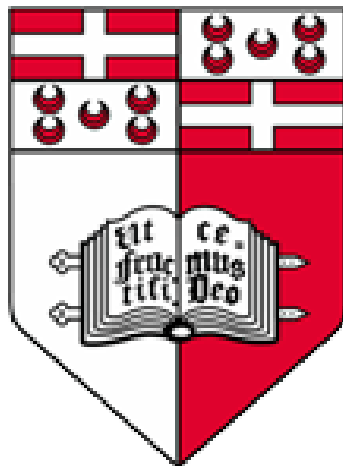


MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2016

Statistical Report



MATSEC Examinations Board
University of Malta

FOREWORD

The year 2016 happens to be the twentieth anniversary since the Matriculation Certificate was established as the requirement for admission to undergraduate courses at the University of Malta. This event provides us with an opportunity to consider certain trends in the regulations, registrations, results and other statistical data over a reasonable number of years.

Over the years the regulations became less rigid but still demanding in order to allow more students who had the potential to follow tertiary level courses to do so. Indeed, in the first session of the Matriculation Certificate in 1997 the regulations required candidates to satisfy the criteria for the award of the certificate in one session, which included the September supplementary session. If they narrowly failed to do so, they were allowed to sit for one subject in the next session to satisfy all the criteria. In subsequent years this allowance was extended to two years. In addition, from 1997 to 2009, candidates who wanted to sit for one subject only could do so provided that it was an Advanced level but passes in single subjects did not count for the award of the Matriculation Certificate. Then in 2010 candidates were allowed to sit for single subjects in both Advanced and Intermediate level subjects. This was an option from which many candidates profited immediately. In 2012, there was a drastic change in the regulations, the May and September sittings became two separate sessions and candidates were allowed to satisfy the criteria for the award of the certificate over five years. An unintended outcome of this change was that many students of Sixth Form schools and colleges started to sit for Matriculation examinations in September after they had finished their first year at school and before they had obtained a mature understanding of the subjects which they attempted.

Comparing the registration data of the 4026 candidates in 2016 with that of 3634 candidates in 2006, one finds that some Advanced level subjects have become slightly more popular while others have suffered significant losses. For example, in 2016 there were 2.1%, 2.4% and 3.0% more candidates sitting for Biology, Chemistry and Maltese respectively. On the other hand there were 2.3%, 3.6% and 3.8% fewer candidates in English, Computing and Accounting respectively in 2016. However the biggest losses were in Physics and Pure Mathematics, with 4.8% and 7.8% less candidates in 2016 respectively. The reasons for these gains and losses may be various and complex but it is important to carry out research to identify them and to stem the negative trend. At Intermediate level, the introduction of Psychology in 2013 attracted many students who used to opt for other humanities subjects in previous years. In fact in 2016, 25.6% of all candidates sat for Psychology while Religious Knowledge, Sociology and Philosophy suffered losses of 6.1%, 6.7% and 10.8% respectively when the 2006 figures are taken into account.

The results data show that the gender gap persists. This report gives detailed results by subject and gender separately for the May and September sessions and for the overall pass rate. These data show differences in performance by males and females in the various subjects. Perhaps the most telling difference is between the percentages of 18-year-old males and females who obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2016. Overall, a record of 28.2% of children born in 1998 were awarded the certificate, however there is still a very large gap of 14.6% between the successful males and females which has persisted over the last twenty years.

In conclusion, thanks are due to Gilbert Zahra, who was responsible for writing and producing this report, Margaret Borg and Gianluca Scicluna for the retrieval and inputting of data, and Christian Attard for checking the data. Thanks are also due to Dario Pirotta, Director, and all staff of the MATSEC Support Unit for their valuable contribution and commitment throughout the year, and the Director of the Examinations Department, Joseph Micallef and his staff for their collaboration.

Prof Frank Ventura
Chairman
MATSEC Examinations Board
January 2017

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADSC – Access - Disability Support Committee (at the University of Malta)

AM – Advanced Matriculation

IM – Intermediate Matriculation

EAA – Examination Access Arrangement

MATSEC – Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate

MQF – Malta Qualifications Framework

SBA – School Based Assessment (assessment used to evaluate candidate learning which is performed during their course and can be set by teachers, schools or the MATSEC Examinations Board depending on the case)

SEC – Secondary Education Certificate

SEC IIA – SEC Paper IIA option

SEC IIB – SEC Paper IIB option

UoM – University of Malta

Executive Summary

This document reports on the Matriculation Examination of 2016. The registrations and results of all candidates and of candidates of the 1998 cohort who turned 18 years of age in 2016 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 1998 – 2016, to indicate some trends that have been developing since the Matriculation Certificate examinations were introduced in the Maltese Islands.

In total, 4,026 candidates (1,719 males and 2,307 females) registered for the examination of the May 2016 session while in September, there were 2,963 (1,294 males and 1,669 females) candidates. Of these, 1,181 candidates (38.7%) used the September session as their first sit for Matriculation Examinations. These consisted of 676 males and 505 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 population of the cohort, September registrations have increased. In September, there were more 17-year-olds than 18-year-olds who registered for Intermediate level examinations. **A total of 5,313 candidates sat for Matriculation Examinations in 2016 meaning that the number of registrations has been increasing over the past years.**

The 2016 session was the fourth full session of Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examinations after the change in regulations which came into effect on the 1st September 2012. This makes it possible to analyse the effects that this change in regulations has had on the Matriculation examinations. **In 2016, the total number of candidates was 5,313. This is the highest number since 2004 and is probably caused by the ever-increasing applications from new registrants for the September session.**

In 2016, the largest number of registrations belonged to the 1998 cohort. These are the candidates who turned eighteen in 2016. In total, **1,905 from the 4,488 children (43.3%) born in 1998 registered for the Matriculation examinations in May 2016.** These consisted of 812 males and 1,133 females, that is, 35.2% of the 2,308 males and 52.0% of the 2,180 females born in 1998 registered for these examinations in this session. As in previous years, in 2016, females outnumbered males in the registrations of the Matriculation examinations.

The most popular subjects at AM level were English (801 candidates) and Maltese (615 candidates) from Group 1; Accounting (497 candidates) and Marketing (477 candidates) from Group 2; and Home Economics & Human Ecology (179 candidates) and Computing (133 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in Group 3 subjects are, with the exception of Applied Mathematics, of a comparable magnitude although Biology (685 candidates) and Chemistry (514) are the two subjects with largest number of registrations. All the above mentioned subjects, with the exception of Computing, are marked by a higher number of female candidates. This is true in most subjects, with notable exceptions such as Physics, Pure Mathematics, IT, History, and Engineering Drawing, Music and Graphical Communication, although these are subjects with a few candidates. In these subjects, there are more male than female candidates.



At IM level, the popularity of English (1,097 candidates), Psychology (1,029 candidates) and IT (203 candidates) is notable in their respective group. Other popular choices include Maltese (284 candidates) from Group 1; Philosophy (330 candidates) from Group 2; Pure Mathematics (617 candidates) and Physics (553 candidates) from Group 3; and Computing (82 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 2016. In some subjects, such as Group 1 subjects, Sociology, Art, and Environmental Science this is more noticeable. This is even more evident in Home Economics & Human Ecology, and Biology where 81.5% and 82.3% of candidates respectively are female. Considerably more male candidates applied for subjects such as Religious Knowledge, History, Accounting, Computing, Information Technology, Music, and Engineering Drawing & Graphical Communication.

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%** (Engineering Drawing, Geography, German, Music, Spanish and Arabic) **to 60% to 69%** (Applied Mathematics, Marketing, and Pure 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% (German, Information Technology, Music, and Russian) to 50% to 59% (Chemistry).

In 2016, 1,391 candidates (553 males and 838 females) obtained the Matriculation Certificate after the May session, while 315 candidates (133 males and 182 females) did so after the September session. This means that **1,706 candidates obtained the Matriculation Certificate in 2016**. These include 1,266 candidates (1,092 from May and 174 from September) from the 1998 cohort, meaning that 28.2% of the children born 18 years before (21.1% of males and 35.7% of females) qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2016. The difference between males and females in this regard changes abruptly and, after the record low value of 2015, in 2016 the largest gap since 2004 (14.6%) was observed. The percentage of candidates being awarded the Matriculation Certificate has increased since the change in regulations. **While the percentage pass rate of 18-year-olds averaged at 23.2% between 2004 and 2011, it averages at 27.1% between 2013 and 2016.**

The overall percentages of requests for revision of papers averaged 7.9% for subjects at Advanced Level and 3.0% for subjects at Intermediate Level in the May session, while in the September session they averaged 4.8% and 3.4% for Advanced and Intermediate Level respectively. Of these, 3.0%, 7.2%, 4.8%, and 2.5% 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.



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 qualification, 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 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. The Matriculation Certificate can be obtained over a period of five years.

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 2016. 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 1998 and 2016 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
Physical Education	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, Physical Education and Theatre and Performance.
	Systems of Knowledge

The timetable for the both the May and September session was issued in mid-October 2015 (a copy is available in Appendix A). Registration for the May examinations took place between 26th October and 6th November 2015. Late applications were received on 6th and 7th January 2016. 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 19th and the 28th July 2016. Late applications were received on the 1st and 2nd August 2016. September applications were received and processed by the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

A total of 4,026 candidates (1,719 males and 2,307 females) registered for the Matriculation examinations of May 2016. Most candidates sat for Advanced and Intermediate Level subjects in order to qualify for the Matriculation Certificate. Other candidates sat for Advanced Level and Intermediate Level subjects as single subjects. A total of 2,963 candidates (1,294 males and 1,669 females) sat for the Matriculation examinations of September 2016. Most candidates had sat for one or more examinations in the May 2016 session, while 1,181 were new applicants (505 males and 676 females). Table 1.2 below shows the number of subject registrations for the Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examinations in May and September 2016.

Table 1.2: Registrations for Matriculation Examinations 2016

Session	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
May	1474	2008	3482	1456	1858	3314
September	604	704	1308	1030	1340	2370

The written examinations took place between 22nd April and 28th May 2016 for the May session and results were sent via sms and results slips on the 13th July 2016. In this session, there were 4,000 (99.4%) of the Matriculation Examination candidates who applied to receive their results by sms. For the September session, written examinations took place between 30th August and 5th September 2016. Results were sent on the 27th September by post and, for the 2,841 (95.9%) candidates who applied for the service, by sms.



Candidates were given the option to receive results by registered mail. Of the May and September candidates, 1,249 (31.0%) and 2,195 (74.1%) candidates applied for this option respectively.

Registration for the service of a Revision of Papers took place between 19th and the 28th July 2016 at the MATSEC Building, University of Malta for the May session and on the 3rd and 4th October 2016 for the September session. These were accepted at the MATSEC Support Unit, University of Malta.

1.03. 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 available to download from the MATSEC website. This year, there were 98 applicants were granted special arrangements for the May session after being considered by the Access Disability Support Committee of the University of Malta. For the September session, there were 21 such candidates.

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	21 March
English	15, 18, 19, 20, 21 April
French	17 March
German	21 March
Italian	16 April
Maltese	15, 16 April
Music	24 May
Russian	21 March
Spanish	21 March



Table 1.4: Oral Examinations – Intermediate Level

Subject	Dates
Arabic	22 March
English	8, 11, 12, 13, 14 April
French	7 April
German	22 March
Italian	2 April
Maltese	1, 4, 5, 6 April
Russian	22 March
Spanish	22 March
Theatre & Performance Studies	1, 2, 3, 6 June

Oral examinations were held at St Aloysius College, Birkirkara for the May Session and at the Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary, Naxxar and St Thomas More College, Hamrun 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	1	0	1
English	22	2	24
French	4	1	5
German	1	1	2
Italian	6	1	7
Maltese	15	2	17
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	3	1	4
Total	53	8	61

Table 1.6: Examiners Used for Orals of Intermediate Level Examinations

Subject	Malta	Gozo	Total
Arabic	1	0	1
English	17	3	20
French	6	1	7
German	2	1	3
Italian	5	1	6
Maltese	5	2	7
Russian	1	0	1
Spanish	2	1	3
Total	39	9	48



1.06. Coursework

There were five subjects at Advanced Level with a coursework component in 2016. These were: Art, Computing, Geography, Home Economics & Human Ecology and Information Technology. Four subjects had a coursework component at Intermediate Level in May 2016. 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 11th March 2016 for the May session and by the 16th August for the September session. The deadline to submit the coursework for Advanced Level and Intermediate Level Art was the 30th June 2016 for the May session and the 6th 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 2016.

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, Engineering Drawing (CAD), Music, Physics and Graphical Communication (CAD). The CAD assessment is formed of three CAD practical exercises centrally set by the MATSEC Examinations Board and performed by candidates in the school they attend as ongoing SBA. 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 for the subjects in which there were registrations.



