



**COURSE GUIDELINES 2023**  
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE SIXTH FORM

**Please note that:**

- i. All courses are based on the MATSEC syllabus
- ii. General PE and Personal Awareness lessons (PAL) are compulsory components of the curriculum in the Sixth Form at De La Salle College
- iii. In order to apply for subjects at Advanced and at Intermediate level (except for Economics, Environmental Science, History, Marketing, Philosophy, Physical Education, Psychology, Religion and Sociology) applicants need to have a SEC/IGCSE pass in them. Applicants will be allowed to choose English at Advanced level only if they have a SEC/IGCSE pass in English Language and a SEC/IGCSE pass in English Literature. Applicants will be allowed to choose Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication only if they have a SEC pass in Graphical Communication.

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# ACCOUNTING

## Accounting is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

The dynamic business environment in our country and overseas has led to an increased awareness of and demand for accounting careers. Accounting provides information to businesses and their stakeholders to assist them in decision making. Businesses need to maintain adequate accounting records to produce both internal and external reports that help in assessing their financial health.

This study path is relevant not just for pursuing a profession in accountancy or auditing but also for careers in taxation, banking, consultancy, and insurance amongst others. Whether in the future the students will set up their own business or work in the private, public or voluntary sector, the time management, financial literacy and evaluative skills learned in this course will prove as a valuable asset. Students studying accounting can progress to a degree in a related field or go on to study for the professional qualifications of one of the major accounting bodies.

### Accounting at Advanced Level:

Accounting at this level is assessed through **two** papers of three hours each. Each paper carries 50% weight.

Paper I examines Financial Accounting topics:

- Depreciation and Disposal of Non-current Assets
- Sole Trader
- Manufacturing Accounts
- Types of errors and their correction
- Control Accounts
- Incomplete Records
- Clubs and Societies
- Company Accounting
- Interpretation of Accounts
- Statements of Cash Flow
- VAT

Paper II examines Cost and Management Accounting topics:

- The elements of cost:
  - Material
  - Labour
  - Overheads
- Job Costing
- Process Costing
- Marginal Costing and Break-Even Analysis
- Decision-Making
- Budgeting
- Standard Costing and Variance analysis
- Social Accounting



## Accounting at Intermediate Level:

Accounting at this level will be assessed through a three-hour paper. The Financial accounting topics covered include:

- Trial Balance
- Financial Statements of a Sole Trader
- Adjustments to Financial Statements
- Depreciation and Disposal of Non-Current Assets
- Types of error and their correction
- Control Accounts
- Incomplete Records
- Manufacturing Accounts
- Company Accounting
- Ratios and Interpretation of Financial Statements

The cost and management accounting topics include:

- The elements of cost:
  - *Material*
  - *Labour*
  - *Overheads*
- Budgeting
- Marginal Costing and Break-Even Analysis



# APPLIED MATHEMATICS (MECHANICS)

## Applied Mathematics (Mechanics) is offered at Intermediate Level

Applied Mathematics (Mechanics) is the study of the application of mathematical skills to the physical sciences.

It is recommended that Intermediate Applied Mathematics be taken in conjunction with Intermediate Pure Mathematics or Advanced Pure Mathematics.

Intermediate Applied Mathematics will enable students to develop resources to solve mathematical problems. Prospective students of engineering and architecture will find that the subject will provide good preparation for the first year of the course.

### Topics included in the subject are:

#### **Vectors:**

concept of vectors; addition, equality, multiplication and magnitude; Position vectors; Vector equation of a straight line.

#### **Statistics:**

Coplanar forces acting at a point; Friction limiting equilibrium, coefficient and angle of friction; Coplanar forces acting on a rigid body; Centre of mass.

#### **Kinematics in one Dimension:**

Displacement, velocity and acceleration of a particle moving in a straight line.

#### **General Dynamics:**

Newton's Law of Motion; Work, power, energy; Impulse - momentum principle; Motion in a plane; Simple problems on projectiles.



