

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION 327.271**MATRICULATION EXAMINATION REGULATIONS**

30th April, 2013

LEGAL NOTICE 133 of 2013, as amended by Legal Notices 330 of 2013, 316 of 2014, 395 of 2016, 111 of 2018, 147 of 2022, 133 of 2023 and 246 of 2024.

1. (1) The title of these regulations is the Matriculation Examination Regulations. Citation and interpretation.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -
"the Certificate" means the Matriculation Certificate;
"the Examination" means the Matriculation Examination; and
"the MATSEC Board" means the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Board.

(3) The MATSEC Board retains to itself the interpretation of the regulations and syllabuses relating to its examinations.

2. (1) These regulations shall be applicable as from 1st March, 2018, onwards. Applicability.
Amended by:
L.N. 330 of 2013;
L.N. 316 of 2014;
L.N. 395 of 2016;
L.N. 111 of 2018.

(2) The Examination shall also be subject to the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate Examinations Regulations. S.L.327.66

3. (1) The Examination shall be held at two levels: Advanced (AM) Level and Intermediate (IM) Level. Levels and Sessions of the Examination.

(2) There shall be two sessions of the Examination: the First Session shall be held during the period April to June, and the Second Session shall be held in September of each year.

4. (1)* The Examination is offered in a wide range of subjects as follows: Subjects of the Examination.
Amended by:
L.N. 316 of 2014;
L.N. 395 of 2016;
L.N. 147 of 2022;
L.N. 133 of 2023.

Group 1: Maltese, Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Spanish;

Group 2: Accounting, Classical Studies*, Economics, Geography, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Psychology*, Religious Knowledge, Sociology;

Group 3: Applied Mathematics (Mechanics), Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Environmental Science*, Physics, Pure Mathematics;

Group 4: Art, Graphical Communication, Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication*, Home Economics and Human Ecology, Information Technology, Music, Physical Education*,

*Shall be applicable for examinations held from January 2025 or later.

Theatre and Performance,

Systems of Knowledge*.

* offered at Intermediate Level only

(2) No subject may be taken at both Advanced and Intermediate Levels, and SEC Levels in the same session of examinations.

(3) In the Second Session candidates shall be allowed to sit for a maximum of six subjects as follows: one subject at Advanced Level and a maximum of five subjects at Intermediate Level restricted to one subject from each of Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Systems of Knowledge.

Award of the
Certificate.
Amended by:
L.N. 330 of 2013;
L.N. 316 of 2014;
L.N. 111 of 2018;
L.N. 246 of 2024.

5. (1) To qualify for the Certificate, candidates must pass the examinations taken within a period of five years from the first sitting of any examination offered within the Examination.

(2) The Certificate shall be awarded to candidates who:

(a) sit for:

- (i) one subject chosen from each of Groups 1, 2, 3 and Systems of Knowledge and two other subjects chosen from Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 indicated in regulation 4; and
- (ii) two of the six subjects must be at Advanced Level, three other subjects at Intermediate Level and Systems of Knowledge; and

(b) obtain:

- (i) a pass in at least one of the subjects offered from each of Groups 1, 2 and 3, and a pass in Systems of Knowledge; and
- (ii) a minimum of 44 grade points obtained as a total from the results awarded in six subjects as indicated in paragraph (2) (a) of this regulation, and calculated as indicated in paragraph (5) of this regulation.

(3) The following restrictions apply for the award of the Certificate:

- (a) No subject may be presented at both Advanced and Intermediate Levels;
- (b) Environmental Science may not be presented with IM and AM Biology, Chemistry, or Physics;
- (c) Computing may not be presented with Information Technology;
- (d) Engineering Drawing may not be presented with Graphical Communication (At Intermediate Level the two subjects become one: Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication); and
- (e) Classical Studies may not be presented with Latin or

Greek.

- (4) (a) Candidates who satisfy all the criteria in this regulation shall be awarded the Certificate on the basis of the best results obtained.
- (b) Candidates who sit for three or more subjects at Advanced Level shall be entitled to have one or more of the results of these subjects considered as substitutes for one or more of the Intermediate Level subjects required by sub-regulation (2)(a)(ii). In such cases, the subject or subjects that are substituted shall be considered as Intermediate Level passes, grade for grade, for the purpose of calculating the number of grade points as indicated in sub-regulation (5). Candidates shall be required to inform the MATSEC Board in writing which subject/s they wish to be substituted.
- (c) The Certificate shall be issued once only and it shall indicate that the candidate has satisfied the criteria for the award. Candidates shall also receive a transcript of the results obtained in individual subjects as established in regulation 6.
- (5) Grade points shall be awarded for all subjects passed, up to a total of 100 grade points, as follows:

Advanced Level Intermediate Level

Grade A - 30 grade points Grade A - 10 grade points

Grade B - 24 grade points Grade B - 8 grade points

Grade C - 18 grade points Grade C - 6 grade points

Grade D - 12 grade points Grade D - 4 grade points

Grade E - 6 grade points Grade E - 2 grade points:

Provided that in applying these grade point equivalences, regulation 4(b) is followed for those candidates who present one or more Advanced Level subjects instead of Intermediate Level subjects.

