6% males and 11.1% females) managed to qualify for the award of the Matriculation Certificate. These proportions include 23.6% of the 893 candidates of the 1997 cohort (24.9% males and 22.7% females).



6. General Statistics

This section brings together the main statistical results of the May and September 2015 sessions. These include the number of all candidates who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2015 and, separately, the number of candidates of the 1997 cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. These are presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in 2015 (May and September)

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	747	981	1728
1997 Cohort	548	733	1281

When the results of the 1997 cohort in the May and September are aggregated, it is found that 26.5% of the 4,835 children of that cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2015. This percentage is an average result which when analysed by gender shows that the successful candidates consist of only 21.5% of males as against 32.0% of females born in 1997.

Table 6.2 indicates the percentage passes in the different subjects at Advanced Level in 2015 in May and September separately. Table 6.3 presents similar data for the Intermediate level subjects. The percentage pass rate is usually higher in the May session than in the September session. In 2015, these average at 78.8% and 75.4% respectively for Advanced Matriculation subjects and 80.6% and 74.5% respectively for Intermediate Matriculation subjects.



Table 6.2: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2015 (May and September)

Subject	May Session			September Session		
	Registered	Grades A-E		Registered	Grades A-E	
		N	%		N	%
Accounting	484	343	70.9	140	111	79.3
Applied Mathematics	8	3	37.5	0	0	0
Arabic	0	0	0	2	0	0.0
Art	71	56	78.9	13	6	46.2
Biology	672	586	87.2	76	51	67.1
Chemistry	516	388	75.2	48	31	64.6
Computing	159	138	86.8	33	28	84.8
Economics	190	153	80.5	26	17	65.4
Engineering Drawing	6	4	66.7	0	0	0
English	724	596	82.3	201	158	78.6
French	54	44	81.5	11	10	90.9
Geography	55	47	85.5	7	6	85.7
German	16	13	81.3	10	8	80.0
Graphical Communication	11	10	90.9	0	0	0
History	102	77	75.5	22	16	72.7
Home Economics & Human Ecology	142	126	88.7	27	22	81.5
Information Technology	62	52	83.9	5	3	60.0
Italian	160	113	70.6	34	27	79.4
Maltese	518	461	89.0	161	145	90.1
Marketing	443	301	67.9	165	122	73.9
Music	14	14	100	1	1	100
Philosophy	121	87	71.9	33	28	84.8
Physics	435	370	85.1	65	48	73.8
Pure Mathematics	549	371	67.6	130	84	64.6
Religious Knowledge	107	82	76.6	36	28	77.8
Russian	1	1	100	0	0	0
Sociology	203	148	72.9	46	23	50.0
Spanish	33	28	84.8	8	7	87.5

An analysis of Table 6.2 indicates that in Advanced level subjects the pass rates differ substantially between subjects as shown below:

Pass rate (May Session)	Subjects
90% - 100%	Graphical Communication, Music, Russian.
80% - 89%	Biology, Computing, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Home Economics & Human Ecology, Information Technology, Maltese, Physics, Spanish.
70% - 79%	Accounting, Art, Chemistry, History, Italian, Philosophy, Religious Knowledge, Sociology.
60% - 69%	Engineering Drawing, Marketing, Pure Mathematics.
<50%	Applied Mathematics.



Table 6.3: Passes in Intermediate Level Subjects in 2015 (May and September)

