

SEC SYLLABUS (2016)

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

SEC 25

SYLLABUS

Religious Knowledge Syllabus	SEC25	(Not available in September) Paper I (2 hrs) + Paper II (2 hrs)
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Introduction

The main themes of this syllabus have been chosen in the same order that they are presented in the history of Salvation with Christ as their pivot. At the same time, however, these themes are presented from that dimension that is most relevant to the candidates' existential needs and aspirations. In this manner the syllabus seeks to integrate the theological/content-centered approach with the thematic/psychological method.

Aims

The principal aim of this syllabus is to help students develop the religious dimension of their personality within the context of the total maturation process and of the Maltese educational environment. It aims to help candidates, who will by now have made considerable progress in their intellectual and moral development, to recognise, evaluate, and integrate within their lives the Christian dimension with their human experience in a critical and responsible manner.

Assessment Objectives

Candidates will be expected:

1. to show that they are able to understand the language, terms, concepts commonly used in Catholic Faith and Worship;
2. to present in a systematic and objective manner the fundamental elements of Catholic Faith, Morals, and Worship, and give reasoned and documented explanation of these elements.
3. to show their familiarity with the Bible and other relevant documents of the Catholic Tradition;
4. to show that they understand how Christians should interpret and respond to significant events and moral issues of to-day in the light of the Bible and the teaching of the Catholic Church.
5. to give evidence of their ability to relate the Christian Faith to daily living and worship

Scheme of Assessment

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 (40% of global mark) is taken by ALL candidates. The Paper will be divided in three Sections :

- Section A, covering half of the marks allocated for this paper, will consist of twenty-five questions of a direct and factual nature covering the whole syllabus testing primarily Objective 1 as set out in the list of Assessment Objectives above.
- Section B, covering a quarter of the marks, will consist of five questions that demand a longer answer, in the form of a paragraph. These questions will test primarily Objective 2 above.
- Section C, covering the final quarter of the marks, will consist of two sets of questions specifically referring to a biblical text and/or a text from Church teaching covered in the syllabus. This section will primarily test Objective 3 above.

All questions in all the three sections have to be answered. There will be two versions of Paper II (60% of global mark): Paper IIA and Paper IIB. Candidates are required to indicate on the registration form which

Paper II they wish to sit for. No change in the choice of paper will be allowed after the registration period. Paper IIA and Paper IIB will contain questions demanding an evaluative approach to the subject matter. Here the candidates will be expected not only to show their knowledge and understanding of the topics dealt with, but also the ability to evaluate and apply what has been learnt from Religion to the daily lives of people today, in line with Objectives 4 and 5 above.

Paper IIA comprises more demanding questions than those in Paper I – the candidates will be expected to choose three essay titles (each with three sub-questions that have to be answered in detail) out of a total of five.

Paper IIB comprises questions which are less demanding than those in Paper I – the candidates will be expected to choose ten out of a total of fourteen questions, each requiring an answer in paragraph form.

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).

The Syllabus

A. GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. *The Human Quest and God's Response*

- (a) The religions as evidence of the human quest for meaning.
- (b) God's response: The Bible as the Word of God in human words, inspiration, the correct interpretation of the Bible. God's intervention in history through deeds and words – the Old and the New Testaments, outline of the History of Salvation.

2. *The God of Salvation*

- (a) Creation and Fall: the human experience of evil and the Biblical message of Genesis 1-3; Creation and the problem of evolution; the Fall; Original sin; the nature and consequences of Sin
- (b) The Exodus: Yahweh, God who frees from slavery and offers full freedom through the Covenant.
- (c) Jesus Christ: the fullness of Revelation and Salvation; the historical evidence on Jesus: in non-Christian documents and in the Gospels; Jesus as the full revelation of God's project for human development. The human response to Jesus: a decision for life or death.

3. *The Community of Salvation*

- (a) The Church: the New People of God, the Body of Christ, the Sacrament of our communion with God and amongst ourselves; the Holy Spirit builds up the Church through Charisms and Ministries; the Hierarchy (Pope, Bishops, Priest); Religious Life. All human beings are called to form part of the Church: Ecumenism and the Missions; how Christians are to be true living members of the Church.
- (b) The Mission of the Church:
 - (i.) In the Church and through the Church Christ continues his work of reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation with God and amongst ourselves.
 - (ii.) In the Church and through the Church Christ continues to celebrate the New Pasch, building the Christian community: the freedom of the New People of God and the New Pact in Christ's Blood; attitudes for a fruitful celebration of the Mass. Sunday as the Lord's Day.
 - (iii.) In the Church and through the Church, Christ continues his work of healing social, political and racial division and of giving full freedom to the human person; the principles of the social teaching of the Church; the Christian's involvement for the promotion of Human Rights.

B. THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

1. *The dignity of being a Christian*

- (a) The importance of self-esteem in human development.
- (b) Through Christ's Spirit God gives the dignity and the freedom of the children of God in Baptism and Confirmation. The human person's response.
- (c) Mary as the first Christian .the role of Mary in the Christian message. Following Mary, the Christian recognises his/her dignity and gives him/herself in service to others.

2. *Respect for Human Life*

- (a) Human life: the value of human life; God, the Lord of life, shows us the way to fullness of life in Christ.
- (b) In the Church, Christ continues to teach and work for the promotion and protection of human life; the teaching of the Church on human life: contraception, abortion, euthanasia, violence, drugs, ecology, the care of the disabled and the elderly, the Sacrament of the sick.

3. *The highest Values in Life*

- (a) The values of Jesus: love as the highest and fundamental value; love towards God and neighbour: forming one's priorities.
- (b) The Christian attitude towards work, sexuality and marriage.

4. *Towards Eternal Life*

- (a) Christian hope: the strength of Christian hope based on the Christian's relationship with the Blessed Trinity: life in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The fullness of this life in Glory.

Suggested Readings

1. *II-Proċett ta' Alla għal s'vilupp Shiħ, Kummissjoni Kateketika Nazżjonali, 2000 (edizzjoni ādida)**
2. *II-Proċett ta' Alla f'Ħajti, Kummissjoni Kateketika Nazżjonali, 2003(edizzjoni ādida)**

* The original editions (1994 and 1995 respectively) are equally valid as suggested readings.