6. (1) The results obtained in the individual subjects shall be given as grades A, B, C, D, and E in descending order of merit. F indicates Fail and 'abs' indicates Absent for the examination.

Results.

(2) The results sent to candidates shall show the subjects in which a pass grade had been awarded as well as the subjects in which the standard required for the lowest grade was not reached.

(3) The MATSEC Board shall issue certificates for each session showing the subjects in which a pass grade has been awarded.

(4) An authenticated copy of the results may be obtained from the MATSEC Board against a fee as determined by the University.

7. (1) Registration for the examinations online or on the appropriate application form and accompanied by the relevant fee, must be made by the closing date as published in the notice for

Registration.
Amended by:
L.N. 147 of 2022.

registration. Applications submitted after the closing date but by the published date for late applications shall be accepted if an additional fee is paid.

(2) Applications for registration for the First and Second Sessions at a later date may be accepted at the Executive Director's discretion against the payment of a further additional fee.

(3) Alterations to the application form may only be made by the candidates subject to the same conditions and additional fees applicable for late registration.

(4) Private candidates must submit their project proposals as specified in the syllabus.

Enquiries upon results.

8. The marking of papers and the results shall be final and binding on all candidates and the MATSEC Board shall not, except in its absolute discretion, enter into correspondence about results with candidates or their parents or any other person.

Candidates with Special Needs.
Amended by:
L.N. 147 of 2022.

9. (1) Candidates with special needs may be given the option to be exempted from being examined in a particular component of the examination, such as an oral or a practical examination. When candidates accept the option and their work is prorated to compensate for the missing component, their Certificate shall be endorsed as follows:

'Special arrangements were made to enable the candidate to be assessed in this subject. Details may be obtained from the Executive Director.'

(2) Such certificates shall only be issued as a last resort when ways cannot be found of supporting candidates with special needs to satisfy examination requirements.

(3) Applications requesting special arrangements shall be made on the appropriate form, within the date stipulated by the MATSEC Board, and must be endorsed by the Head of the candidate's school and supported by appropriate medical or other professional evidence issued within the period/periods specified in the Guidelines to MATSEC Examinations Access Arrangements - 2011 published by the Access - Disability Support Committee and approved by the Senate.

Coursework.

10. (1) All coursework is to be available at the candidates' schools for moderation by the Markers' Panel.

(2) The school assessments must reach the MATSEC Support Unit by the date specified by the MATSEC Board.

(3) Private candidates are required to submit their coursework as established by the MATSEC Board, with a dated endorsement showing where it was carried out, by the date specified by the MATSEC Board.

(4) Candidates may be called for an interview relating to their coursework.

(5) Coursework assessment marks may also be retained for subsequent sessions of the Examination for a period of up to five

years, but the candidates may, at their option, present new or revised coursework.

11. Oral/aural examinations shall be held in both the First and the Second Sessions of the Examination.

Oral/Aural
Components of the
Examination.

12. (1) Candidates are expected to bear in mind the necessity for good expression and orderly presentation in their examination answers.

Examination Work.

(2) All work submitted in connection with the Examination, including written work and coursework, shall remain the property of the MATSEC Board, but may be returned to the candidates at the discretion of the MATSEC Board.

13. Each Advanced and Intermediate Matriculation examination has its own particular structure.

Structure of
Examination
Papers.

14. (1) No texts or dictionaries are permitted in the examination room unless specifically indicated in the syllabus.

Examination
Materials.

(2) The use of non-programmable electronic calculators is permitted in Mathematics, science subjects, and related subjects, unless indicated otherwise in the syllabus.

(3) A booklet with mathematical formulae shall be supplied by the MATSEC Board where appropriate.

15. (1) In terms of the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Certificate Examinations Regulations, candidates who are not satisfied with the grade awarded to them in any of the subjects for which they sat, may request a revision of their examination scripts, within the period specified by the MATSEC Board and against a fee as determined by the University.

Revision of
Examination
Scripts.
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(2) The revised result shall be final.

16. Candidates are required to answer in the language the questions are set, unless otherwise specified in the examination paper.

Language of
Examination.

17. (1) Candidates shall not be allowed into an examination room after the first half hour of the examination, and they shall not be allowed to leave the examination room, temporarily or permanently, during the first half hour and during the last quarter of an hour of an examination.

Conduct during the
Examination.

(2) Mobile phones, books, note-books, and any other unauthorized aids to the examination (including electronic aids) must be left outside the examination room or delivered to the invigilator before the examination questions are distributed.

(3) Candidates shall be provided with one or more examination booklets, which must be filled in accordance with the directions printed on the cover of the booklet. No part of an examination booklet may be torn off, and no examination booklet or part thereof may be taken outside the examination room.

(4) When an index number is used, candidates must not write

their name on any part of the examination booklet or make any mark thereon calculated to disclose their identity to a marker.

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(5) Candidates caught cheating, or attempting to cheat, during an examination or in any way caught taking, or attempting to take, an unfair advantage over other candidates shall be subject to disciplinary procedures as established in the Conduct of the Matriculation and Secondary Certificate Examinations Regulations.