Subject	May Session			September Session		
	Registered	Grades A-E		Registered	Grades A-E	
		N	%		N	%
Accounting	76	56	73.7	40	34	85.0
Applied Mathematics	69	54	78.3	14	9	64.3
Arabic	10	10	100	2	2	100
Art	33	28	84.8	1	0	0.0
Biology	301	237	78.7	145	124	85.5
Chemistry	24	9	37.5	18	12	66.7
Classical Studies	20	11	55.0	3	1	33.3
Computing	102	89	87.3	12	11	91.7
Economics	51	38	74.5	42	27	64.3
Eng. Drawing & Grap. Comm.	75	57	76.0	32	20	62.5
English	1355	1161	85.7	868	736	84.8
Environmental Science	381	303	79.5	161	115	71.4
French	130	112	86.2	20	14	70.0
Geography	97	79	81.4	41	29	70.7
German	18	18	100	8	8	100
History	60	49	81.7	29	16	55.2
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	72	66	91.7	50	38	76.0
Information Technology	205	185	90.2	44	36	81.8
Italian	139	120	86.3	42	36	85.7
Maltese	322	265	82.3	141	114	80.9
Marketing	249	215	86.3	131	103	78.6
Music	6	6	100	3	3	100
Philosophy	402	308	76.6	81	35	43.2
Physical Education	117	84	71.8	34	26	76.5
Physics	658	490	74.5	211	174	82.5
Psychology	919	616	67.0	342	224	65.5
Pure Mathematics	621	421	67.8	270	182	67.4
Religious Knowledge	235	193	82.1	163	74	45.4
Sociology	184	134	72.8	69	39	56.5
Spanish	22	16	72.7	5	2	40.0
Systems of Knowledge	2052	1834	89.4	278	217	78.1
Theatre & Performance	40	30	75.0	10	5	50.0



An analysis of Table 6.3 indicates that in Intermediate Level subjects the pass rates differ substantially between subjects as shown below:

Pass rate (May Session)	Subjects
90% - 100%	Arabic, German, Home Economics & Human Ecology, Information Technology, Music.
80% - 89%	Art, Computing, English, French, Geography, History, Italian, Maltese, Marketing, Religious Knowledge.
70% - 79%	Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Biology, Economics, Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm., Environmental Science, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics.
60% - 69%	Psychology, Pure Mathematics.
50% - 59%	Classical Studies.
<50%	Chemistry.

The numbers of candidates applying for Revision of Papers from 2004 to 2015 are shown in Table 6.4. The table that follows, Table 6.5, shows the percentage of these applicants who had their grade revised. The two figures that follow, represent this data graphically.

Table 6.4: Percentage Applications for Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Year	May		September	
	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)
2004	8.1	3.9	7.3	5.9
2005	7.7	3.5	6.8	7.2
2006	5.9	2.7	9.6	8
2007	6.8	3.6	7	5.8
2008	5.5	4.4	5.7	4.3
2009	5.2	3	6.6	4.2
2010	6.2	4.1	7.3	6.3
2011	7.4	4	7.4	6.2
2013	8.2	4	2.9	4.2
2014	7.5	3.5	7.1	6
2015	8.5	3.1	5.5	2.7