Table 1.7: Advanced Level Practical Examinations (May Session)

Subject	Dates (2016)	Examination Centres
Art	28 May	St. Aloysius College Birkirkara Gozo Exams Centre
Biology	3 June	GF Abela Junior College Stella Maris College Gozo College Boys Rabat
Chemistry	10 June	University of Malta GF Abela Junior College Stella Maris College Gozo College Boys Rabat
Music	20 May	St. Aloysius College Birkirkara Gozo School of Music
Physics	31 May	GF Abela Junior College Gozo College Boys Rabat
CAD	28 January 25 February 26 May	GF Abela Junior College Giovanni Curmi Higher Secondary Sir M.A Refalo Gozo



Table 1.8: Advanced Level Practical Examinations (September Session)

Subject	Dates (2016)	Examination Centres
Art	2 September	GF Abela Junior College Gozo Exams Centre
Biology	29 August	GF Abela Junior College
Chemistry	29 August	GF Abela Junior College
Physics	29 August	University of Malta

Practical examinations 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 (2016)	Examination Centres
Art	38 May	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara Gozo Examinations Centre, Victoria
Physical Education	6-8, 11-14 April 30 May 1, 2 June	University of Malta, Msida St Aloysius College, Birkirkara
Music	27 May	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara

Table 1.10: Intermediate Level Practical Examinations (September Session)

Subject	Dates (2016)	Examination Centres
Art	31 August	GF Abela Junior College
Physical Education	29 August	St Aloysius College, Birkirkara

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 €45 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 2016 session, there were 473 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 263 at Intermediate Level. In the September 2016 session, there were 63 requests for Revision of Papers at Advanced Level and 120 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 have been posted on the MATSEC website.



2. May 2016 Registrations

The total number of candidates who registered for the May 2016 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	1719	2307	4026
1998 Cohort	812	1133	1945

Table 2.2 presents the number of registrations for Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations in May 2016 by year of birth and gender.

Table 2.2: Registrations in May 2016 by Year of Birth and Gender

Year	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1995	136	250	386	64	88	152
1996	38	61	99	35	42	77
1996	129	111	240	105	84	189
1997	356	420	776	320	378	698
1998	761	1065	1826	781	1101	1882
1999	54	101	155	151	165	316
Total	1474	2008	3482	1456	1858	3314

The largest number of registrations for both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, 52.4% and 56.8% respectively, belonged to the 1998 cohort. This is the cohort that turned eighteen years of age in 2016. There were 4,488 children born in 1998 (2,380 males and 2,108 females) in the Maltese Islands¹. This means that 40.7% of the 18-year-old cohort born in 1998 (33.0% of males and 48.9% of females) registered for Advanced Level examinations while 41.9% (33.8% of males and 50.4% of females) registered for Intermediate Level examinations in 2016.

Table 2.2 indicates that, in both Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, there were more registrations from females than males. At Advanced Level, 57.7% of registrations were from females and 42.3% from males. At Intermediate Level, 56.1% of registrations were from females as compared to 43.9% from 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 2016 Matriculation Examination Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	197	300	497	39	25	64
Applied Mathematics	3	0	3	18	21	39
Arabic	0	4	4	1	3	4
Art	38	64	102	7	26	33
Biology	250	435	685	54	251	305
Chemistry	218	296	514	14	25	39
Classical Studies	-	-	-	9	23	32
Computing	103	30	133	67	15	82
Economics	87	77	164	33	29	62
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	-	-	-	56	16	72
Engineering Drawing	4	0	4	-	-	-
English	247	554	801	541	556	1097
Environmental Science	-	-	-	170	259	429
French	14	43	57	28	71	99
Geography	27	36	63	42	52	94
German	6	11	17	6	14	20
Graphical Communication	10	4	14	-	-	-
History	58	46	104	42	37	79
Home Economics & Human Ecology	18	161	179	12	53	65
Information Technology	43	16	59	112	91	203
Italian	55	97	152	51	70	121
Maltese	179	436	615	107	177	284
Marketing	227	250	477	114	127	241
Music	8	6	14	4	0	4
Philosophy	44	67	111	159	171	330
Physical Education	0	0	0	94	56	150
Physics	270	120	390	285	268	553
Psychology	-	-	-	323	706	1029
Pure Mathematics	339	156	495	278	339	617
Religious Knowledge	46	62	108	153	114	267
Russian	4	1	5	1	1	2
Sociology	63	122	185	68	148	216
Spanish	10	26	36	9	12	21
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	899	1232	2131
Theatre & Performance	-	-	-	19	29	48



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.