# ART

## Art is offered at Advanced and Intermediate Level

The Art Matsec syllabus is based on the curriculum principles outlined in The National Curriculum Framework for All (NCF) which was translated into law in 2012 and designed using the Learning Outcomes Framework that identifies what students should know and be able to achieve by the end of their compulsory education.

### Visual Arts:

The Art Department covers themes such as still-life, landscape, figure, design, printing, abstraction and digital projects. It may include the production of three-dimensional work, computer-generated images, and photographic large works (including installations). Various media are explored ranging from pencil, poster colour, oil colour, acrylic colour, watercolour, and pastels.

### History of Art:

The Art Department covers the art-historical period from Prehistoric to Modern and Contemporary. The course involves the apprehension of different styles and an in-depth analysis of the periods.

### List of Subject Foci (Advanced and Intermediate)

1. Aesthetic sensibility, visual awareness and analytical skills
2. Technical proficiency and application of diverse media
3. A critical and reflective approach to the understanding of own and other artists' works
4. A personal response through the process of research, development and creative practice
5. Knowledge and critical understanding of Art History and familiarity with its various contexts

## Art at Advanced Level

### List of Learning Outcomes

**LO 1.** Demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of art and design through effective compositions

**LO 2.** Evaluate my own work and that of other artists through a contextual and analytic understanding

**LO 3.** Confidently experiment with a range of conventional and new media, materials, processes, techniques and technologies

**LO 4.** Develop problem-solving skills through creative and critical thinking

**LO 5.** Creates a reflective journal to document and annotate ongoing work with a critical awareness of other practitioners, environments and cultures

**LO 6.** Respond to and interpret ideas from primary and secondary sources and personal experience throughout the creative process

**LO 7.** Identify, understand and analyse the dynamic and evolutionary nature of art and artists

**LO 8.** Communicate an awareness and appreciation of the cultural, historical and socio-political contexts of works of art

### Scheme of Assessment

The examination consists of Coursework and Controlled Task.

The assessment, set over a two-year course programme, consists of:



*Component 1 - Coursework: 20%:*

- Portfolio (10%),
- Visual Journal (10%)

*Component 2 - Controlled Task: 80%*

- Personal Study (20%) - The Personal Study is divided into:
  - a Project (15%)
  - an Essay (5%)
- The examination consists of 2 papers;
  - Paper I - History of Art - 3 hours (30%), which is divided into Section 1: Critical-Comparative Essay (15%), Section 2: Synoptic Essay (15%);
  - Paper II - Work from Observation - 3 hours (30%)

The duration of Paper I and Paper II is of three hours each.

## Art at Intermediate Level

### List of Learning Outcomes

**LO 1.** Demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of art and design through effective compositions

**LO 2.** Evaluate my own work and that of other artists through a contextual and analytic understanding

**LO 3.** Confidently experiment with a range of conventional and new media, materials, processes, techniques and technologies

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**LO 5.** Creates a reflective journal to document and annotate ongoing work with a critical awareness of other practitioners, environments and cultures

**LO 6.** Respond to and interpret ideas from primary and secondary sources and personal experience throughout the creative process

**LO 7.** Identify, understand and analyse the dynamic and evolutionary nature of art and artists

### Scheme of Assessment

The examination consists of Coursework and Controlled Task.

The assessment, set over a two-year course programme, consists of:

*Component 1 - Coursework: 20%:*

- Portfolio (10%)
- Visual Journal (10%)

*Component 2 - Controlled Task: 80%*

- Part I: Personal Study (20%)
- Part II: The examination consists of one 3-hour written and practical examination:
  - Section A - Work from Observation - 2 hours (30%)
  - Section B - History of Art - 1 hour (30%), which comprises 2 essays of a critical-analytical nature





# BIOLOGY

## Biology is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Biology is the science of life on Earth. The subject at Advanced level is investigated at several scales, ranging from the molecular, to the cellular, to the individual, to the population, to the community and to the ecosystem.