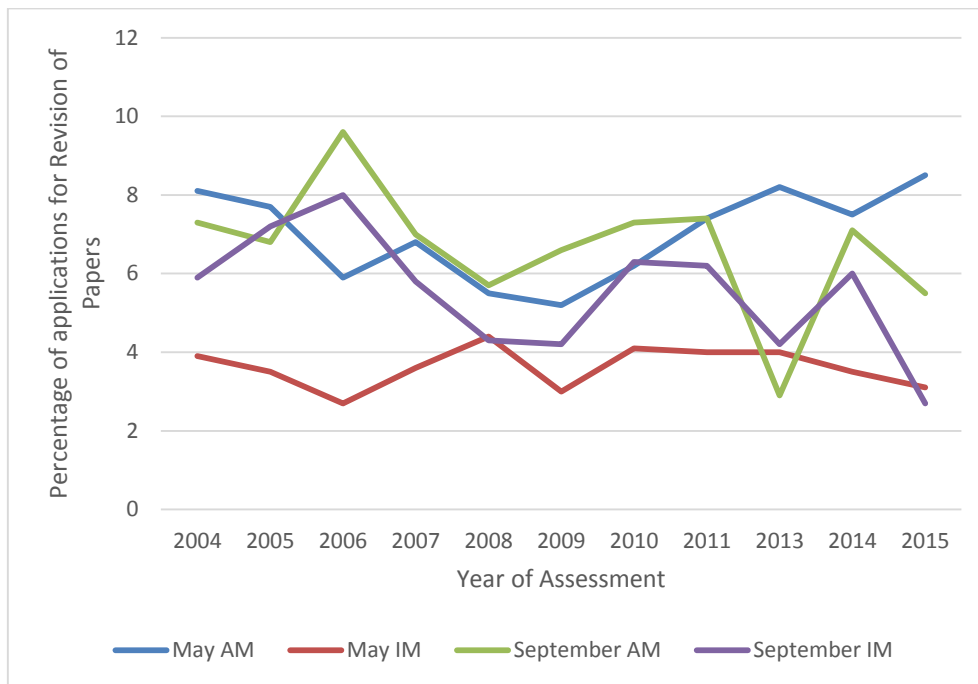


Figure 6.1: Percentage Applications for Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Figure 6.1 suggests that the percentage of candidates applying for Revision of Papers has followed no particular trend across the years from 2004 to 2015. Drop and peaks along the years seem rather haphazard. The percentage of candidates applying for Revision of Papers ranges from 2.7% (May IM 2006, September IM 2015) to 9.6% (September AM 2006). Usually, the percentage of candidates applying for Revision of Papers is higher for Advanced Matriculation subjects.

Table 6.5: Percentage Upgrades from Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Year	May		September	
	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)	Advanced Matriculation (AM)	Intermediate Matriculation (IM)
2004	4	4.6	1.3	3.1
2005	2.5	3	4.8	1.3
2006	2.9	6.6	0.9	22.8
2007	2.5	8.4	2.7	0
2008	2.1	3.1	6	0
2009	4.9	4.5	3.4	2.4
2010	4.9	3.5	1.4	7.5
2011	3.5	3	2.9	1.5
2013	4.3	5.8	0	0
2014	4.3	5	0	1.6
2015	1	7.7	2.8	11.4



