

AM SYLLABUS (2025)

ARABIC

AM 03

SYLLABUS

Arabic AM 03 Syllabus	(Available in September) Paper I, Oral (20 mins) + Paper II(3 hrs) + Paper III(3 hrs)
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An oral of about 20 minutes and two 3 hour papers are set.

In Paper I which is the oral examination, candidates must show ability in handling a listening comprehension and in speaking fluent Arabic on a given topic.

In Papers II and III which are written examinations, candidates must show competence in advanced Arabic grammar and vocabulary. Where the essay is concerned, they must show creativity and ability in dealing with various types of topics, e.g. descriptive, argumentative, narrative. They must also show ability in reading unpointed Arabic and in supplying all vowel marks on unpointed Arabic text. Clarity, and orderly presentation of all the answers will be expected.

Unless otherwise specified, as in Question (d) of Paper II where vocalisation is obligatory, the Arabic script used in answers may be presented in pointed or unpointed form, i.e. fully vocalised or not.

The questions to Section A and Section B in Paper III Questions 1 - 6 in Paper II may be answered in Arabic, English, or Maltese.

Paper I - (approximately 20 minutes) (20 marks)

(a) An oral examination consisting of a passage for listening comprehension with oral questions asked by the examiner.

(b) A 3-minute talk in Arabic by the candidate on one of the following topics:

Television/Video

Drugs

Sports

The Influence of the Press

The Role of women

The Contribution of Youth to Society.

Paper II (3 hours) (40 marks)

Language

(a) Essay in Arabic of about 250 words, with a wide choice of subjects (15 marks)

(b) Translation of a passage from Classical Arabic into English or Maltese (10 marks)

(c) Translation of a passage from English into Classical Arabic (10 marks)

(d) A passage in Arabic to be fully vocalised (5 marks)

Recommended Books

Cowan, D. 1968. *Modern Literary Arabic*, C.U.P., Cambridge.

Dickins, J., Watson, J.C.E. 1999. *Standard Arabic: An advanced course*. Cambridge: C.U.P.

Haywood, J.A. and Nahmad, H.M. 1962. *A New Arabic Grammar*, Percy Lund, Humphries and Co. Ltd., London.

Ryding, K.C. 1990. *Formal Spoken Arabic: A Basic Course*. Chicago: Kazi Publications.

Smart, J.R. 1994. *Teach Yourself Arabic: A complete course for beginners*. Hodder & Stoughton.

Thatcher, G. W. 1993. *Arabic Grammar of the Written Language*. Hippocrene Books.

Wightwick, J. et al. 1998. *Arabic Verbs and Essentials of Grammar: A Practical Guide to the Mastery of Arabic*. NTC/Contemporary Publ. Co.

Ziadeh, F. 1993. *Reader in Modern Literary Arabic*. Troy, MI: International Book Centre.

Paper III - (3 hours) (40 marks)

Arabic Civilisation and Literature

Three questions are to be answered in all: One from each Section. Answers for Sections A and B may be given in Arabic, English, or Maltese; the translation in Section C may be given in English or Maltese.

Section A - History of the Arabs

Al-Hijaz on the eve of the rise of Islam; the Orthodox Caliphs; the Umayyad Caliphate.

(12 marks)

Recommended Books

- Francesco Gabriele, *Muhammad and the Conquests of Islam*, World University Library, London, 1968.
A. Guillaume, *Islam*, Penguin Harmondsworth, 1956.
Ph.K.Hitti, *History of the Arabs*, MacMillan and Co. Ltd., London, 1964.
H. Kennedy, *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphs*, Longman, London, 1986.
I.M. Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, C.U.P., Cambridge, 1988.
B.Lewis, *The Arabs in History*, Hutchinson University, London, 4th Ed., 1966.
Planhol, X. de. *The World of Islam*. Cornell U.P
Th.W.Arnold and A. Guillaume, (eds). *The Legacy of Islam*, O.U.P., London, 1931.
W.H. McNeill and M.R. Waldman (eds.) 1984, *The Islamic World*. Chicago: U.Ch.P.
Waines, D. 1995. *An Introduction to Islam*. Cambridge: C.U.P.

Section B - History of Arabic Literature

- Pre-Islamic poetry, with special references to the Mu'alla:qat and the Qasidas;
Literature under the Umayyads. (12 marks)

Recommended Books

- Badawi, M.M. 1993. *A Short History of Modern Arabic Literature*. Oxford: O.U.P.
A.F.L. Beeston, J.M. Johnstone, R.M. Serjeant, G.R. Smith, *Arabic Literature and the End of the Umayyad Period*, C.U.P. Cambridge, 1983.
H.A.R. Gibb, *Arabic Literature: An Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Revised Ed., London, 1963.
R.A. Nicholson, *A Literary History of the Arabs*, C.U.P., Cambridge, 1969.

Section C - Literature

One of the following textbooks is to be read and studied. A relatively short text from each book is given in this Section for translation into English or Maltese.

- Either: 1. Naguib Mahfouz, *Mira:ma:r*, Cairo, 1964.
or 2. Ahmad Tal'at Suleiman, *Malta: 'Ard Muga:z lit-Ta:ri:h wel-Lugha*, Malta, 1980.