The rapid change in biological knowledge at the molecular level and its impact on our lives has brought a change in the way the subject is viewed and taught. More emphasis is placed on the relevance of biology to everyday life and to its application.

## Biology at Advanced Level

The Biology course at Advanced level aims to build on the concepts learnt and skills acquired at SEC level.

There is emphasis on the understanding of biological concepts and the recall of a large body of biological facts. There is a strong practical component which is assessed by means of a time-tabled exam at the end of the course.

Biology is recommended to committed learners who would later wish to pursue a career in the medical field, in biotechnology, and in environmental or Earth science. Moreover, the skills of logical thinking and problem-solving acquired throughout the course should equip students with abilities that are useful in any career path.

### Mode of Assessment

Summary of the whole examination assessment procedure

PAPER	TIME	%MARK
I	3 hr	100
II	3 hr	100
III	1.5 hr	50 (Written practical-based exam)
IV	1.5 hr	50 (Experiment exam (40) + Practical workbook (10))

Further details can be found in the Syllabi section on the University of Malta website.

Students are expected to study for approximately eight to ten hours a week. They are typically expected to present a practical write-up weekly, apart from written homework on core material being covered. Tests are held regularly at the end of each topic. A fieldwork session is typically held towards the end of first year.

## Biology at Intermediate Level

The Biology Intermediate Course tackles some of the topics which were studied at SEC/IGCSE Level but in greater depth.

### Assessment

The Matsec exam consists of a three-hour paper split into two sections. Section A is compulsory and consists of short answer questions. Section B offers a choice of two structured questions out of five. Both carry equal marks.



# CHEMISTRY

## Chemistry is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Sometimes referred to as the 'central science', chemistry helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics with applied sciences, such as biology, medicine and engineering. In fact chemistry is all around us and an understanding of the subject can help to answer many simple questions about everyday life.

### Chemistry at Advanced Level

The Chemistry A level course takes the student on a journey of discovery. The perception that chemistry is memory work and equations is far from the truth. Chemistry is much more exciting than that.

Following on from the topics already encountered at SEC level the student is presented with new concepts that are then applied to analyse and evaluate myriad situations in foundation, physical, inorganic and organic chemistry.

An in-depth and widely varying approach helps the student to appreciate that chemical substances have both positive and adverse effects on everyday living. This is accompanied and enhanced by regular interactive practical sessions in the laboratory.

Impact assessments on the environment, agriculture, air quality, the cosmetics industry, the design and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, materials used in engineering, to mention just a few, require knowledge of chemistry.

Chemistry A level is a requisite for entry into several courses at tertiary level e.g. courses in chemistry-based science, dentistry, medicine and surgery, pharmacy, as well as the paramedical courses.

Other faculties recommend knowledge of chemistry as an asset when following particular courses.

Further information as to grades required may be obtained from the respective course entry requirements.

It is to be noted that the Matsec syllabus for Chemistry A level requires that the student should have a sound background of Chemistry and Mathematics up to SEC / IGCSE Level.

The examination consists of two written papers and a practical paper. Both written papers carry 40% of the total score. The practical paper which is an open book examination carries 20% of the total score.

Students studying Advanced Level Chemistry are expected to study and practise regularly possibly on a daily basis. Written homework is given regularly while tests are usually held at the end of a topic.

### Chemistry at Intermediate Level

The Chemistry Intermediate course tackles some of the topics which were studied at SEC Level but in greater depth to provide a better understanding of the nature of chemicals and the forces that drive chemical change.



The examination consists of a three-hour paper which is split into 3 sections. Section A consists of short answer compulsory questions and carries 30 marks. Section B consists of compulsory structured questions and carries 30 marks, while in Section C candidates choose two out of four long questions. Section C carries 40 marks.