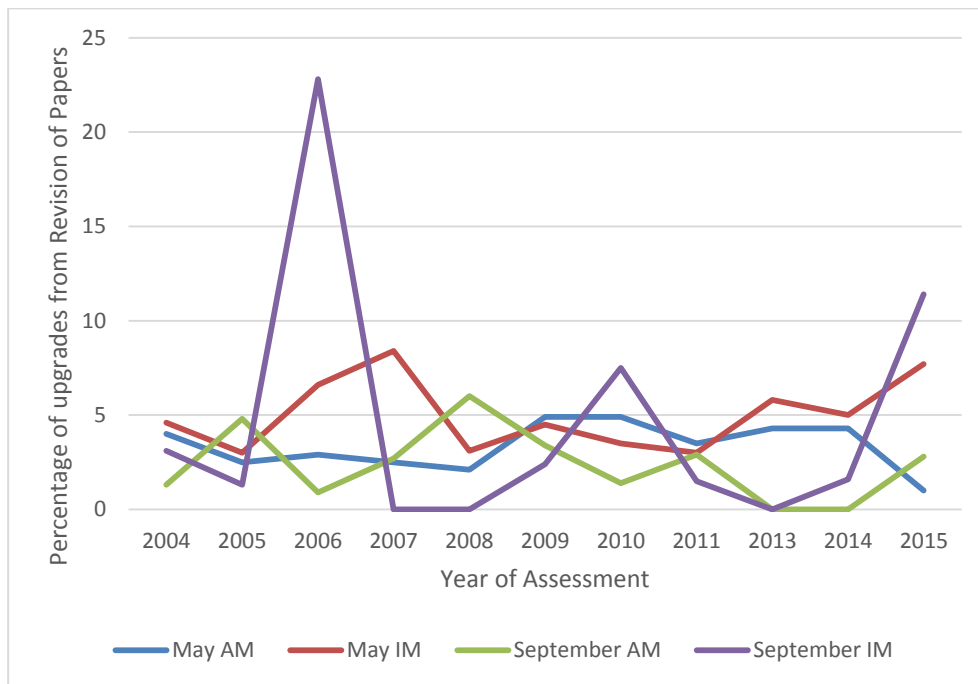


Figure 6.2: Percentage Upgrades from Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Figure 6.2 suggests that the percentage of upgrades from Revision of Papers has also followed no particular trend across the years from 2004 to 2015. Increased percentage of upgrades in Intermediate Matriculation for the 2006 and 2010 September sessions roughly coincide with an increased percentage of applications for Revision of Papers in these sessions (Table 6.4). This is, however, not observed for other sessions and levels. The percentage of upgrades from Revision of Papers ranges from 0% (five instances) to 22.8% (September IM 2006). In 2015, the percentage of upgrades through Revision of Papers for Intermediate Matriculation subjects was relatively high.

This year, 74 candidates applied for Special Arrangements to access the May Matriculation examinations. The number of such requests has been increasing along the years as shown in Figure 6.3.



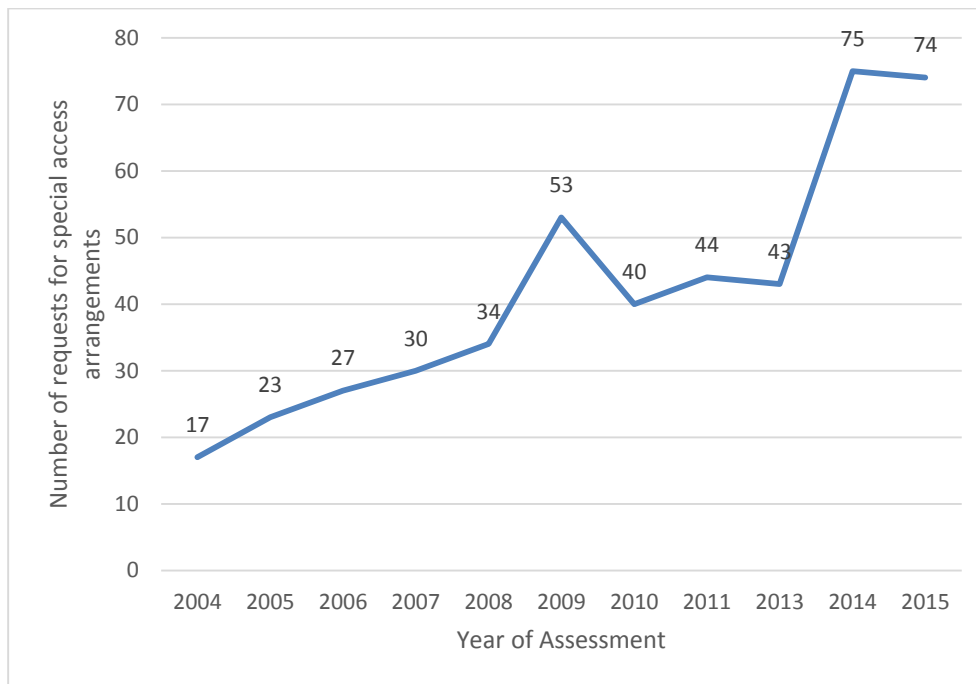


Figure 6.3: Number of Candidates applying for Special Access Arrangements from 2004 to 2015

The following Table presents the trend in the percentage of the 18-year-old cohorts that qualified for the Matriculation Certificate since 2001.

