

AM SYLLABUS (2024)

**RUSSIAN
SYLLABUS**

AM 29

**Russian AM 29
Syllabus**

Paper 1(2½ hrs) + Paper II + Oral (2¼ hrs) + Paper III (3 hrs)

Aims

The aims of the syllabus are:

1. to allow scope for the variety of approaches to learning and using Russian proficiently and to encourage the development of linguistic and general study skills for purposes of personal, vocational or higher education;
2. to promote the acquisition of the following receptive and productive language skills:
 - a) the ability to understand the spoken language;
 - b) the ability to understand and read the written language;
 - c) the ability to write the language with accuracy and fluency;
3. to make the Advanced Level course enjoyable and to stimulate candidates' interests in the aspects of Russia.

Assessment Objectives

Paper I

The aim of Paper I is to test the candidates' command of written Russian in defined situations in a variety of registers.

Paper II

The objective in the first part of this paper is to test the candidates' understanding of an extended passage or passages of contemporary written Russian and their ability to express their understanding by answering specific questions in Russian, English or Maltese.

The oral component aims to test the candidates' ability to communicate in Russian in a coherent manner.

Paper III

The objective in this paper is to test the candidates' ability to understand and appreciate authentic Russian work and to express in English or Maltese their reactions to the texts studied.

Scheme of Assessment

Paper I Essay and Writing Task (50 marks)

Paper II Reading Comprehension and Oral (75 marks)

Paper III Prescribed Texts (75 marks)

The Examination

Paper I (2 hours 30 minutes)

- (a) Candidates will be required to write an essay of approximately 300 words in Russian. A choice of titles will be given, which may include a dialogue, and comments on general aspects of life in Russia and Malta. (35 marks)
- (b) Candidates will also be given a writing task of approximately 150 words. A choice of titles will be given, and may include a letter and an advert. (15 marks)

Paper II (2 hours 15 minutes)

- (a) Reading comprehension (2 hours). Candidates will be required to complete two tasks:
 - i. to answer 10 questions in Russian on a contemporary passage or passages in Russian (length of passage/total length of passages is expected to be between 500-600 words); (30 marks)
 - ii. to answer 20 questions in English on a contemporary passage or passages in Russian (length of passage/total length of passages is expected to be between 600-700 words). (20 marks)
- (b) Oral Examination (15 minutes). Candidates will be required to complete two tasks:
 - i. a reading comprehension exercise; the candidate will read out a text of about 250 words in Russian and will then answer 4-5 questions asked orally by the examiner; (15 marks)
 - ii. role play: the candidate will be required to demonstrate his/her ability to communicate in Russian in an everyday situation; s/he may even be asked to play the role of somebody other than him/herself. (10 marks)

Paper III (3 hours)

Three questions are to be answered in all: One from Section A and two from Section B. Answers for Sections A and B may be given in Russian, English or Maltese. No extra marks will be given for answers in Russian.

Section A - History of Russian Literature. Three essay questions will be set. Candidates will be required to answer one question. The answer should comprise not less than 300 words. (25 marks)

Prescribed text: Mirsky, D. S., A History of Russian Literature: From its Beginnings to 1900. Edited by Francis J. Whitfield.

Section B – Prescribed Texts. Two alternative questions will be set on each of the three prescribed texts mentioned below. Candidates will be required to answer two questions from two different prescribed texts in not less than 300 words each. (25 marks each)

Prescribed texts:

1. Чехов: "Дама с собачкой" и другие рассказы ("Душечка", "Ионыч", "Дом с мезонином", "Невеста", "О любви", "Анна на шее"). Издательство Русский язык. Москва, 1981.

2. Бунин "Тёмные аллеи" и другие рассказы. Издательство Русский язык , Москва 2006.
3. Пушкин, "Повести покойного Ивана Петровича Белкина" - "Метель", "Барышня-крестьянка"

Notes for Guidance

Paper I - Essay and Writing Task

In this paper, candidates will be required to write an essay and a writing task from a variety of subjects. The subjects set may test discursive, narrative, and descriptive styles as well as formal and informal language - though not all of these will necessarily be represented in any one examination.

Paper II - Reading Comprehension and Oral

Part (a)

Reading comprehension passage(s) will be non-specialised in content and will cover a variety of registers. The questions on the reading comprehension passage(s) may include inferential as well as factual questions.

Part (b)

In this part of the paper, candidates will be required to complete two tasks. The first will involve reading a text and orally answering questions asked by the examiner.

The second task will involve communicating in Russian in an improvised, everyday situation. When preparing for this task, it is suggested to:

- Establish the situation and roles of the speakers involved;
- Keep the situation simple and relate it to a situation experienced by the candidates.

Paper III – History of Russian Literature and Prescribed Texts

Candidates will be required to have completed a detailed study of a set of texts chosen from a list of prescriptions. Candidates should be trained to organise the time allocated to Paper III as effectively as possible by spending equal time on each question: two long answers cannot compensate for marks lost on a sketchy, incomplete third answer. Candidates may answer the question in Russian if they wish, but they will not earn extra credit for doing so. Candidates will not be permitted to bring their prescribed texts with them into the examination room.