# COMPUTING

## Computing is offered at Advanced Level and at Intermediate Level

Computer Science is one of the backbones of modern society. Whether it's entertainment, studies, work, or advanced engineering, computing is always present.

In post-secondary education Computing opens a new gateway leading to countless opportunities in the students' future. The need for computing professionals is increasingly greater. With the advent of new Computing geared business, firms and software houses, computing professionals are always in great demand. Both nationally and internationally, Computer Science offers students a number of streams in which they can specialise.

Both levels include practical sessions in computer programming which complement the theoretical aspects of the subject. These are carried out in a modern lab having up to date computer systems.

### Computing at Advanced Level

It is essential for students to have a sound knowledge of basic programming skills which will be of help in practical sessions.

#### Scope:

(i) to understand the technical, theoretical and practical aspect of computing, (ii) to become conversant with modern programming languages principles, particularly with JAVA, which is the programming language that students will be studying (iii) to learn the concepts of setting up a computerised system within an organisation.

#### Content:

Programming, machine architecture, high & low level languages, number systems, data structures, sorting and searching algorithms, digital logic, databases, electronic media, translators, operating systems, systems analysis & design.

#### Method:

The course will consist of lessons covering the theoretical aspects as well as practical Java sessions. The second year will be dedicated to finishing off the rest of the syllabus and revision.

At this level, Computing students are highly urged to do their own research and studies to further their knowledge in the different areas of the subject. Students should be aware that Computing is the most dynamic subject they can take, making it very attractive and usable. The use of the Internet, in the form of on-line documentation and reference sources, is strongly recommended.

#### Assessment structure:

Paper1: 40% of the final score

Paper2: 30% of the final score

Paper3: Practical programming set of tasks using Java: 30% of the final score

The practical programming set of tasks will be held over a period of two years. The first two tasks of duration two hours each will take place in the first year of 6th Form and the third task of duration three hours will be held in the second year of studies.



## Computing at Intermediate Level

### Requirements:

A good knowledge of computing at SEC/IGCSE Level.

### Scope:

- (i) to understand the technical, theoretical and practical aspect of computing and,
- (ii) to become conversant with JAVA programming language.

### Content:

Programming, machine architecture, high & low level languages, number systems, data structures, sorting and searching algorithms, digital logic, databases, translators, operating systems, systems analysis & design.

### Method:

Practical sessions and a number of theoretical lectures will be dedicated to the project. The project assessment carries 20% of the final Matsec assessment mark.



# ECONOMICS

## Economics is offered at Advanced Level

Economics is a social science concerned with the production and consumption of goods and services and the analysis of the commercial activities of a society.

It is an interesting subject which requires constant reading of material related to economics and analysis of data. A sense of commitment and interest towards the subject makes this challenging course very rewarding for students.

The Advanced level course is divided into micro and macro economics. Micro economics deals with issues mainly related to the individual firm and industry. These include the theories of demand and supply, price determination, the theory of the firm and the distribution of factor income. Macro economics deals mainly with real-life challenges of the economy, such as price stability, full employment and economic growth. The role of the government in the supply of money and international trade are other topics covered in the macro section.

Good knowledge of the subject at SEC/IGCSE Level is an advantage even though the basics of the subject are taught. A good level of English is essential in order to master the skills of essay writing while analytical skills will be developed throughout the two-year course. Keeping track of local and international economic developments is a must.



# ENGINEERING DRAWING AND GRAPHICAL COMMUNICATION

## Engineering Drawing and Graphical Communication is offered at Intermediate Level

Today's lifestyle is becoming more complex and demanding. People are becoming more aware of the need to communicate more effectively, through a better understanding of technical knowledge.

The course aims to further the ability of students to communicate information by graphical means, and to develop an interest in engineering drawing and graphical communication. This will be achieved through:

- a. the ability to visualize and understand spatial relationships;
- b. the application of geometrical principles;
- c. the selection and use of appropriate graphical methods for communicating information, analyzing engineering problems and representing design concepts.