Table 6.6: Percentage of the 18-year-old cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate, by Year of Assessment and Gender

Year	18-year-old cohort born in	Number of Individuals in the Cohort	Percentage of Males	Percentage of Females	Total Percentage
2001	1983	5,651	*	*	19.2
2002	1984	5,571	*	*	19.4
2003	1985	5,430	16.4	27.5	21.7
2004	1986	5,245	16.2	29.0	22.3
2005	1987	5,314	16.5	30.3	23.2
2006	1988	5,533	17.1	29.1	23.0
2007	1989	5,584	18.1	29.8	23.9
2008	1990	5,368	17.3	28.8	22.8
2009	1991	5,302	17.6	31.0	24.2
2010	1992	5,474	17.3	27.8	22.4
2011	1993	5,147	18.9	29.5	24.0
2013	1995	4,613	20.6	34.3	27.1
2014	1996	4,944	20.0	33.2	26.4
2015	1997	4,835	21.5	32	26.5



Figure 6.1 shows the percentage of the 18-year-olds' cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate as from 2001. The overall percentage has exceeded 25% after the change in regulations in 2012. While in the eight years before the change in regulations, an average of 23.2% of the population used to gain the necessary entry requirements for University, in the three years after the change in regulations 26.7% did. In general, one can also note that the difference between males and females in this regard is decreasing, although this trend is not observed yearly. The lowest difference between the percentages of males and females being awarded the Matriculation Certificate was observed in 2010 and 2015 (10.5%).

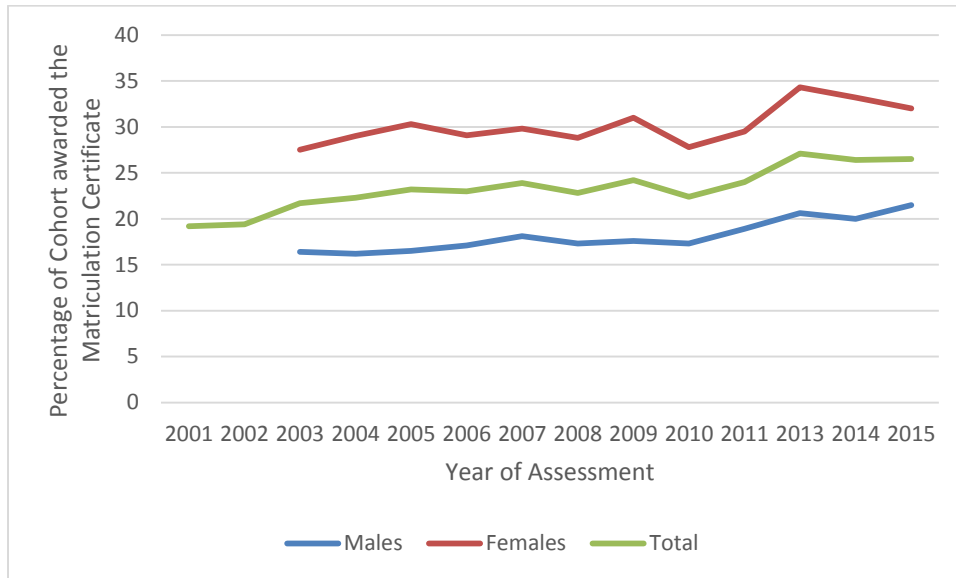


Figure 6.4: Percentage of the 18-year-old cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate, by Year of Assessment and Gender



7. Conclusion

This report has been produced with the intention of providing valid and reliable information about various aspects of the 2015 Matriculation Examination sessions in May and September. 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. The report also makes it possible for individuals and institutions to carry out further analyses on the data presented. This report may also be used as a basis of an evaluation of the Matriculation Certificate system of examinations that has been in operation for sixteen years to date.

Comments on this report and any recommendations on improving this or similar documents published by the MATSEC Support Unit are welcome. These are to be addressed to Mr. Gilbert John Zahra, Principal Assessment Research and Development Officer, MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta on Tel: 2340 3965 or email: gilbert.j.zahra@um.edu.mt.