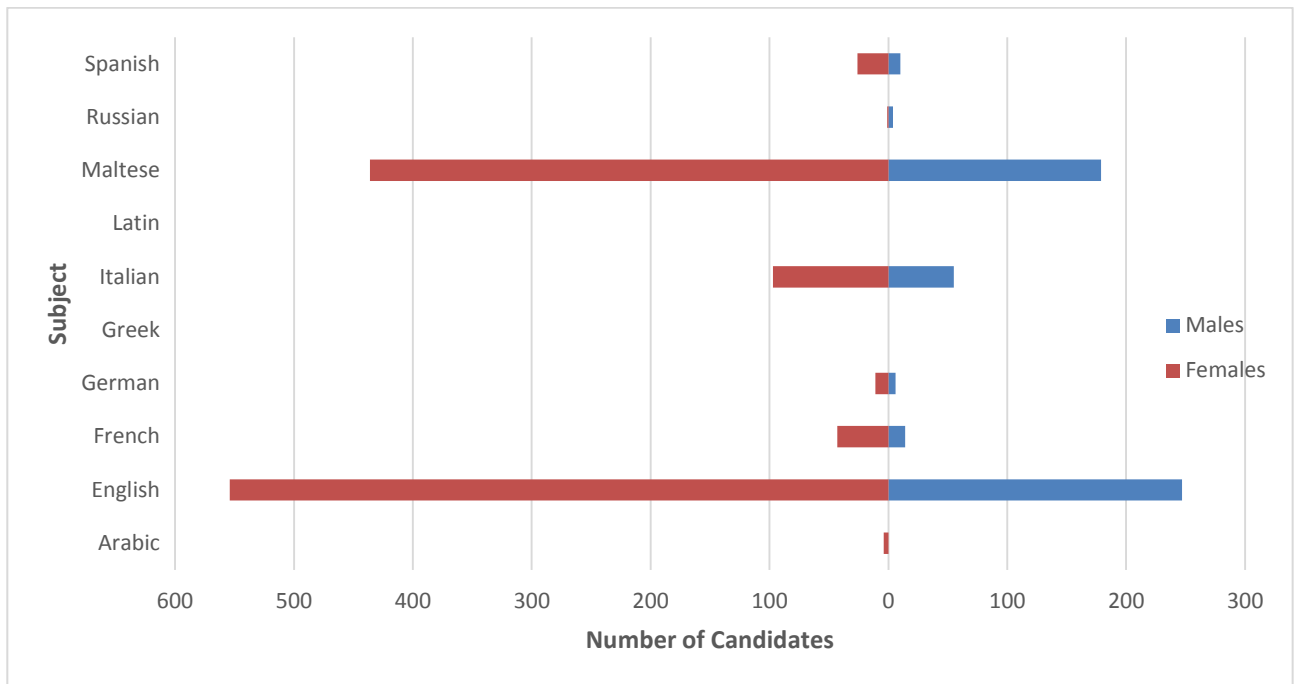


Figure 2.1: AM Registration by Gender: Group 1

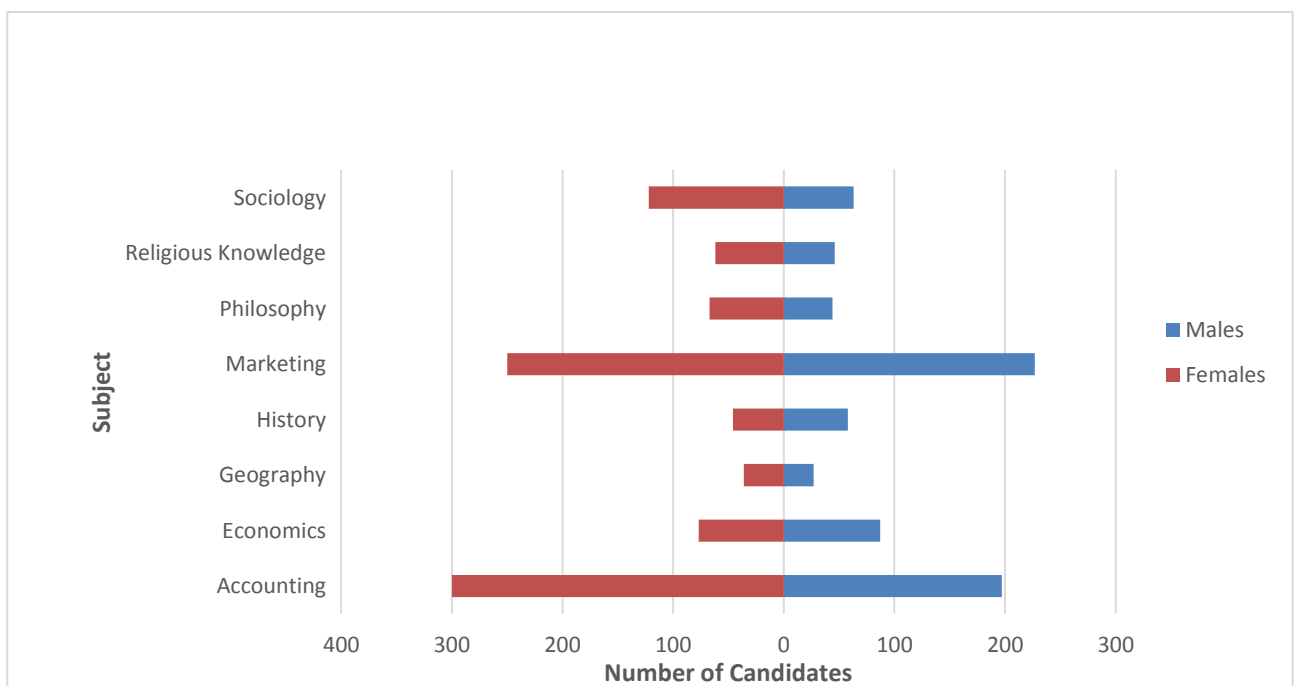


Figure 2.2: AM Registration by Gender: Group 2



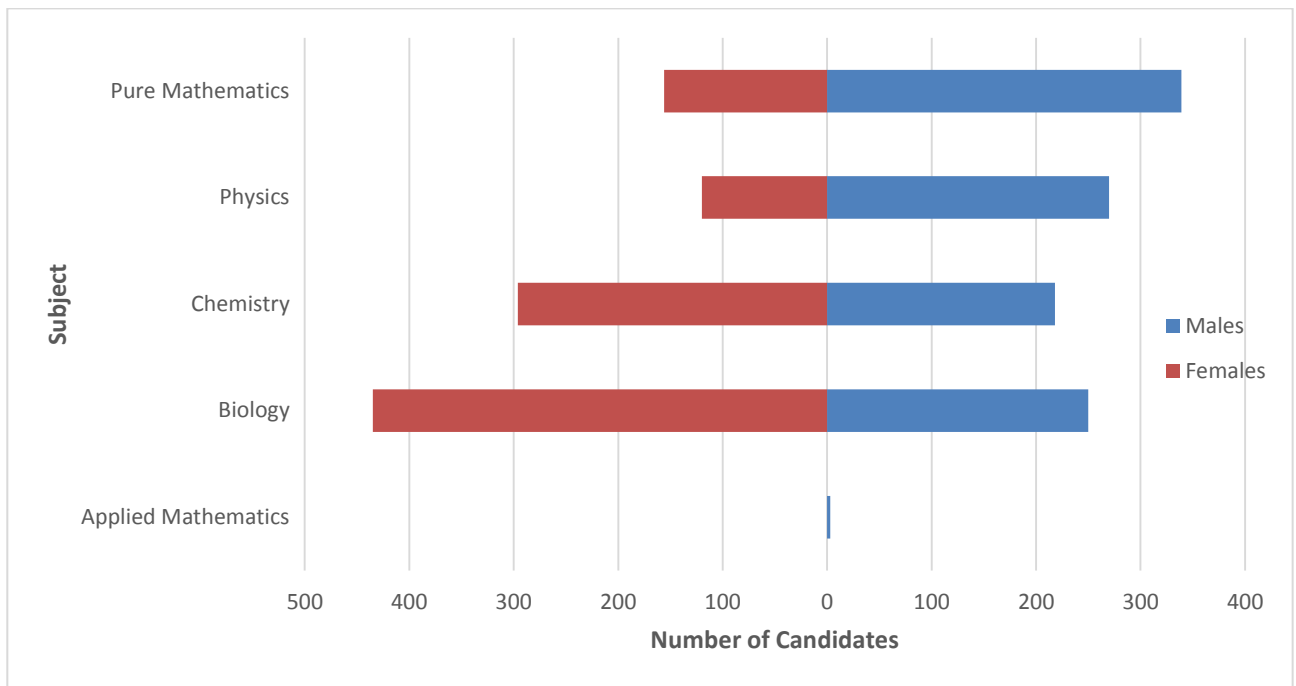


Figure 2.3: AM Registration by Gender: Group 3

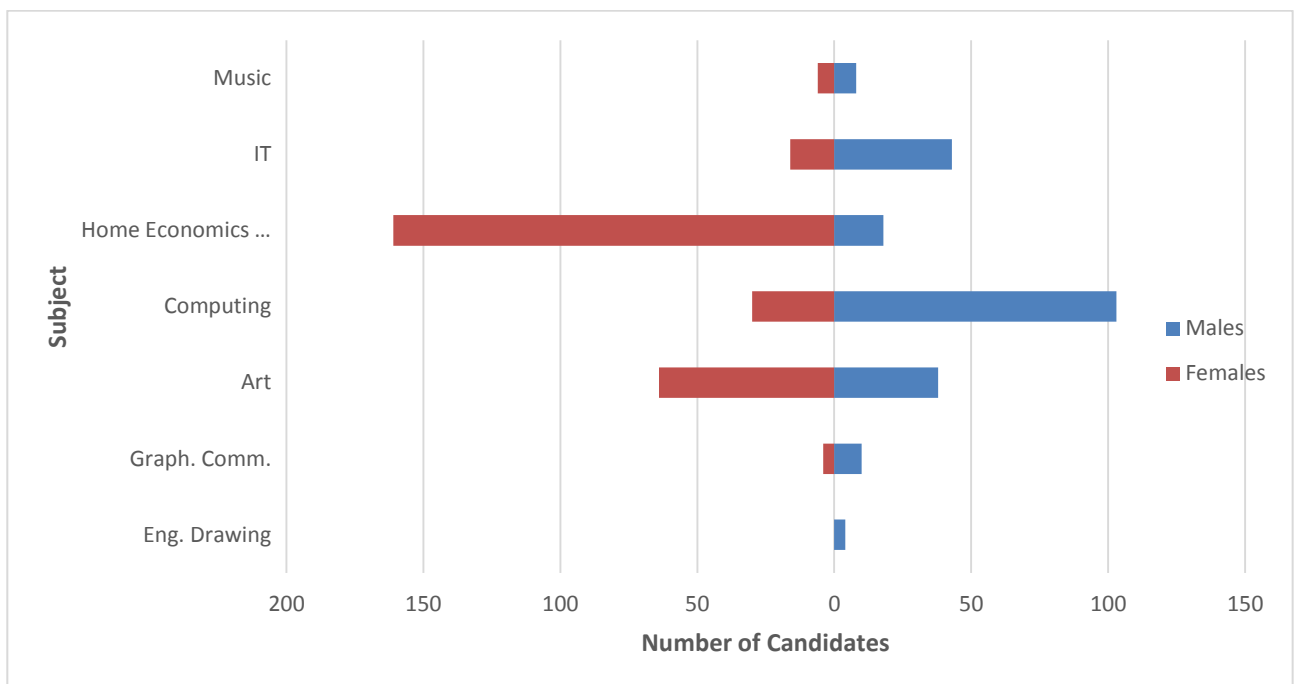


Figure 2.4: AM Registration by Gender: Group 4



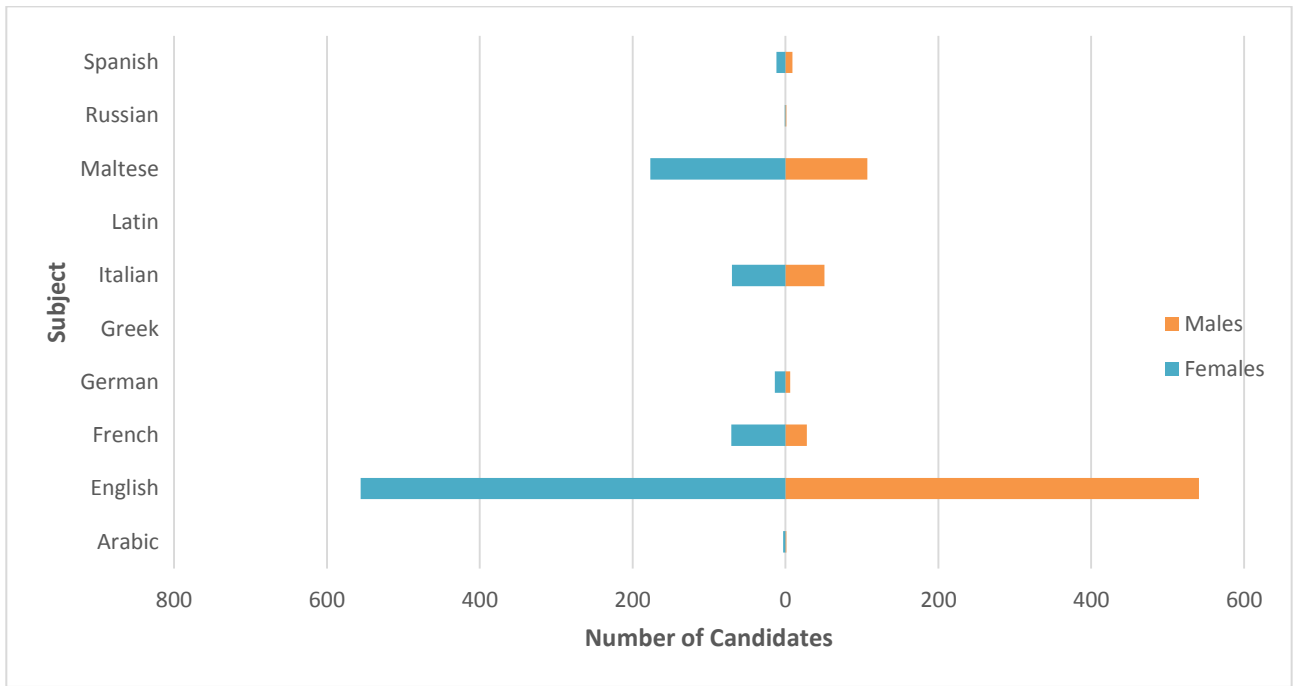


Figure 2.5: IM Registration by Gender: Group 1

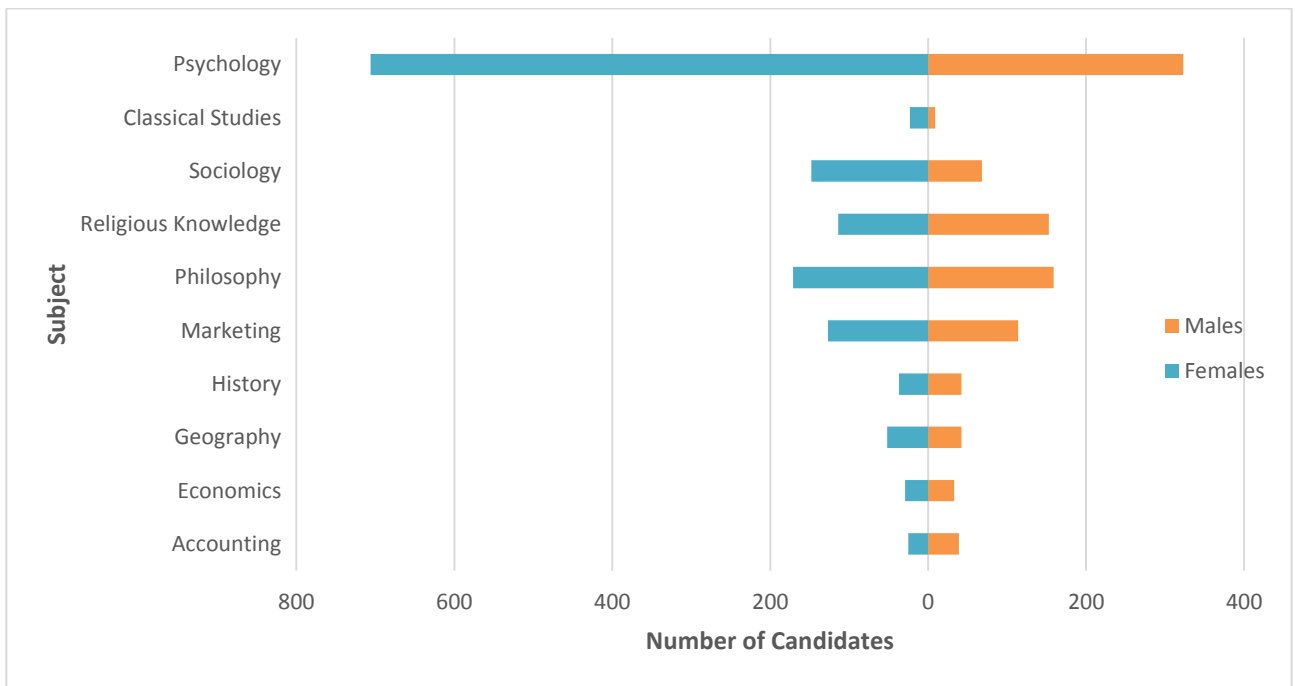


Figure 2.6: IM Registration by Gender: Group 2



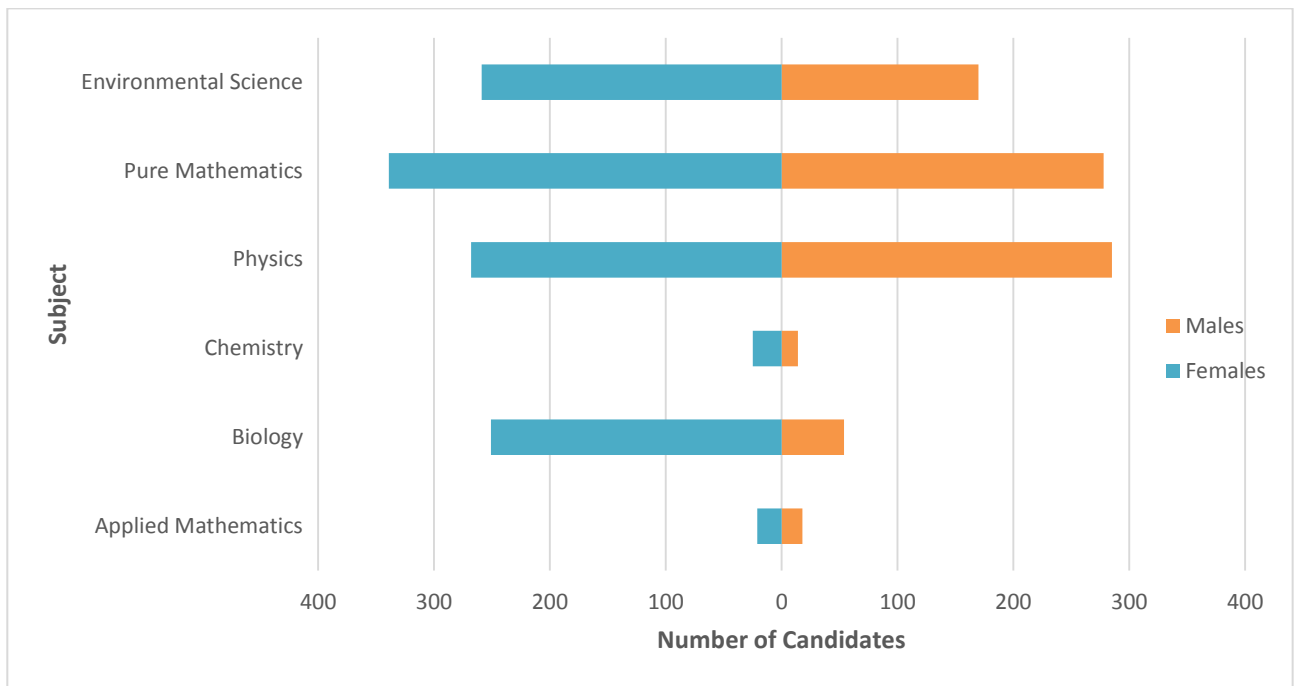


Figure 2.7: IM Registration by Gender: Group 3

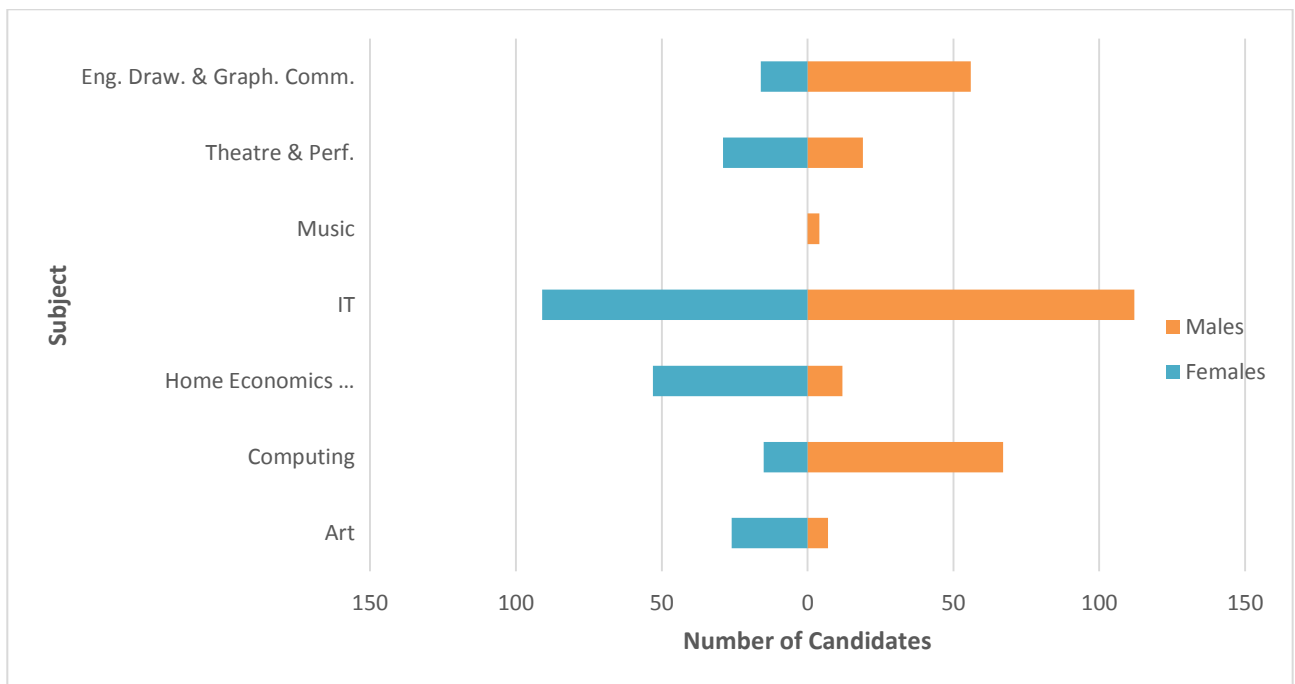


Figure 2.8: IM Registration by Gender: Group 4

The most popular subjects at AM level were English (801 candidates) and Maltese (615 candidates) from Group 1; Accounting (497 candidates) and Marketing (477 candidates) from Group 2; and Home Economics & Human Ecology (179 candidates) and Computing (133 candidates) from Group 4. Registrations in Group 3 subjects are, with the exception of Applied



Mathematics, of a comparable magnitude although Biology (685 candidates) and Chemistry (514) are the two subjects with largest number of registrations.