# ENGLISH

## English is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

A large number of students, aware of the importance of English as a means of communication, opt for this subject either at Intermediate or Advanced level. Whilst this may be regarded as a wise choice, it must be stressed that expectations by examiners are very high at both levels, hence prospective students of English should have a good mastery of the language and a disposition towards reading.

### English at Advanced Level

Students who intend studying English at Advanced level should have a good command of the English Language.

At the end of their two-year course students sit for three 3-hour long papers.

**Paper 1:** Students are expected to write two essays, one on the poetry text and the other on the Shakespeare play prescribed, as well as a critical analysis on an unseen poem.

**Paper 2:** Students are to write an essay on each of the two prose texts set as well as a critical analysis on an unseen prose extract.

**Paper 3:** Students are to write a general essay of not less than 500 words, answer a summary type question on a given extract and answer a question on the linguistics text set.

An oral component is also set.

### English at Intermediate Level

Seeing that the Literature component of the English Intermediate Level examination carries 30% of the total mark, it is recommended that students should have studied English Literature at SEC level.

The exam which students sit for at the end of their two-year course consists of an oral component as well as a 3-hour written component.

**The Oral component** carries 10 marks.

**The Written component** carries 90 marks and consists of three sections:

- **Section 1:** Writing (30 marks): In this section candidates are asked to produce a text of 450 (+/- 10%) words.
- **Section 2:** Reading and Language Awareness (30 marks): In this section candidates are expected to answer a number of questions on an expository text which will include questions on the grammar of the English language as well as on the communicative function of the given text. Candidates also need to evidence understanding of the (non-fiction) text at basic comprehension and inference levels, as well as be able to summarise an aspect of the text.
- **Section 3:** Literary Awareness (30 marks): In this section candidates are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the set short stories by either opting for a literature essay question or a passage-based question.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

## Environmental Science is offered at Intermediate Level

The Environmental Science syllabus consists of four major themes. Each theme includes a number of study units the content of which is sub-divided into a matrix of interrelated topics.

Synoptically the syllabus contains the following sections:

### **Part A**

#### **Basic Scientific Concepts:**

In this section basic scientific concepts are introduced at a level that will make it possible for candidates to understand and follow the subject content presented in this syllabus. These concepts are in fact the basic tools necessary for tackling the rest of the syllabus throughout the course. Basic physical, biological and chemical principles are included in this section.

### **Part B**

#### **The Physical Environment:**

This section includes all those topics which are directly or indirectly related to Earth sciences. This section exposes candidates to the fundamental properties and characteristics of the Lithosphere, the Hydrosphere, and the Atmosphere. The units in this section include the internal structure of the Earth, ocean dynamics, freshwater resources and global climate.

### **Part C**

#### **The Biosphere:**

This section includes knowledge and information about the ground rules which regulate life on Earth. Ecosystems, population dynamics and biological communities are extensively discussed in this section. Topics about the dynamics of human populations are also included here. Candidates are expected to become familiar with the basic processes that operate in all natural environments. By the end of this module candidates should be capable of applying facts and principles to resolve new situations found in nature with which they may be unfamiliar.

### **Part D**

#### **Human activities and the environment:**

This section deals with issues related to human impact on the environment and how the human activities have significantly altered the state of the natural environment and possibly some of the processes that sustain it. Units in this section are meant to help candidates develop awareness, knowledge and understanding of local and global environmental issues that are related to the impact of humankind on the environment and degradation and depletion of natural resources and utilization of land.

#### **Method of assessment:**

Three lessons a week are made available for this subject. The Matsec exam which students sit for consists of a three-hour paper split into two sections. Section A is compulsory and consists of short answer questions and carries 80 marks. In Section B candidates are to choose 2 questions out of 6 Students and this section carries 40 marks.