Appendix A

Timetables for May 2015 and September 2015 Sessions



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board
May 2015 Session Timetable**

Date	Advanced Matriculation		Intermediate Level		Secondary Education Certificate	
	9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Friday 24 April	Music I			Systems of Knowledge	Physical Education II	Design & Technology II
Saturday 25 April	Music II (Part II)	Russian VSpanish (Lit.) (3.00 p.m.)	Music (Part II)	Spanish (Lit.) (4.00 p.m.)	Mathematics I	Mathematics II
Monday 27 April	Arabic III	Arabic III/Russian III/Italian (Lit.) (3.00 p.m.)	Theatre and Performance	Arabic	Graphical Communication I	Graphical Communication II
Tuesday 28 April	Chemistry I	Russian III	Environmental Science	Russian	Computer Studies I	Italian I
Wednesday 29 April	Chemistry II	French I & IV	Chemistry		Computer Studies II	Italian II
Thursday 30 April	French II	Home Economics I	French		Spanish I	Spanish II
Saturday 2 May	English I	Home Economics II	English	Home Economics	Religious Knowledge I	Religious Knowledge II
Monday 4 May	Accounting I	English II	Accounting		Latin I/Commerce I	Arabic II/Latin II/Commerce II
Tuesday 5 May	Accounting II	English III			History I	English Literature I
Wednesday 6 May	Biology I	Eng Draw/Graph Comm I		Eng Draw & Graph Comm	History II	English Literature II
Thursday 7 May	Biology II	Eng Draw/Graph Comm II	Biology		Home Economics I	Environmental Studies I
Friday 8 May	Biology III	Italian II		Italian (Lit.) (3.00 p.m.)	Home Economics II	Environmental Studies II
Saturday 9 May	Physics I	Italian III		Italian	Maltese I	Maltese II
Monday 11 May	Physics II	Italian IV	Physics		German I	Accounting II/Business Studies I
Tuesday 12 May	Geography I	Philosophy I	Music (Parts I & III)	Music (Part III cont.)	German II	Accounting II/Business Studies II
Wednesday 13 May	Geography II	Philosophy II	Geography	Philosophy	Chemistry I	French I
Thursday 14 May	Marketing I	Marketing II	Marketing		Economics I	French II
Friday 15 May	Geography III	French III	Psychology		Chemistry II	Economics II
Saturday 16 May	Maltese I, Applied Mathematics I	Maltese II		Maltese	English Language I	English Language II
Monday 18 May	Economics I, Applied Mathematics II	Maltese III	Applied Mathematics			Biology I
Tuesday 19 May	Economics II	Computing I, Info Tech I	Economics	Computing/Info Tech		Biology II
Wednesday 20 May	History I	Computing II, Info Tech II	Physical Education		Geography I	
Thursday 21 May	History II	German I		German		Greek II/Russian II/Class. Cult. & Civ. I
Friday 22 May	History III	Pure Mathematics I	History	Pure Mathematics	Geography II	Greek II/Russian II/Class. Cult. & Civ. II
Saturday 23 May	Sociology I	Pure Mathematics II			Physics I	Physics II
Monday 25 May	Religious Knowledge I	Sociology II	Religious Knowledge		European Studies I/Textiles & Design I	
Tuesday 26 May	Religious Knowledge II	Sociology III		Sociology	European Studies II/Textiles & Design II	Social Studies I
Wednesday 27 May	Spanish I	German II, Greek I	Spanish	German (Lit.) (3.00 p.m.)	Music I (Part I)	Social Studies II
Thursday 28 May	Spanish II, Latin I	German III, Greek II	Latin/Classical Studies	Greek	Music I (Part II)	Music I (Part II)
Friday 29 May	Spanish III, Latin II	Art III			Art II	Music II
Saturday 30 May	Art I	Art II	Art		Art I	Art I (cont.)

