

SEC SYLLABUS (2011)

SOCIAL STUDIES

SEC 27

SYLLABUS

**Social Studies
Syllabus****SEC 27**

(Not available in September)

Paper I: (2 hrs) + Paper II: (2 hrs)

Introduction

The syllabus has been designed to enable all candidates to gain grades according to their competence and to differentiate among them on the basis of positive achievement.

Questions will be set in both Maltese and English and answers may be given in either language.

Aims

The aims of the syllabus as a course of study are to enable candidates to:

- (a) introduce, understand and apply basic Social Studies concepts;
- (b) develop an appreciation of social issues relating appropriately to the conditions of modern society;
- (c) cultivate a critical awareness of recent developments in the local, European and international context; and
- (d) enable candidates to apply the subject areas to their life experience.

All candidates are expected to illustrate their ideas and concepts by concrete and relevant examples.

Examination Set-up

The examination will consist of two papers of two hours' duration each. The papers will be set in both Maltese and English. Candidates must choose to answer either **entirely** in Maltese or **entirely** in English.

Paper I (50% of the global mark): The objective of this paper is to ensure that candidates have a basic understanding of the wide field covered in the syllabus. It is to be taken by **ALL** candidates. Each paper will consist of two sections. .

Each section of Paper I will consist of a selected text on which a set of five questions will be given.

Candidates will be required to answer both sections of the paper.

Paper II (50% of the global work): There will be two versions of this paper: Paper IIA and Paper IIB.

In their answers candidates are expected to discuss topics from both a theoretical and a practical perspective, thus manifesting that they are well acquainted with the basic concepts of the subject. Each question carries the same number of marks.

Paper IIA and Paper IIB: The paper will consist of 4 sections, each corresponding to the different sections of the syllabus. In each section there will be two questions and candidates will be expected to answer **one** question from each section. Each question carries the same number of marks.

Results

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIA may qualify for a grade within the range 1 to 5 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); the results of candidates who do not obtain a Grade 5 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIB may qualify for a grade not higher than 4 (i.e. grades 4, 5, 6, 7); the results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Grade Descriptions

Grade 1

The student is able to:

- demonstrate a high level of sensitivity to the issues being discussed by showing an understanding of concepts and applying them in an experiential context;
- demonstrate that there are different interpretations of events, processes and developments;
- give reasons for facts, events and processes;
- organize and classify information through concepts and
- engage in critical analysis.

Grade 5

The student is able to:

- identify facts, events and processes;
- understand the meaning of basic concepts, and
- explain social events and social processes.

Grades 7

The student is able to:

- recall basic information about social life;
- show ability to fulfill the requirements of the questions;
- describe facts and processes.

SUBJECT CONTENT

SECTION 1

THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY

1. **The individual as a social being:** the person as a unique individual and the importance of social interaction.
2. **Socialisation:** socialisation as the transmission and integration of culture (norms and values). The process of socialisation: primary and secondary socialisation. Agents of socialisation – family, school/ing, peer group, media.
3. **Groups:** different types of groups and their role (peer groups, pressure groups, interest groups). Roles within the groups. Conflict of roles within the group. Conformity and non-conformity.
4. **Culture and identities:** the concept of culture and its components. Examples of cultural diversity (in the family, in the community and in the wider society). What is national identity?
5. **Social stratification and differentiation:** concept of stratification and differentiation. Systems of stratification (social and economic). Social mobility.

SECTION 2

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- 1. Family:** basic concepts: the family as basic social institution, roles and responsibilities, interaction patterns; functions of the family (social, economic, sexual, reproductive and psychological); different family types and social change; challenges affecting the family.
- 2. Education:** the changing role of education; education and new communications technology (technology in the classroom); lifelong learning; the education system in Malta.
- 3. Religion:** what is religion; functions of religion; main world religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism); types of religious organisations (Churches and sects, denominations and cults); religion, secularisation and social change; religious fundamentalism and religious freedom.
- 4. Politics:** power and authority; characteristics of democracy (separation of power, pluralism, freedom of religion, expression, association and movement, representation, transparency and accountability); forms of government which are not democratic; local, national and European representation.
- 5. Economy, Work and Leisure:** concept of work; the transformation of work (pre-industrial, industrial and technological); economic systems (market economy, centralised economy and mixed economy); economic sectors (primary, secondary, tertiary and the fourth sector); job mobility; employment and unemployment; different leisure patterns (depending on the type of work, working conditions, time and income).
- 6. Health:** what is health (a holistic concept of health referred to the WHO definition); healthy lifestyles; social causes of illness; healthcare systems and services.
- 7. Mass Media and Communications:** newspapers and television; new communication technology; the internet; globalisation and the media; media audiences and media effects.

SECTION 3

SOCIAL ISSUES

- 1. Gender:** equality and inequality. Family, education, work, career progression and political life.
- 2. Youth in a Changing Society:** roles; challenges and opportunities; youth and leisure; youth and sub-culture; deviance and rehabilitation.
- 3. Welfare and Social Inclusion:** what is welfare; welfare state and welfare society; different forms of poverty (relative, absolute, material and social); indicators of poverty (levels of education, healthcare, employment in society); forms of social exclusion (age, gender, race and belief systems, digital divide).

SECTION 4

DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE

- 1. Forms of development:** economic, social and environmental.
- 2. Sustainable development:** waste management; pollution control; sustainable use of natural resources; efforts to control global warming; choosing healthy lifestyles; consumer education.
- 3. Population change:** demography (mobility, patterns of birth rates and death rates, life expectancy); migration; urbanisation and its challenges (density, traffic congestion, pollution, work opportunities, facilities).
- 4. Globalisation:** aspects (economic, technological, social and cultural); positive and negative effects of globalisation (international solidarity, efforts towards fair trading, cultural enrichment, threats to national identity, monopolies of trans-national companies, unfair trading).