This is an ideal subject for those candidates who may or may not have a scientific background but who feel that a basic scientific knowledge about the environment we live in and the major problems we currently face is indispensable to fully understand the challenges faced by modern society to ensure the well-being of present as well as future generations.



# FRENCH

## French is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Besides having a good knowledge of French and studied it at SEC level the prospective student of French is expected to be enthusiastic about and interested in anything that pertains to France and its people, be it politics, sports, news, literature, history, geography etc. Information can be found on TV5, in newspapers and magazines and on the internet. A good foundation in grammar is very highly recommended.

All the lectures are delivered in French. Since other languages are rarely used, students are offered an ideal opportunity to really become familiar with and eventually fluent in this language.

### French at Advanced Level

Students are expected to show enthusiasm in learning, discussing and reading all types of literary texts and authors. The study of three literature books presents a new challenge as students acquire a knowledge of French authors as well as the civilization, spirit and mentality of various eras.

The six hours allotted each week are almost evenly divided into literature, comprehension, composition, analysis of set texts( in second year), grammar, dictation and oral. Students are encouraged to speak French as much as possible.

### French at Intermediate Level

In the two hours and twenty minutes weekly allotment at this level, students are expected to reach reasonable fluency in French as well as a good general knowledge of history, literature and culture.

In their first and second years students are expected to understand non-literary texts so as to increase their vocabulary and to improve the way to express ideas as well as various aspects of French culture and civilization. Over the two years a literary text and how to summarize a non-literary text are tackled.

Additional lectures in grammar, composition, reading and conversation are also offered.



# GERMAN

## German is offered at Intermediate Level

German is the main language of about 100 million people in Europe, with Germany being the largest EU country (population-wise) that boasts the best and the strongest European economy. German is the second most spoken language in Europe after Russian. Therefore it is safe to say that learning German opens doors.

German at Intermediate Level is an asset for those students who aspire to a working experience in any of the four German-speaking countries in Europe and for those students who would like to pursue their studies in Germany. German universities have a good network with universities all over the world including the University of Malta, and scholarships are frequently made available to all Maltese university students, who have a working knowledge of German. Students from the medical, the pharmaceutical, the aviation and the engineering sectors will find many doors open to them in German-speaking countries in the course of their studies and career.

Prospective students of German at Intermediate Level should have studied the subject at SEC level and should have a love for the language and an interest in its people, cultures and traditions.

At this level, language use and understanding are consolidated by means of short reading and listening texts, including newspaper articles and current affairs. Students will also acquire general information about the German-speaking countries, with a particular focus on Germany, its regions, traditions and culture. Students will get to know about famous German-speaking people as well.

Lessons will be based on the four principal language learning skills, namely: reading, writing, listening and speaking, with special emphasis on verbal and written communication. With regard to grammar, there is no new grammar to be covered at this level, since this was already covered in the SEC syllabus. There is also no literature component at Intermediate Level.

The Intermediate German exam is made up of an oral part (20% of the global mark), a listening comprehension (15% of the global mark) and a written paper (65% of the global mark).

The written paper consists of a 200-word composition (15 marks), a 100-word formal/semi-formal letter (15 marks), a reading comprehension exercise (25 marks), and a 10-mark exercise related to German culture and general knowledge about the German-speaking countries.



# HISTORY

## History is offered at Intermediate Level

Nowadays, there is an obvious trend in history teaching towards the use of primary source material. One interesting aspect of this course is the documentary work, where a number of documents relating to a key event or period, will be analyzed. This will help students develop their own ideas and opinions about events that have shaped the course of history.

This course is ideal for students who want to pursue a career in law, politics, diplomacy, architecture, education, art, military, journalism, sociology, etc. History is not just dates, figures or facts only, but it is the study of our past to understand our future. It is, after all, the evidence of what we are today.