Following registration, candidates will be informed individually about:
 1. SEC Listening Comprehension/Dictation (Group Examinations)
 2. SEC Reading, Conversation, Role Play, etc. (Individual Oral Examinations)
 3. Advanced Matriculation Oral Examinations

4. Advanced Matriculation Music Oral/Aural examinations
 5. Advanced Matriculation Biology, Chemistry and Physics Practicals

Oral Examinations:

SEC Listening Comprehension/Dictation will be held as follows: Saturday 14 March - Italian; Wednesday 18 March - German and Russian; Friday 20 March - Spanish and Arabic; Saturday 21 March - English; Saturday 28 March - French.

SEC Reading & Conversation will be held as follows: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 March, 1 April - English and French; 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 April - Maltese and Italian; 20, 21, 22 April - German, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

Intermediate Matriculation Orals will be as follows: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 March - Theatre and Performance; 17 March - French; 21 March - Italian; 23, 24, 25, 28 March - Maltese; 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 April - English; 16 April - German, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

Advanced Matriculation Orals will be as follows: 18 March - French; 27, 30 March - Maltese; 11 April - Arabic, German, Spanish and Russian; 17, 20, 21, 22, 23 April - English; 18 April - Italian; 25 April - Music Paper 2; 9 May - Music Paper 3 (performance/composition).

Physical Education:

Candidates must fill and hand in the choice of activities form on registration. The form may be downloaded from www.um.edu.mt/matsec/

SEC Activities will be held as follows: 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 March - Athletics, Games, Gym and Dance; 1, 2, 3, 4 June - Swimming.

Intermediate Matriculation activities will be held as follows: 20, 23, 27, 30 March.

Candidates will receive their Index number and Accommodation for Oral and Written Examinations in due course.



**Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board
MAY 2015 SESSION
Coursework and Portfolios**

SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE LEVEL

Heads of School are to send the school-based assessment marks for the subjects outlined below to MATSEC by **Friday 13th March 2015**.

Schools are cordially invited to present the marks of those candidates who applied for the SEC examination. Lists of candidates, where the assessment marks are to be filled, will be forwarded to each respective school in due time.

Private candidates are to present their coursework for the subjects outlined below to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo between **Monday 2nd March 2015** and **Friday 13th March 2015**, both days inclusive between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

Art, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Studies, Design and Technology, Environmental Studies, European Studies, Geography, Home Economics, Physical Education, Physics and Textiles & Design.

INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION LEVEL

Candidates sitting for **Music** are to present two copies of the composition (if chosen) to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo by **Wednesday 29th April 2015**.

Heads of School are to send the school-based assessment marks for **Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge** to MATSEC by **Friday 13th March 2015**.

All candidates sitting for Art, and Private candidates sitting for Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge are to present their project to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo by **Friday 13th March 2015** between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL

Candidates sitting for **Music** are to present two copies of the composition (if chosen) to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo by **Wednesday 29th April 2015**.

Heads of School are to send the school-based assessment marks for **Computing, Information Technology, Geography and Home Economics** to MATSEC by **Friday 13th March 2015**

All candidates sitting for Art, and Private candidates sitting for Computing, Information Technology, Geography and Home Economics are to present their project to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo by **Friday 13th March 2015** between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm.

INTERMEDIATE MATRICULATION AND ADVANCED MATRICULATION LEVEL ART EXAMINATIONS

The starting points of the Thematic Project Work will be published **in the Notices section of the MATSEC website by the 4th April 2015**. Candidates are to present this work on **Thursday 4th June 2015** between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm at MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo.

All coursework submitted by private candidates will be assessed by the Board of Examiners for the subject. It is to be presented in a special folder obtainable from MATSEC. The MATSEC Board reserves the right to keep any of the works submitted by candidates.

All candidates may be called for an interview regarding their coursework.

MATSEC WILL NOT MAKE ANY ARRANGEMENTS IN CASE OF CLASHES WITH EXAMINATIONS OF OTHER BOARDS.