All of the subjects mentioned above, except for Computing, are marked by a higher number of female candidates. This is true in most subjects, with notable exceptions such as Physics, Pure Mathematics, 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 (1,097 candidates), Psychology (1,029 candidates) and IT (203 candidates) is notable in their respective groups. Other popular choices include Maltese (284 candidates) from Group 1; Philosophy (330 candidates) from Group 2; Pure Mathematics (617 candidates) and Physics (553 candidates) from Group 3; and Computing (82 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 2016. In some subjects, such as Group 1 subjects, Sociology, Art, and Environmental Science this is more evident. This is further manifested in Home Economics & Human Ecology, and Biology where 81.5% and 82.3% of candidates respectively are female. Considerably more male candidates applied for subjects such as Religious Knowledge, History, Accounting, Computing, Information Technology, Music, 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 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 2016. This difference is biggest for Group 1 AM subjects where 69.5% of registrations were from female candidates. This is, however, not the case for Group 3 subjects studied at AM (51.7% males) and Group 4 subjects studied at IM (54.6% males).

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. Four candidates attempted four subjects at AM Level while a candidate attempted five subjects at AM Level. Similarly, a small number of candidates registered for five IM Level subjects.

Table 2.4: May 2016 Registrations by Number of Subjects, Level and Gender

Number of Subjects	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	418	632	1050	337	422	759
2	1024	1339	2363	351	375	726
3	27	37	64	303	411	714
4	4	0	4	459	638	1097
5	1	0	1	6	12	18

This year there were 98 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 2016

Condition	Number of Candidates
ADD/ADHD	8
Autism Spectrum Disorder	6
DCD/ Dyspraxia	19
Hearing Impairment	1
Last minute Injuries	3
Medical Condition	12
Mental Health	13
Mobility Problems	3
SpLD/ADHD	10
SpLD/Dyslexia	19
Stammer	0
Visual Impairment	4
<i>Total</i>	98

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 2016

Subject	Advanced Level	Intermediate Level
Accounting	11	1
Applied Mathematics	0	0
Arabic	0	0
Art	3	1
Biology	7	8
Chemistry	5	0
Classical Studies	0	1
Computing	7	0
Economics	5	0
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	0	2
Engineering Drawing	1	0
English	7	26
Environmental Science	0	9
French	0	0
Geography	2	1
German	0	0
Graphical Communication	1	0
Greek	0	0
History	5	0
Home Economics & Human Ecology	8	3
Information Technology	0	5
Italian	0	1
Latin	0	0
Maltese	11	9
Marketing	7	6
Music	0	1
Philosophy	2	2
Physical Education	0	6
Physics	5	10
Pure Mathematics	8	10
Psychology	0	18
Religious Knowledge	4	9
Russian	0	0
Sociology	5	5
Spanish	1	0
Systems of Knowledge	0	47
Theatre & Performance	0	2

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 is grouped by locality as



well as by region. Figure 2.11 graphically represents the number of candidates from different regions.

Table 2.7: May 2016 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality

Locality	Males	Females	Total
<i>Southern Harbour</i>	234	312	546
Birgu	5	6	11
Bormla	8	13	21
Fgura	43	60	103
Floriana	4	7	11
Isla	9	6	15
Kalkara	10	16	26
Luqa	16	26	42
Marsa	11	7	18
Paola	23	28	51
Santa Luċija	8	9	17
Tarxien	36	49	85
Valetta	11	7	18
Xghajra	4	7	11
Żabbar	46	71	117
<i>Northern Harbour</i>	452	568	1020
Birkirkara	75	100	175
Blata l-Bajda	0	0	0
Fleur-de-Lys	2	1	3
G`Mangia	6	9	15
Gżira	17	17	34
Hamrun	16	23	39
Ibraġġ	12	17	29
Kappara	17	17	34
Msida	29	28	57
Pembroke	35	28	63
Pieta'	8	12	20
Qormi	35	61	96
San Ġiljan	38	38	76
San Ġwann	42	52	94
Santa Venera	15	37	52
Sliema	48	61	109
St Andrews	0	0	0
Swatar	14	23	37
Swieqi	40	41	81
Ta'Xbiex	3	2	5
Ta' Ġiorni	0	1	1



Table 2.7: May 2016 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality (Part 2)

Locality	Males	Females	Total
South Eastern	283	379	662
Birżebbuġa	35	48	83
Għaxaq	17	34	51
Gudja	19	10	29
Kirkop	7	15	22
Marsascala	57	85	142
Marsaxlokk	19	25	44
Mqabba	18	24	42
Qrendi	11	10	21
Safi	16	12	28
Żejtun	29	45	74
Żurrieq	55	71	126
Western	254	353	607
Attard	60	90	150
Bahrija	3	2	5
Balzan	19	14	33
Dingli	19	20	39
Iklin	17	24	41
Lija	9	20	29
Mdina	0	1	1
Mtarfa	17	19	36
Rabat	28	40	68
Siggiewi	38	59	97
Żebbuġ	44	64	108
Northern	292	436	728
Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq	8	1	9
Buġibba	3	10	13
Burmarrad	3	6	9
Għarghur	14	21	35
Madliena	9	7	16
Manikata	1	3	4
Mellieha	39	52	91
Mġarr	8	30	38
Mosta	95	150	245
Mriehel	0	1	1
Naxxar	62	90	152
Qawra	22	20	42
San Pawl il-Bahar	23	38	61
San Pawl tat-Tarġa	3	5	8
Xemxija	2	2	4



Table 2.7: May 2016 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region and Locality (Part 3)

Locality	Males	Females	Total
Gozo	204	259	463
Fontana	11	9	20
Ghajnsielem	12	22	34
Gharb	8	14	22
Ghasri	6	5	11
Kerċem	9	10	19
Marsalforn	2	3	5
Munxar	8	17	25
Nadur	21	25	46
Qala	8	14	22
San Lawrenz	3	4	7
Sannat	10	13	23
Santa Luċija	2	1	3
Victoria	45	56	101
Xaghra	28	34	62
Xewkija	19	23	42
Xlendi	2	0	2
Żebbuġ	10	9	19

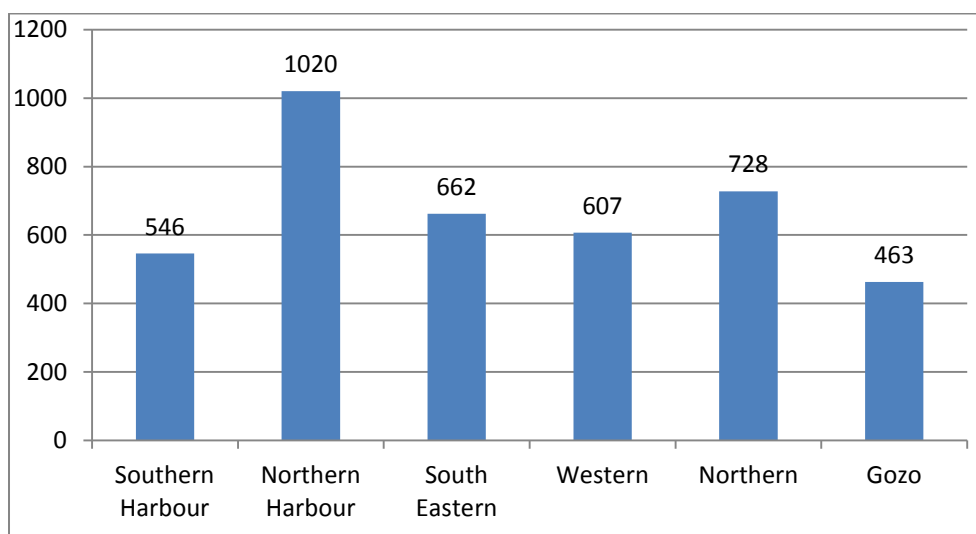


Figure 2.11: May 2016 Registrations of Matriculation Examinations Candidates by Region

In Malta, the largest number of registrations by region for the Matriculation Certificate come from the Northern Harbour and Northern regions while least candidates come from Gozo and Southern Harbour regions. Most candidates come from Mosta (245 candidates), Birkirkara (175

candidates), Naxxar (152 candidates), Attard (150 candidates), and Marsascala (142 candidates). Most candidates from Gozo came from the locality of Victoria (101 candidates).

Table 2.8 below shows the numbers of candidates who registered for a Revision of Papers after the May 2016 results were issued.

Table 2.8: May 2016 Registration for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Registered	Requested	%	Registered	Requested	%
Accounting	497	36	7.2	64	3	4.7
Applied Mathematics	3	0	0	39	2	5.1
Arabic	4	0	0	4	0	0
Art	102	23	22.5	33	1	3.0
Biology	685	74	10.8	305	8	2.6
Chemistry	514	72	14.0	39	1	2.6
Classical Studies	0	0	0	32	0	0
Computing	133	4	3.0	82	2	2.4
Economics	164	12	7.3	62	0	0
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	0	0	0	72	0	0
Engineering Drawing	4	1	25.0	0	0	0
English	801	61	7.6	1097	34	3.1
Environmental Science	0	0	0	429	3	0.7
French	57	11	19.3	99	1	1.0
Geography	63	4	6.3	94	2	2.1
German	17	1	5.9	20	0	0
Graphical Communication	14	0	0	0	0	0
History	104	7	6.7	79	2	2.5
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	179	4	2.2	65	0	0
Information Technology	59	2	3.4	203	1	0.5
Italian	152	6	3.9	121	5	4.1
Maltese	615	42	6.8	284	15	5.3
Marketing	477	39	8.2	241	4	1.7
Music	14	0	0	4	0	0
Philosophy	111	3	2.7	330	13	3.9
Physical Education	0	0	0	150	6	4.0
Physics	390	27	6.9	553	23	4.2
Psychology	0	0	0	1029	50	4.9
Pure Mathematics	495	39	7.9	617	16	2.6
Religious Knowledge	108	1	0.9	267	6	2.2
Russian	5	0	0	2	0	0
Sociology	185	2	1.1	216	2	0.9
Spanish	36	2	5.6	21	1	4.8
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0	2131	62	2.9
Theatre & Performance	0	0	0	48	0	0
Total	5988	473	7.9	8832	263	3.0



The overall percentage of requests for a Revision of Papers was higher for subjects at Advanced level compared to the Intermediate level (7.9% and 3.0% respectively). Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section.



3. May 2016 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 2016 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 1)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	15	70	138	88	48	89	49	497
Females	8	43	80	55	29	51	34	300
Males	7	27	58	33	19	38	15	197
Applied Mathematics	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Arabic	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Females	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Art	2	7	19	28	23	14	9	102
Females	0	5	13	22	13	8	3	64
Males	2	2	6	6	10	6	6	38
Biology	74	139	177	136	76	60	23	685
Females	40	85	103	90	56	42	19	435
Males	34	54	74	46	20	18	4	250
Chemistry	57	91	109	78	61	90	28	514
Females	25	50	62	47	37	59	16	296
Males	32	41	47	31	24	31	12	218
Computing	11	20	34	32	19	13	4	133
Females	6	2	7	10	4	1	0	30
Males	5	18	27	22	15	12	4	103
Economics	11	28	45	31	17	18	14	164
Females	6	15	23	10	11	8	4	77
Males	5	13	22	21	6	10	10	87
Engineering Drawing	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
English	25	74	276	150	117	118	41	801
Females	22	53	203	97	87	67	25	554
Males	3	21	73	53	30	51	16	247
French	3	6	17	14	8	9	0	57
Females	3	5	14	8	7	6	0	43
Males	0	1	3	6	1	3	0	14



Table 3.1: May 2016 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Geography	3	10	23	15	8	4	0	63
Females	1	7	16	7	4	1	0	36
Males	2	3	7	8	4	3	0	27
German	5	2	4	3	3	0	0	17
Females	5	1	1	1	3	0	0	11
Males	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	6
Graphical Communication	0	2	2	3	0	4	3	14
Females	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
Males	0	1	1	2	0	4	2	10
History	6	12	35	18	9	18	6	104
Females	3	2	15	9	4	8	5	46
Males	3	10	20	9	5	10	1	58
Home Economics & Human Ecology	7	24	64	33	30	18	3	179
Females	7	24	60	25	25	17	3	161
Males	0	0	4	8	5	1	0	18
Information Technology	2	16	20	9	6	4	2	59
Females	1	5	3	4	1	0	2	16
Males	1	11	17	5	5	4	0	43
Italian	11	19	47	19	17	31	8	152
Females	9	11	37	6	13	16	5	97
Males	2	8	10	13	4	15	3	55
Maltese	35	112	167	83	91	103	24	615
Females	28	84	120	56	60	69	19	436
Males	7	28	47	27	31	34	5	179
Marketing	22	65	119	67	51	107	46	477
Females	14	39	63	40	25	44	25	250
Males	8	26	56	27	26	63	21	227
Music	1	2	9	1	0	1	0	14
Females	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	6
Males	0	1	6	0	0	1	0	8



Table 3.1: May 2016 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 3)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Pure Mathematics	40	89	93	49	48	148	28	495
Females	13	35	36	14	13	39	6	156
Males	27	54	57	35	35	109	22	339
Religious Knowledge	7	18	31	21	12	7	12	108
Females	6	9	17	10	8	5	7	62
Males	1	9	14	11	4	2	5	46
Russian	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Sociology	8	24	44	34	26	21	28	185
Females	8	20	27	28	12	9	18	122
Males	0	4	17	6	14	12	10	63
Spanish	4	5	13	5	6	1	2	36
Females	1	4	11	3	4	1	2	26
Males	3	1	2	2	2	0	0	10



Table 3.2: May 2016 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	4	7	19	10	5	12	7	64
Females	2	4	6	4	3	4	2	25
Males	2	3	13	6	2	8	5	39
Applied Mathematics	4	6	10	5	5	7	2	39
Females	2	3	7	3	2	3	1	21
Males	2	3	3	2	3	4	1	18
Arabic	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
Females	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Males	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Art	3	3	8	6	5	6	2	33
Females	3	2	6	6	4	3	2	26
Males	0	1	2	0	1	3	0	7
Biology	17	39	75	53	42	54	25	305
Females	16	32	62	43	35	43	20	251
Males	1	7	13	10	7	11	5	54
Chemistry	2	4	11	4	2	11	5	39
Females	2	3	7	2	2	6	3	25
Males	0	1	4	2	0	5	2	14
Classical Studies	2	2	5	8	3	8	4	32
Females	2	1	3	5	2	6	4	23
Males	0	1	2	3	1	2	0	9
Computing	8	13	28	14	8	10	1	82
Females	0	2	4	6	3	0	0	15
Males	8	11	24	8	5	10	1	67
Economics	8	8	18	8	7	6	7	62
Females	4	1	10	5	4	1	4	29
Males	4	7	8	3	3	5	3	33
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	3	11	18	17	7	13	3	72
Females	0	3	4	4	2	2	1	16
Males	3	8	14	13	5	11	2	56
English	34	100	387	187	193	172	24	1097
Females	21	53	185	93	100	94	10	556
Males	13	47	202	94	93	78	14	541
Environmental Science	17	38	107	118	67	62	20	429
Females	12	27	63	66	41	37	13	259
Males	5	11	44	52	26	25	7	170
French	8	22	32	18	9	8	2	99
Females	8	17	21	14	6	4	1	71
Males	0	5	11	4	3	4	1	28



Table 3.2: May 2016 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Geography	7	14	21	14	11	23	4	94
Females	5	8	14	7	5	10	3	52
Males	2	6	7	7	6	13	1	42
German	4	4	5	4	2	1	0	20
Females	3	3	4	2	2	0	0	14
Males	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	6
History	6	12	26	16	6	9	4	79
Females	3	4	14	6	1	5	4	37
Males	3	8	12	10	5	4	0	42
Home Economics & Human Ecology	6	9	22	12	6	2	8	65
Females	5	9	21	9	1	2	6	53
Males	1	0	1	3	5	0	2	12
Information Technology	17	60	63	26	19	16	2	203
Females	7	31	29	12	7	5	0	91
Males	10	29	34	14	12	11	2	112
Italian	5	23	44	19	14	14	2	121
Females	4	15	25	7	8	9	2	70
Males	1	8	19	12	6	5	0	51
Maltese	11	29	92	60	37	43	12	284
Females	7	20	62	34	25	25	4	177
Males	4	9	30	26	12	18	8	107
Marketing	23	47	65	36	22	30	18	241
Females	17	25	36	17	9	14	9	127
Males	6	22	29	19	13	16	9	114
Music	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
Philosophy	19	51	80	50	49	64	17	330
Females	11	28	39	27	27	33	6	171
Males	8	23	41	23	22	31	11	159
Physical Education	8	17	40	30	17	30	8	150
Females	4	8	12	10	5	15	2	56
Males	4	9	28	20	12	15	6	94
Physics	46	88	159	82	68	84	26	553
Females	23	32	77	45	40	40	11	268
Males	23	56	82	37	28	44	15	285



Table 3.2: May 2016 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 3)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Psychology	51	89	202	182	126	303	76	1029
Females	36	67	151	123	80	191	58	706
Males	15	22	51	59	46	112	18	323
Pure Mathematics	35	66	133	112	96	137	38	617
Females	24	33	93	62	49	61	17	339
Males	11	33	40	50	47	76	21	278
Religious Knowledge	22	37	62	42	40	44	20	267
Females	13	16	33	16	12	16	8	114
Males	9	21	29	26	28	28	12	153
Russian	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sociology	11	22	62	39	27	37	18	216
Females	9	18	42	27	16	25	11	148
Males	2	4	20	12	11	12	7	68
Spanish	0	4	2	4	2	8	1	21
Females	0	4	1	2	1	3	1	12
Males	0	0	1	2	1	5	0	9
Systems of Knowledge	174	352	757	392	85	334	37	2131
Females	121	223	439	211	36	185	17	1232
Males	53	129	318	181	49	149	20	899
Theatre & Performance	3	15	17	5	0	8	0	48
Females	3	11	10	0	0	5	0	29
Males	0	4	7	5	0	3	0	19

Table 3.3 shows that in May 2016, at Advanced level, 14 out of the 473 requests for a Revision of Papers had their grade revised. This means that 3.0% of the requests resulted in a higher grade. At Intermediate level, 19 out of the 263 requests had their grade revised. At this level, 7.2% of the requests resulted in an upgrade.



Table 3.3: May 2016 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Accounting	497	36	3	8.3	64	3	0	0.0
Applied Mathematics	3	0	0	0	39	2	0	0.0
Arabic	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Art	102	23	1	4.3	33	1	0	0.0
Biology	685	74	3	4.1	305	8	0	0.0
Chemistry	514	72	1	1.4	39	1	0	0.0
Classical Studies	-	-	-	-	32	0	0	0
Computing	133	4	0	0.0	82	2	2	100
Economics	164	12	3	25.0	62	0	0	0
Eng. Drawing/Grap. Comm.	-	-	-	-	72	0	0	0
Engineering Drawing	4	1	0	0.0	-	-	-	-
English	801	61	0	0.0	1097	34	2	5.9
Environmental Science	-	-	-	-	429	3	0	0.0
French	57	11	0	0.0	99	1	0	0.0
Geography	63	4	0	0.0	94	2	0	0.0
German	17	1	0	0.0	20	0	0	0
Graphical Communication	14	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
History	104	7	1	14.3	79	2	0	0.0
Home Econ./Hum. Ecology	179	4	0	0.0	65	0	0	0
Information Technology	59	2	1	50.0	203	1	0	0.0
Italian	152	6	0	0.0	121	5	0	0.0



Table 3.3: May 2016 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers (Part 2)

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Maltese	615	42	0	0.0	284	15	0	0.0
Marketing	477	39	0	0.0	241	4	0	0.0
Music	14	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Philosophy	111	3	0	0.0	330	13	2	15.4
Physical Education	-	-	-	-	150	6	0	0.0
Physics	390	27	0	0.0	553	23	0	0.0
Psychology	-	-	-	-	1029	50	9	18.0
Pure Mathematics	495	39	0	0.0	617	16	0	0.0
Religious Knowledge	108	1	0	0.0	267	6	2	33.3
Russian	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Sociology	185	2	0	0.0	216	2	0	0.0
Spanish	36	2	1	50.0	21	1	0	0.0
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	-	-	2131	62	2	3.2
Theatre & Performance	-	-	-	-	48	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	5988	473	14	3.0	8832	263	19	7.2



Table 3.4 presents data relating to the number of candidates awarded the Matriculation Certificate after the main examination session in May 2016.

Table 3.4: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in May 2016

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	553	838	1391
1998 Cohort	420	672	1092

The data in Table 3.4 show that 34.6% of the 4,026 candidates who sat for the May session in 2016 (32.2% males and 36.3% females) managed to qualify for the award of the Matriculation Certificate. These proportions include 56.1% of the 1,945 candidates of the 1998 cohort (51.7% males and 59.3% females).



4. September 2016 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 1,181 candidates (39.9%) from the 2,963 candidates registering for the September session were using this session as their first sit. This means that they did not register for any examination in May of the same year². 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 2016 session of examinations is given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Total Number of Candidates Sitting for the September 2016 Session

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	1294	1669	2963
1998 Cohort	407	506	913

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 2016 by Year of Birth and Gender

Year	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pre-1994	27	54	81	11	20	31
1994	14	13	27	16	8	24
1995	12	29	41	12	17	29
1996	57	38	95	50	35	85
1997	127	154	281	142	152	294
1998	279	312	591	281	379	660
1999	87	104	191	500	710	1210
2000	1	0	1	18	19	37
Total	604	704	1308	1030	1340	2370

² Some candidates might be registered as having their first sit in September because they would have sat for examinations five or more years prior to September 2016. In this case, as the five years period to obtain the MC would have passed, candidates are considered to be sitting for the MC for the first attempt.



Table 4.2 shows that the largest number of registrations for Advanced Level examinations was made by the 1998 cohort. This is followed by the number of registrations from the 1997 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 1999 and 2000 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 1999 cohort rather than the 1998 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 2016.

Table 4.3: September 2016 Matriculation Examination Registrations by Subject and Gender

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Accounting	44	86	130	20	8	28
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	2	3	5
Arabic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Art	4	7	11	2	2	4
Biology	26	60	86	27	178	205
Chemistry	25	44	69	12	10	22
Classical Studies	0	0	0	0	2	2
Computing	31	6	37	13	7	20
Economics	18	7	25	11	12	23
Eng. Drawing/Graph. Comm.	0	0	0	32	7	39
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	61	117	178	416	468	884
Environmental Science	0	0	0	77	108	185
French	5	12	17	8	26	34
Geography	4	2	6	38	19	57
German	1	4	5	4	5	9
Graphical Communication	1	1	2	0	0	0
Greek	0	0	0	0	0	0
History	14	7	21	14	13	27
Home Ec./Hum. Ecology	3	17	20	14	37	51
Information Technology	6	0	6	22	9	31
Italian	20	20	40	24	30	54
Latin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maltese	80	133	213	60	75	135
Marketing	86	82	168	73	65	138
Music	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philosophy	4	2	6	42	32	74
Physical Education	0	0	0	26	25	51
Physics	30	17	47	88	101	189
Psychology	0	0	0	146	301	447
Pure Mathematics	111	33	144	125	148	273



Religious Knowledge	10	17	27	73	64	137
Russian	1	0	1	1	0	1
Sociology	17	26	43	14	45	59
Spanish	2	4	6	0	7	7
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0	184	198	382
Theatre & Performance	0	0	0	2	4	6

During the September session, the AM Level subjects with most candidates were Maltese (213 candidates), English (178 candidates), Marketing (168 candidates), Pure Mathematics (144 candidates), and Accounting (130 candidates). At IM Level, these were English (884 candidates), Psychology (447 candidates), Systems of Knowledge (382 candidates), Pure Mathematics (273 candidates), and Biology (205 candidates).

A total of 1,308 candidates (604 males and 704 females) applied to sit for an AM Level examination in September 2016. Table 4.4 shows the number of IM Level 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 a maximum of one AM Level examination, four IM level subjects - one from each group - and Systems of Knowledge. Most candidates applied for one Intermediate Level examination.

Table 4.4: September 2016 Intermediate Level Registrations by Number of Subjects and Gender

Intermediate Level			
Number of Subjects	Males	Females	Total
1	579	763	1342
2	370	492	862
3	74	78	152
4	6	7	13
5	1	0	1

Table 4.5 below shows the number of requests, by subject, made for a Revision of Papers after the publication of the September 2016 results. Data relating to the outcome of these requests are presented in the following section. For AM and IM Level examination, 4.8% and 3.4% of the respective papers were revised following registrations for Revision of Papers.



Table 4.5: September 2016 Registration for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level			Intermediate Level		
	Registered	Requested	%	Registered	Requested	%
Accounting	130	7	5.4	28	0	0
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	5	0	0
Art	11	0	0	4	0	0
Biology	86	3	3.5	205	8	3.9
Chemistry	69	5	7.2	22	1	4.5
Classical Studies	0	0	0	2	0	0
Computing	37	0	0	20	1	5.0
Economics	25	1	4.0	23	2	8.7
Eng. Drawing/Graph. Comm.	0	0	0	39	2	5.1
English	178	11	6.2	884	25	2.8
Environmental Science	0	0	0	185	0	0
French	17	1	5.9	34	3	8.8
Geography	6	0	0	57	1	1.8
German	5	1	20.0	9	0	0
Graphical Communication	2	0	0	0	0	0
History	21	1	4.8	27	1	3.7
Home Ec./Hum. Ecology	20	0	0	51	0	0
Information Technology	6	0	0	31	0	0
Italian	40	0	0	54	2	3.7
Maltese	213	15	7.0	135	4	3.0
Marketing	168	8	4.8	138	4	2.9
Philosophy	6	0	0	74	4	5.4
Physical Education	0	0	0	51	1	2.0
Physics	47	4	8.5	189	14	7.4
Psychology	0	0	0	447	20	4.5
Pure Mathematics	144	3	2.1	273	7	2.6
Religious Knowledge	27	1	3.7	137	3	2.2
Russian	1	0	0	1	0	0
Sociology	43	2	4.7	59	2	3.4
Spanish	6	0	0	7	1	14.3
Systems of Knowledge	0	0	0	382	14	3.7
Theatre & Performance	0	0	0	6	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1308</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>3579</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>3.4</i>



5. September 2016 Results

The following tables present the results of the September 2016 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 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, Arabic, Engineering Drawing, Greek, Latin and Music while there were also no registrations for Intermediate Level Arabic, Greek, Latin and Music in September 2016. These subjects are not shown in the tables below.