COLLEGES/SCHOOLS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE NOTE OF EXAMINATION DATES BEFORE STAGING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR CANDIDATES SITTING FOR MATSEC EXAMINATIONS ON THE PRESCRIBED DATES AS ALTERATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.





TIMETABLE – September 2015 Session

Date	Secondary Education Certificate	Intermediate Matriculation	Advanced Matriculation
Friday 28-Aug-2015		Physical Education practical exam	p.m. Biology, Chemistry, Physics practical exams
Monday 31-Aug-2015	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	09:00 PI 16:00 PII	Systems of Knowledge
Tuesday 01-Sep-2015	English Language	09:00 PI 16:00 PII	Paper I – All Subjects
Wednesday 02-Sep-2015	Maltese	09:00 PI 16:00 PII	Paper II – All Subjects
Thursday 03-Sep-2015	Mathematics	09:00 PI 16:00 PII	Paper III – All Subjects (where applicable)
Friday 04-Sep-2015			Group I subjects Group III subjects
Saturday 5-Sep-2015			Group II subjects Group IV subjects

Intermediate Matriculation level

Orals: 28, 29, 31 Aug – English; 1 Sep – French, German & Italian; 2 Sep – Arabic, Maltese, Russian & Spanish; 3 Sep – Theatre and Performance & Music (Parts 1 & 3)

By Monday 17th August 2015, all candidates sitting for Art are to present their coursework, and Private candidates sitting for Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge are to present their project to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo.

The Art starting points of the Thematic Project Work will be published in the Notices section of the MATSEC website by Monday 10th August 2015. Candidates are to present this work on Monday 7th September 2015 between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon at MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo.

Advanced Matriculation level

Orals will be as follows: 1 Sep – Arabic, Maltese, Russian & Spanish; 2 Sep – French, German & Italian; 3, 4, 5 Sep – English; 3 Sep – Music

By Monday 17th August 2015, all candidates sitting for Art are to present their coursework, and Private candidates sitting for Computing, Information Technology, Geography and Home Economics are to present their project to MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo.

The Art starting points of the Thematic Project Work will be published in the Notices section of the MATSEC website by Tuesday 21st July 2015. Candidates are to present this work on Monday 7th September 2015 between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon at MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo.

CANDIDATES REGISTERING FOR AN EXAMINATION FOR THE FIRST TIME WILL BE TREATED AS PRIVATE CANDIDATES. THEREFORE ALL COURSEWORK/PROJECT WORK IS TO BE PRESENTED TO MATSEC OR THE EXAMINATIONS DEPT GOZO AS INDICATED ABOVE.





Candidates registering for AM 20 Italian should note that:

Paper I (listening comprehension) and Paper II will take place on the 1st September.
Paper III and the oral (topic presentation and interactive conversation) will take place on the 2nd September.
Paper IV will take place on the 3rd September.

Candidates registering for IM 14 German and IM 20 Italian should note that:

The Listening Comprehension will take place on the 1st September (*time of the examination will be issued in due course*).

Candidates registering for IM 31 Spanish should note that:

The Listening Comprehension will take place on the 2nd September (*time of the examination will be issued in due course*).

Candidates registering for AM 12 French and AM 31 Spanish should note that:

French Paper IV (Dictation) and Spanish Paper IV (Listening Comprehension) will be held on the 1st September (*time of the examination will be issued in due course*).

Subjects of the Examination

Group 1: Maltese, Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Russian, Spanish;

Group 2: Accounting, Classical Studies*, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Psychology*, Religious Knowledge, Sociology;

Group 3: Applied Mathematics (Mechanics), Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science*, Physics, Pure Mathematics;

Group 4: Art, Computing, Engineering Drawing, Graphical Communication, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology; Music; Physical Education*; Theatre and Performance*;

Group 5: Systems of Knowledge*.

* offered at Intermediate Level only