Table 5.1: September 2016 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	0	9	31	22	21	28	19	130
Females	0	5	20	15	16	19	11	86
Males	0	4	11	7	5	9	8	44
Art	0	2	0	5	2	2	0	11
Females	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	7
Males	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Biology	1	5	7	17	23	31	2	86
Females	0	2	4	12	18	22	2	60
Males	1	3	3	5	5	9	0	26
Chemistry	0	5	24	15	9	10	6	69
Females	0	3	16	9	5	6	5	44
Males	0	2	8	6	4	4	1	25
Computing	2	8	13	8	0	3	3	37
Females	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	6
Males	2	6	12	5	0	3	3	31
Economics	0	3	6	4	3	4	5	25
Females	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	7
Males	0	3	4	2	2	3	4	18
English	0	4	56	45	25	32	16	178
Females	0	3	36	33	17	21	7	117
Males	0	1	20	12	8	11	9	61
French	0	2	10	2	2	0	1	17
Females	0	1	8	2	1	0	0	12
Males	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
Geography	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	6
Females	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Males	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
German	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
Females	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Males	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1



Table 5.1: September 2016 - Advanced Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Graphical Communication	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Males	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
History	1	0	6	3	4	5	2	21
Females	0	0	2	0	1	3	1	7
Males	1	0	4	3	3	2	1	14
Home Economics & Human Ecology	1	1	0	4	9	5	0	20
Females	1	0	0	4	8	4	0	17
Males	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Information Technology	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
Italian	2	5	10	9	5	8	1	40
Females	1	2	4	6	4	2	1	20
Males	1	3	6	3	1	6	0	20
Maltese	10	44	66	30	35	22	6	213
Females	6	30	46	16	17	15	3	133
Males	4	14	20	14	18	7	3	80
Marketing	9	28	31	25	11	45	19	168
Females	6	14	17	10	7	19	9	82
Males	3	14	14	15	4	26	10	86
Philosophy	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	6
Females	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Males	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	4
Physics	0	3	10	11	9	11	3	47
Females	0	1	3	5	2	5	1	17
Males	0	2	7	6	7	6	2	30
Pure Mathematics	2	10	36	21	15	47	13	144
Females	0	3	7	9	4	6	4	33
Males	2	7	29	12	11	41	9	111
Religious Knowledge	0	3	6	5	5	5	3	27
Females	0	2	6	2	2	4	1	17
Males	0	1	0	3	3	1	2	10
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sociology	1	5	7	11	4	8	7	43
Females	0	5	3	7	2	5	4	26
Males	1	0	4	4	2	3	3	17
Spanish	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	6
Females	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	4
Males	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2



Table 5.2: September 2016 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Accounting	6	1	8	3	0	6	4	28
Females	3	0	3	0	0	2	0	8
Males	3	1	5	3	0	4	4	20
Applied Mathematics	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	5
Females	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Art	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
Females	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Males	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Biology	5	23	59	40	44	25	9	205
Females	4	20	52	37	34	22	9	178
Males	1	3	7	3	10	3	0	27
Chemistry	0	1	8	1	4	5	3	22
Females	0	0	5	1	2	1	1	10
Males	0	1	3	0	2	4	2	12
Classical Studies	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Females	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Computing	4	1	4	0	2	8	1	20
Females	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	7
Males	3	0	1	0	2	6	1	13
Economics	1	2	6	4	2	6	2	23
Females	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	12
Males	0	0	5	2	1	3	0	11
Eng. Drawing & Graphical Comm.	3	7	11	9	1	5	3	39
Females	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	7
Males	2	4	9	9	1	5	2	32
English	29	117	339	163	139	79	18	884
Females	15	49	184	96	75	40	9	468
Males	14	68	155	67	64	39	9	416
Environmental Science	10	15	38	44	37	19	22	185
Females	5	8	24	25	20	13	13	108
Males	5	7	14	19	17	6	9	77
French	4	6	7	10	4	3	0	34
Females	3	4	6	7	3	3	0	26
Males	1	2	1	3	1	0	0	8
Geography	1	7	13	7	13	14	2	57
Females	0	3	4	1	4	6	1	19
Males	1	4	9	6	9	8	1	38
German	1	3	4	1	0	0	0	9
Females	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	5
Males	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4



Table 5.2: September 2016 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 2)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
History	2	3	5	3	4	3	7	27
Females	1	2	2	2	1	0	5	13
Males	1	1	3	1	3	3	2	14
Home Economics & Human Ecology	1	13	12	14	1	7	3	51
Females	1	9	10	7	1	6	3	37
Males	0	4	2	7	0	1	0	14
Information Technology	6	16	5	3	0	1	0	31
Females	2	6	1	0	0	0	0	9
Males	4	10	4	3	0	1	0	22
Italian	3	15	18	10	6	2	0	54
Females	2	7	8	7	4	2	0	30
Males	1	8	10	3	2	0	0	24
Maltese	3	14	37	29	16	28	8	135
Females	1	10	22	19	7	12	4	75
Males	2	4	15	10	9	16	4	60
Marketing	1	9	32	30	15	42	9	138
Females	1	6	15	18	6	17	2	65
Males	0	3	17	12	9	25	7	73
Philosophy	1	7	15	9	7	30	5	74
Females	0	3	6	4	6	13	0	32
Males	1	4	9	5	1	17	5	42
Physical Education	3	3	13	11	3	15	3	51
Females	0	2	7	6	2	7	1	25
Males	3	1	6	5	1	8	2	26
Physics	5	17	50	32	22	50	13	189
Females	3	7	31	23	9	22	6	101
Males	2	10	19	9	13	28	7	88
Psychology	27	32	86	74	56	143	29	447
Females	22	26	57	46	39	93	18	301
Males	5	6	29	28	17	50	11	146
Pure Mathematics	23	26	47	46	47	69	15	273
Females	15	18	28	23	28	30	6	148
Males	8	8	19	23	19	39	9	125
Religious Knowledge	3	14	27	24	18	43	8	137
Females	1	6	13	13	7	18	6	64
Males	2	8	14	11	11	25	2	73
Russian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Males	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1



Table 5.2: September 2016 - Intermediate Level Results by Subject and Gender (Part 3)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	F	abs	Total
Sociology	0	2	8	3	12	28	6	59
Females	0	2	6	2	11	20	4	45
Males	0	0	2	1	1	8	2	14
Spanish	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	7
Females	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	7
Males	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Systems of Knowledge	5	33	86	84	33	129	12	382
Females	4	25	53	38	14	60	4	198
Males	1	8	33	46	19	69	8	184
Theatre & Performance	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	6
Females	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
Males	0	0	1	1	0	0	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 2016 results were issued.



Table 5.3: September 2016 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Accounting	130	7	0	0.0	28	0	0	0
Applied Mathematics	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Art	11	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Biology	86	3	0	0.0	205	8	0	0
Chemistry	69	5	0	0.0	22	1	0	0
Classical Studies	-	-	0	-	2	0	0	0
Computing	37	0	0	0	20	1	0	0
Economics	25	1	0	0.0	23	2	0	0
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	-	-	0	-	39	2	1	50.0
Engineering Drawing	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	-
English	178	11	0	0.0	884	25	0	0
Environmental Science	-	-	0	-	185	0	0	0
French	17	1	0	0.0	34	3	0	0
Geography	6	0	0	0	57	1	0	0
German	5	1	0	0.0	9	0	0	0
Graphical Communication	-	-	0	-	0	0	0	0
History	21	1	0	0.0	27	1	0	0
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	20	0	0	0	51	0	0	0
Information Technology	6	0	0	0	31	0	0	0



Table 5.3: September 2016 - Outcomes of Requests for Revision of Papers (Part 2)

Subject	Advanced Level				Intermediate Level			
	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%	Registered	Requested	Upgraded	%
Italian	40	0	0	0	54	2	0	0
Maltese	213	15	1	6.7	135	4	0	0
Marketing	168	8	1	12.5	138	4	1	25.0
Philosophy	6	0	0	0	74	4	0	0
Physical Education	-	-	0	-	51	1	0	0
Physics	47	4	0	0.0	189	14	0	0
Psychology	-	-	0	-	447	20	1	5.0
Pure Mathematics	144	3	0	0.0	273	7	0	0
Religious Knowledge	27	1	1	100	137	3	0	0
Sociology	43	2	0	0.0	59	2	0	0
Spanish	6	0	0	0	7	1	0	0
Systems of Knowledge	-	-	0	-	382	14	0	0
Theatre & Performance	-	-	0	-	6	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1308</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>3579</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2.5</i>



Table 5.4 presents the numbers of the Matriculation Certificate awarded to all candidates and to candidates of the 1998 cohort by gender in the September session.

Table 5.4: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in September 2016

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	133	182	315
1998 Cohort	68	106	174

The data in Table 5.4 shows that 10.6% of the 2,963 candidates who sat for the September session in 2016 (10.3% males and 10.9% females) managed to qualify for the award of the Matriculation Certificate. These proportions include 19.1% of the 913 candidates of the 1998 cohort (16.7% males and 20.9% females).



6. General Statistics

This section brings together the main statistical results of the May and September 2016 sessions. These include the number of all candidates who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2016 and, separately, the number of candidates of the 1998 cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate. These are presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Matriculation Certificates Awarded in 2016 (May and September)

	Males	Females	Total
All Candidates	686	1020	1706
1998 Cohort	488	778	1266

When the results of the 1998 cohort in the May and September are aggregated, it is found that 28.2% of the 4,026 children of that cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate in 2016. This percentage is an average result which when analysed by gender shows that the successful candidates consist of only 21.1% of males as against 35.7% of females born in 1998. The percentage of 18-year-olds qualifying for the Matriculation Certificate is the highest since 2004. Figure 6.1 shows the percentage of the 18-year-olds' cohort who qualified for the Matriculation Certificate as from 2001.

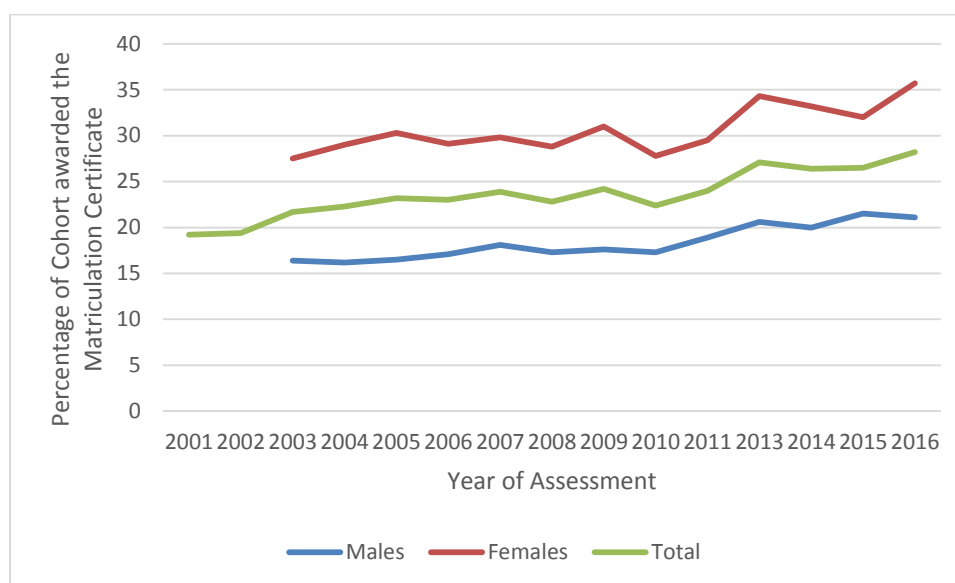


Figure 6.1: Percentage of the 18-year-old cohort qualified for the Matriculation Certificate, by Year of Assessment and Gender

The overall percentage of the 18-year-old cohort qualifying for the Matriculation Certificate 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 four years after the change in regulations 27.1% did so. The

difference between males and females in this regard changes abruptly and in 2016 the largest gap since 2004 (14.6%) was observed.

Table 6.2 indicates the percentage passes in the different subjects at Advanced Level in 2016 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 2016, these rates average at 78.5% and 70.9% respectively for Advanced Matriculation subjects and 77.9% and 73.4% respectively for Intermediate Matriculation subjects.

Table 6.2: Passes in Advanced Level Subjects in 2016 (May and September)

Subject	May Session			September Session		
	Registered	Grades A-E		Registered	Grades A-E	
		N	%		N	%
Accounting	497	359	72.2	130	83	63.8
Applied Mathematics	3	2	66.7	0	0	-
Arabic	4	4	100	0	0	-
Art	102	79	77.5	11	9	81.8
Biology	685	602	87.9	86	53	61.6
Chemistry	514	396	77.0	69	53	76.8
Computing	133	116	87.2	37	31	83.8
Economics	164	132	80.5	25	16	64.0
Engineering Drawing	4	4	100	0	0	-
English	801	642	80.1	178	130	73.0
French	57	48	84.2	17	16	94.1
Geography	63	59	93.7	6	3	50.0
German	17	17	100	5	5	100
Graphical Communication	14	7	50.0	2	1	50.0
History	104	80	76.9	21	14	66.7
Home Economics & Human Ecology	179	158	88.3	20	15	75.0
Information Technology	59	53	89.8	6	6	100
Italian	152	113	74.3	40	31	77.5
Maltese	615	488	79.3	213	185	86.9
Marketing	477	324	67.9	168	104	61.9
Music	14	13	92.9	0	0	-
Philosophy	111	93	83.8	6	3	50.0
Physics	390	331	84.9	47	33	70.2
Pure Mathematics	495	319	64.4	144	84	58.3
Religious Knowledge	108	89	82.4	27	19	70.4
Russian	5	4	80.0	1	1	100
Sociology	185	136	73.5	43	28	65.1
Spanish	36	33	91.7	6	4	66.7



Table 6.3: Passes in Intermediate Level Subjects in 2016 (May and September)

Subject	May Session			September Session		
	Registered	Grades A-E		Registered	Grades A-E	
		N	%		N	%
Accounting	64	45	70.3	28	18	64.3
Applied Mathematics	39	30	76.9	5	3	60.0
Arabic	4	3	75.0	0	0	-
Art	33	25	75.8	4	3	75.0
Biology	305	226	74.1	205	171	83.4
Chemistry	39	23	59.0	22	14	63.6
Classical Studies	32	20	62.5	2	1	50.0
Computing	82	71	86.6	20	11	55.0
Economics	62	49	79.0	23	15	65.2
Eng. Drawing & Graph. Comm.	72	56	77.8	39	31	79.5
English	1097	901	82.1	884	787	89.0
Environmental Science	429	347	80.9	185	144	77.8
French	99	89	89.9	34	31	91.2
Geography	94	67	71.3	57	41	71.9
German	20	19	95.0	9	9	100.0
History	79	66	83.5	27	17	63.0
Home Ec. & Human Ecology	65	55	84.6	51	41	80.4
Information Technology	203	185	91.1	31	30	96.8
Italian	121	105	86.8	54	52	96.3
Maltese	284	229	80.6	135	99	73.3
Marketing	241	193	80.1	138	87	63.0
Music	4	4	100.0	0	0	-
Philosophy	330	249	75.5	74	39	52.7
Physical Education	150	112	74.7	51	33	64.7
Physics	553	443	80.1	189	126	66.7
Psychology	1029	650	63.2	447	275	61.5
Pure Mathematics	617	442	71.6	273	189	69.2
Religious Knowledge	267	203	76.0	137	86	62.8
Sociology	216	161	74.5	59	25	42.4
Spanish	21	12	57.1	7	4	57.1
Systems of Knowledge	2131	1760	82.6	382	241	63.1
Theatre & Performance	48	40	83.3	6	3	50.0

An analysis of Table 6.2 indicates that in Advanced level subjects the pass rates differ substantially between subjects as shown below. No subject at Advanced Matriculation level had a pass rate lower than 60% in 2016.



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

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

The figure that follows shows mean pass rates for the sessions from 2013 onwards. Although the mean pass rates for 2016 are generally lower than last year's, there seems to be no particular trend in pass rates which seem to change randomly. Also, difference in mean pass rate between years is minimal, changing from 77.9% (IM 2016) to 80.6 (IM 2015, IM 2013) for the May session and from 66.3% (IM 2014) to 75.3 (AM 2015) for the September session.

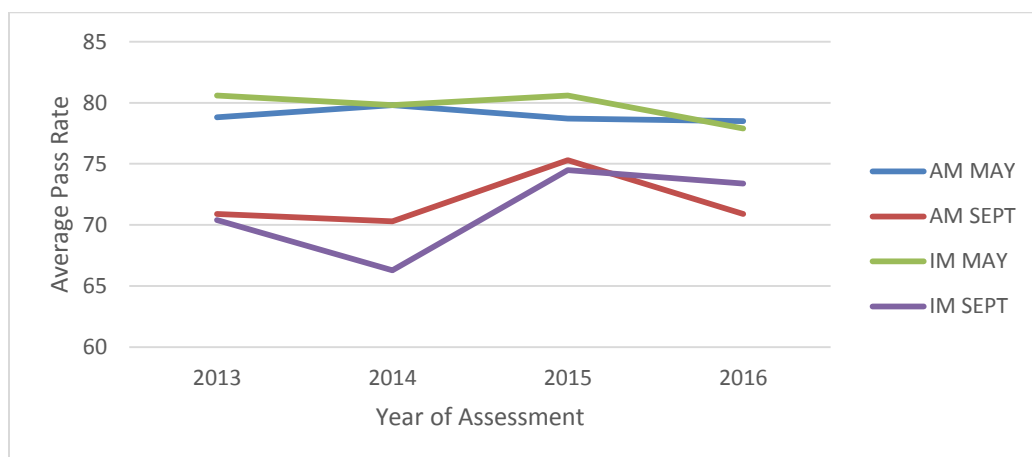


Figure 6.2: Mean Percentage Pass Rate, by Year, Session and Level



The numbers of candidates applying for Revision of Papers from 2004 to 2016 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
2016	7.9	3.0	4.8	3.4

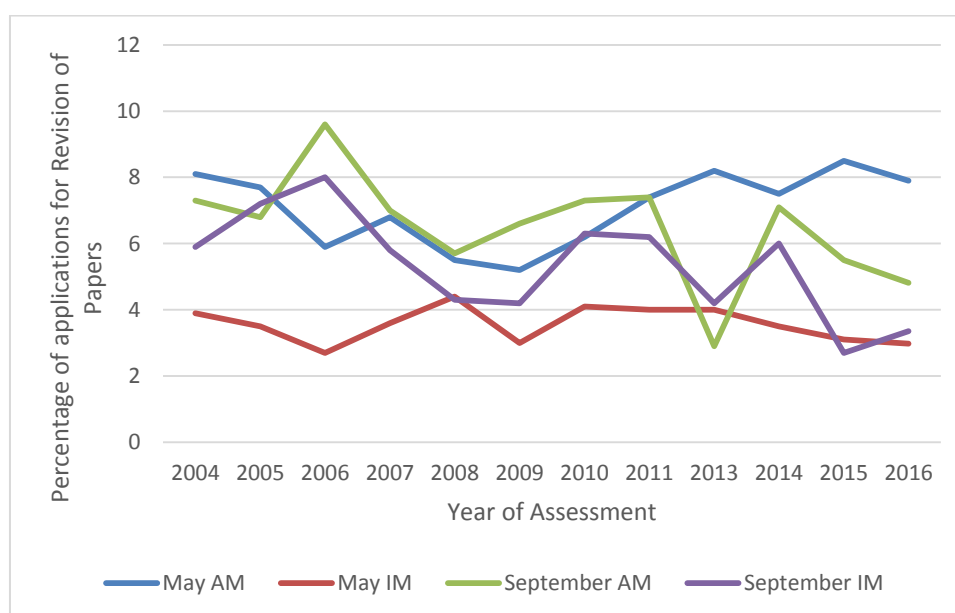


Figure 6.3: Percentage Applications for Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level

Figure 6.3 suggests that the percentage of candidates applying for Revision of Papers has followed no particular trend across the years from 2004 to 2016. Drops and peaks along the

years seem rather random. 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
2016	3.0	7.2	4.8	2.5

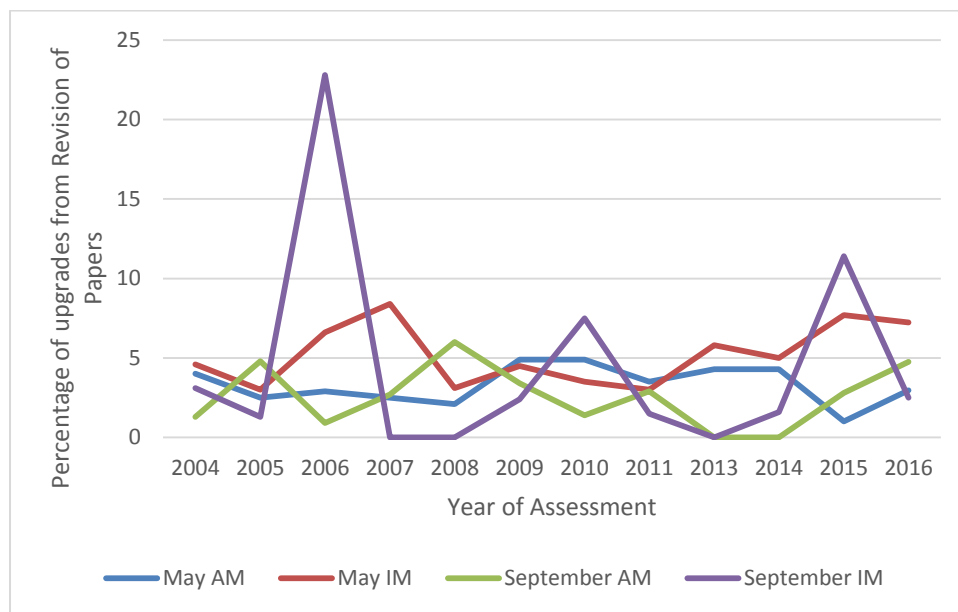


Figure 6.4: Percentage Upgrades from Revision of Papers by Year, Session and Level



Figure 6.4 suggests that the percentage of upgrades from Revision of Papers has also followed no particular trend across the years from 2004 to 2016. 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).

This year, 98 candidates applied for Special Arrangements to access the May Matriculation examinations. This is the highest recorded number since the commencement of Matriculation examinations. These requests have been increasing along the years as shown in the figure below.

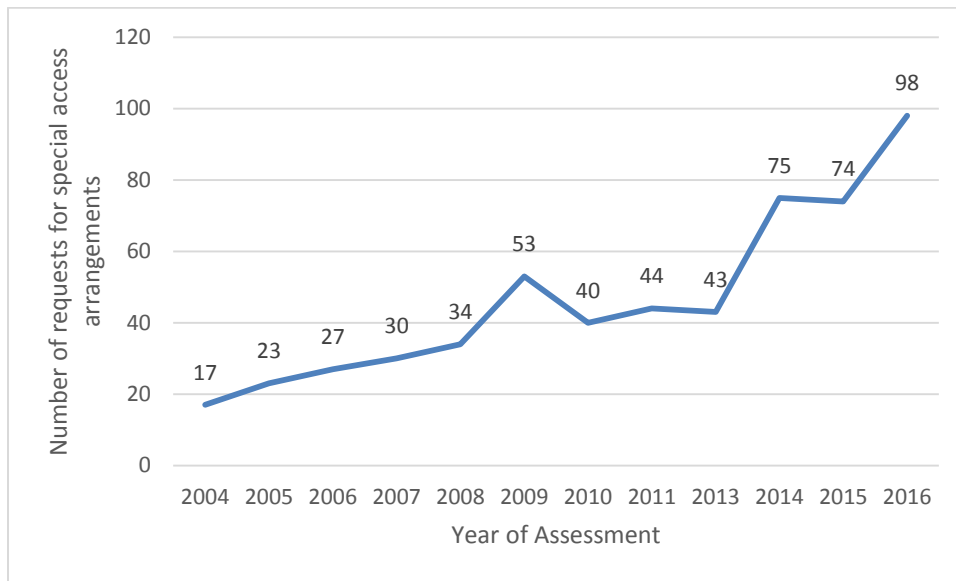


Figure 6.5: Number of Candidates applying for Access Arrangements from 2004 to 2016

The 2016 session is the fourth session since the change in regulations in 2012. This year, a total of 5,313 candidates registered for examinations in May and/or September. This is the largest value since 2004, as shown in the figure below. It is likely that this increase is caused by the increasing number of new candidates using the September session as their first sit. In 2016, 1,181 candidates used the September session as their first sit, a number that has also been constantly increasing since the change in regulations in 2012. This is illustrated in the figure that follows.



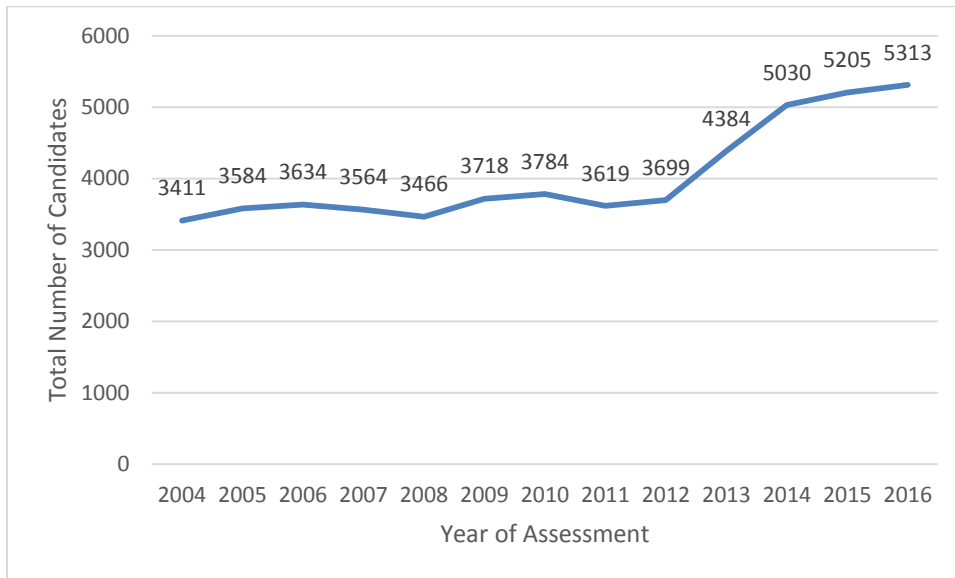


Figure 6.6: Total Number of Candidates Registering for Matriculation Examinations, by Year

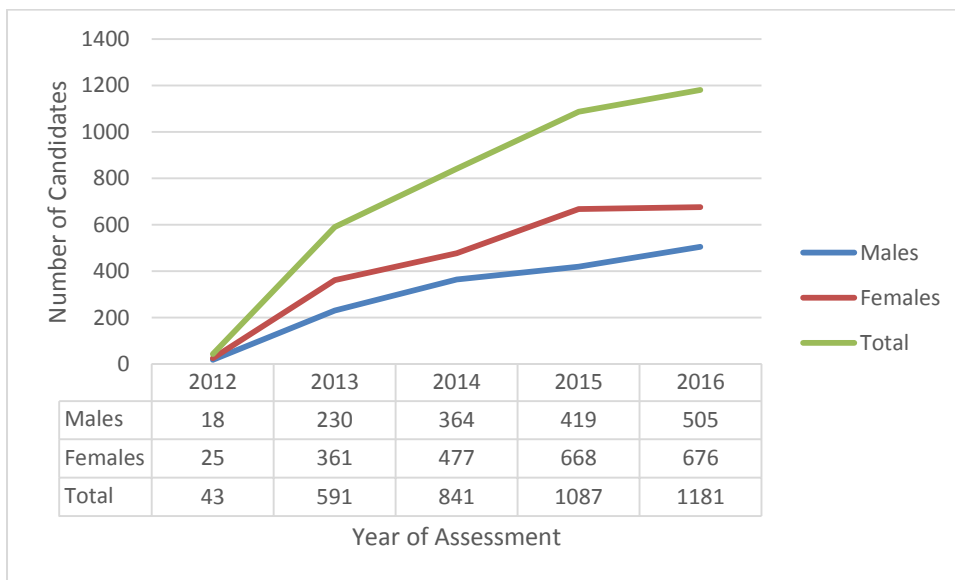


Figure 6.7: Number of Candidates using the September Session as a First Sit, by Year and Gender



7. Conclusion

This report has been produced with the intention of providing valid and reliable information about various aspects of the 2016 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 twenty 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 and September 2016 Sessions



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

**Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board
May 2016 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 22 April		Russian /Spanish (List.) (3.00 p.m.)	Systems of Knowledge	Spanish (List.) (4.00 p.m.)		Design & Technology II
Saturday 23 April	Physics I	Physics II	Physics	Environmental Science	Physics I	Physics II
Monday 25 April	Eng Draw/Graph Comm I	Eng Draw/Graph Comm II	Theatre and Performance	Eng Draw & Graph Comm	Graphical Communication I	Graphical Communication II
Tuesday 26 April	Accounting I	Home Economics I	Accounting		Accounting /Business Studies I	Chemistry I
Wednesday 27 April	Accounting II	Home Economics II		Home Economics	Accounting /Business Studies II	Chemistry II
Thursday 28 April	History I	Philosophy I	History	Philosophy	History I	Computing I
Friday 29 April	History II	Philosophy II			History II	Computing II
Saturday 30 April	Pure Mathematics I	Pure Mathematics II		Pure Mathematics	Mathematics I	Mathematics II
Monday 2 May	History III	Arabic /Russian /Italian (List.) (3.00 p.m.)		Italian (List.) (3.00 p.m.)	Latin /Commerce I	Arabic /Latin /Commerce II
Tuesday 3 May	Italian II	Italian III		Italian	European Studies I/Teriles & Design I	Italian I
Wednesday 4 May	Arabic III	Italian IV	Arabic		European Studies I/Teriles & Design II	Italian II
Thursday 5 May	Russian II	Biology I	Russian	Biology	Greek /Russian /Class. Cult. & Civ. I	Biology I
Friday 6 May	Biology II	Biology III				Biology II
Saturday 7 May	Maltese I, Applied Mathematics I	Maltese II	Maltese		Maltese I	Maltese II
Monday 9 May	Economics I, Applied Mathematics II	Maltese III	Applied Mathematics		Economics I	English Literature I
Tuesday 10 May	Economics II	Computing I, Info Tech I	Economics		Economics II	English Literature II
Wednesday 11 May		Computing II, Info Tech II	Psychology	Computing/Info Tech		French I
Thursday 12 May	German I	German II, Greek I	German	German (List.) (3.00 p.m.)	German I	German II
Friday 13 May	German III, Greek II	French I & IV	Greek	French	Greek /Russian /Class. Cult. & Civ. II	French II
Saturday 14 May	English I	English II	English		English Language I	English Language II
Monday 16 May	Geography I	Geography II			Geography I	
Tuesday 17 May	Geography II	Geography III	Geography		Geography II	
Wednesday 18 May	Spanish I	Spanish II, Latin I		Latin/Classical Studies	Spanish I	Environmental Studies I
Thursday 19 May	French I	French II				Environmental Studies II
Friday 20 May	Music Paper 3 (performance/composition)	Spanish III, Latin II	Physical Education	Spanish	Physical Education II	Spanish III
Saturday 21 May	Religious Knowledge I	Religious Knowledge II		Religious Knowledge	Religious Knowledge I	Religious Knowledge II
Monday 23 May	Chemistry I	Chemistry II	Chemistry		Home Economics I	Social Studies I
Tuesday 24 May	Music II (Part II)	Sociology I		Sociology	Home Economics II	Social Studies II
Wednesday 25 May	Sociology II	Music I		Music (Part II)	Music I (Part II)	Music II
Thursday 26 May	Sociology III	Marketing I		Marketing	Music I (Part II)	Music I (Part II)
Friday 27 May	Marketing II	Art III	Music (Parts I & III)	Music (Part III cont.)	Art II	
Saturday 28 May	Art I	Art II	Art		Art I	Art I (cont.)

Following registration, candidates will be informed individually about:

1. SEC Listening Comprehension/Citation (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/Citation will be held as follows: Saturday 12 March - Italian; Thursday 17 March - German and Russian; Friday 18 March - Spanish and Arabic; Saturday 2 April - English; Saturday 9 April - French.

SEC Reading & Conversation will be held as follows: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 April - English and French; 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 April - Maltese and Italian; 19, 20, 21 April - German, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

Intermediate Matriculation Orals will be as follows: 22 March - German, Spanish, Russian and Arabic; 2 April - Italian; 7 April - French; 1, 4, 5, 6 April - Maltese; 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 April - English; 30, 31 May, 1, 2, 3, 6 June - Theatre and Performance.

Advanced Matriculation Orals will be as follows: 17 March - French; 15, 16 March - Maltese; 21 March - Arabic, German, Spanish and Russian; 15, 16, 19, 20, 21 April - English; 16 April - Italian; 24 May - Music Paper 2 Part I.

Practical Examinations:

Advanced Matriculation Practicals will be as follows: 31 May - Physics; 3 June - Biology; 10 June - Chemistry

Physical Education:

SEC P.E. candidates are to indicate their choice of activities on the on-line form.

SEC Activities will be held as follows: 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 April - Athletics, Games, Gym and Dance; 30, 31 May, 1, 2 June - Swimming.

Intermediate Matriculation activities will be held as follows: 6, 7, 13, 14 April.

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



*Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board
MAY 2016 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 11th March 2016**.

Lists of candidates, where the assessment marks are to be filled, will be forwarded to each respective school in due time. **Moderation of coursework in schools** will take place between **Monday 14th March 2016** and **Tuesday 22nd March 2016**, and between **Friday 1st April 2016** and **Friday 15th April 2016** all days inclusive.

Private candidates are to present their **coursework** for the subjects outlined below to MATSEC or the **Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo** between **Monday 29th February 2016** and **Friday 11th March 2016** 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.

SEC Art candidates are to indicate whether for Paper I – Work from Observation – they will be choosing **Option (a) Still-Life, composed of Man/Made & Natural forms**, or **Option (b) the Human Figure**. If applying online, candidates are to indicate this choice on the online form whereas if applying manually, candidates are to indicate this choice on a form provided to the school by the Examinations Department. Private candidates who apply manually can obtain the form from the Examinations Department.

The **Art General Themes** will be published in the **Notices section of the MATSEC website** by the **6th May 2016**.

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 **29th April 2016**.

Heads of School are to send the **school-based assessment marks** for **Computing, Information Technology and Systems of Knowledge** to MATSEC by **Friday 11th March 2016**. **Moderation of coursework in schools** will take place between **Monday 14th March 2016** and **Tuesday 22nd March 2016**, and between **Friday 1st April 2016** and **Friday 15th April 2016** all days inclusive.

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 11th March 2016** between **8.00 am and 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm**.

IM Art candidates are to indicate whether for Part II Section A – Work from Observation – they will be choosing **Option (i) Still-life with Man-made and Natural Forms** or **Option (ii) the Human Figure**. Candidates will receive the form on which to indicate this choice from the Examinations Department by post.

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 **Friday 29th April 2016**.

Heads of School are to send the **school-based assessment marks** for **Computing, Information Technology, Geography and Home Economics** to MATSEC by **Friday 11th March 2016**. **Moderation of coursework in schools** will take place between **Monday 14th March 2016** and **Tuesday 22nd March 2016**, and between **Friday 1st April 2016** and **Friday 15th April 2016** all days inclusive.

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 11th March 2016** 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 1st April 2016. Candidates are to present this work on Monday 30th May 2016 between 8.00 am and 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm at MATSEC or the Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo.

Reference should be made to the respective syllabi for further details about each subject including folders required.

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.

All candidates may be called for an interview regarding their coursework. Interviews will be held between Monday 14th March 2016 and Friday 15th April 2016 both days inclusive.

Coursework presented to MATSEC is to be collected between Thursday 25th August 2016 and Friday 26th August 2016 between 8.00 am and 12.30 pm.

The MATSEC Board reserves the right to keep any of the works submitted by candidates.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Candidates are to apply for Exam Access Arrangements by Friday 6th November 2015.

Late applications for Exam Access Arrangements will only be accepted with late registrations on the 6th and 7th January 2016.

No applications for Exam Access Arrangements beyond the 7th January 2016 will be accepted even if applicants are allowed to register for the May examination session.

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.

REGISTRATION DATES ARE BETWEEN 26TH OCTOBER 2015 AND 6TH NOVEMBER 2015.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON 6TH AND 7TH JANUARY 2016.





TIMETABLE – September 2016 Session

Date	Secondary Education Certificate			Intermediate Matriculation	Advanced Matriculation	
Monday 29-Aug-2016	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	09:00 16:00	PI PII	Physical Education practical exam	p.m.	Biology, Chemistry, Physics practical exams a.m. or p.m.
Tuesday 30-Aug-2016				Group I subjects Group III subjects	09:00 16:00	
Wednesday 31-Aug-2016				Group IV subjects Group II subjects	09:00 16:00	
Thursday 01-Sep-2016	English Language	09:00 16:00	PI PII	Systems of Knowledge	09:00	
Friday 02-Sep-2016	Maltese	09:00 16:00	PI PII			Paper I – All Subjects 09:00
Saturday 03-Sep-2016	Mathematics	09:00 16:00	PI PII			Paper II – All Subjects 09:00
Monday 5-Sep-2016						Paper III – All Subjects (where applicable) 09:00

Intermediate Matriculation level

Orals: 26, 27, 29 Aug – English; 1 Sep – Arabic, Maltese, Russian & Spanish; 2 Sep – Theatre and Performance & Music (Parts 1 & 3); 3 Sep – French, German & Italian.

By **Tuesday 16th August, 2016**, all candidates sitting for **Art** are to present their **Coursework (Portfolio, Personal Study and Visual Journal)**, 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**. All candidates may be called for an interview regarding their coursework. Interviews will be held between **Friday 19th August, 2016** and **Friday 16th September, 2016** both days inclusive.

With regard to Art, the starting points of the Thematic Project Work will be published in the **Notices section of the MATSEC website by Monday 8th August, 2016**. Candidates are to present this work on **Tuesday 6th September, 2016** between **8.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon** at **MATSEC** or the **Examinations Department Victoria, Gozo**.



Advanced Matriculation level

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

By **Tuesday 16th August, 2016**, all candidates sitting for Art are to present their Coursework (Portfolio, Personal Study and Visual Journal), 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. All candidates may be called for an interview regarding their coursework. Interviews will be held between **Friday 19th August, 2016** and **Friday 16th September, 2016** both days inclusive.

With respect to Art, the starting points of the Thematic Project Work will be published in the Notices section of the MATSEC website by **Friday 22nd July, 2016**. The Thematic Project Work must be handed in at the end of the AM ART Paper I (Extended Thematic Project) examination session in a folder.

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 DEPARTMENT, VICTORIA GOZO AS INDICATED ABOVE.

Coursework presented to MATSEC is to be collected during the week starting **Monday 31st October, 2016** between **8.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon, and 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m.**

Candidates registering for AM 20 Italian should note that:

Paper I (Listening Comprehension) and Paper II will take place on the 2nd September (*time of the examinations will be issued in due course*);

Paper III will take place on the 3rd September at 9:00 a.m.;

Paper IV will take place on the 5th September at 9:00 a.m..

Candidates registering for AM 12 French should note that:

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

Candidates registering for AM 14 German and AM 31 Spanish should note that:

The Listening Comprehension will take place on the 3rd 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 1st September (*time of the examination will be issued in due course*).

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

The Listening Comprehension will take place on the 3rd September (*time of the examination will be issued in due course*).

Candidates registering for AM 24 Music should note that:

Paper 1 Part I and II will take place on the 2nd September (*time of the examination will be issued in due course*).

Paper 3 will take place on the 5th 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*