In this course which covers the period from 1789 – 1919, students will be encouraged to look at and analyze various issues from the political, social, economic and diplomatic spheres in International and Maltese History between 1789 and 1919. The aim is to understand the most important concepts which were held during this time and the disagreements which they produced. At the end of the course students will sit for a three hour paper.

Students who take this subject are expected to devote a minimum of two hours of individual research work per week with regard to the topics being tackled.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## Information Technology is offered at Intermediate Level

The aim of this subject is to prepare students to understand the practical aspects of computing and to become aware of the organisational environment in which it has to operate. In particular, it aims to prepare students to:

- Acquire a basic knowledge of computer hardware and software;
- Become familiar with the functions of Information Systems;
- Understand how computers are integrated into an organisation;
- Learn how information is managed within organisation;
- Develop basic communication and business skills required in computing.

The course consists of three major modules:

### 1: Computing Principles

**Aim:** To show how ICT is affecting various spheres of modern society and to give a broad foundation of basic computing/data processing knowledge and skills. Students are expected to become familiar with the various types of software categories and their capabilities.

### 2: Human communication and Business Organisation

#### **Aim:**

Human Communication to provide students with the necessary written and verbal communication skills to enable them to relate to others on computing and non-computing matters.

Business Organisation to give the student an understanding of the information needs of organisations, the various types of organisation and the principal functional areas within organisations.

### 3: Exercises

#### **Aim:**

To give students the opportunity to put into practice concepts learnt during the course.

### Assessment Procedure

Modules one and two are assessed on the basis of one written examination paper at the end of the two-year course.

Module three is assessed on the basis of a set of three school based exercises (Web-design, Database and Business/Human Communications) carried out by the candidate during the course of study, monitored and assessed by the tutor and moderated by the markers' panel.



# ITALIAN

## Italian is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate level

Italian may be regarded by some as a soft option. This is a mistaken preconceived view and students should not assume that they will do well in their examinations unless they have a good command of the language gained from consistent reading habits in the language and regular online reading of Italian newspapers or watching Italian programmes on television.

Understanding Italian does not equate with having the potential to do well in examinations in this subject. A thorough knowledge of grammar at this level is expected. Expressing the most interesting ideas imaginable in a language riddled with grammatical mistakes will not score any points.

Those studying Italian are also expected to have a good level of critical analysis and some basic knowledge of current Italian political, social and economic affairs. Please note that knowledge of Italian can be an important asset for the Law course at University.

## Italian at Advanced Level

After the two year course A level students will have to sit for four exam papers.

### Paper 1:

- Oral
- Dictation: A text of 150-200 words will be read three times.
- Listening Comprehension: A text of approximately 450-500 words will be read three times to the students who can take notes during the listening phase. Candidates will then have to answer to a set of questions on the text.
- Topic presentation: Cinema: Candidates will select an Italian film from a list provided. During an oral examination, candidates should outline in a concise and lucid fashion the main themes of the film they have chosen.
- Interactive conversation: Candidates' verbal communication skills may be tested by such stimuli as a text for reading and comment and/or pictures for description and discussion.

### Paper 2:

- Essay on a general topic
- Language Exercises.

### Paper 3:

- A précis of about 200 words on a set text of approximately 600 words.
- A reading comprehension test. The text will contain approximately 600-700 words

### Paper 4:

- This paper consists of two sections and candidates must answer two questions out of three from section A (dall'Antologia di Letteratura) and one question from section B (il romanzo).

## Italian at Intermediate Level

Besides taking an oral exam, students will have to sit for one written exam paper.

### Paper 1:

- Oral
- Listening Comprehension: a text of approximately 400 words will be read three times to the



candidates. Candidates will then have to answer to a set of questions on the text.

- Conversation: The candidates' verbal communication skills may be tested by such stimuli as a text for reading and comment and/or pictures for description and discussion.
- Topic Presentation: Candidates will select a topic of their choice, (from a list provided), related to Italian Culture and Civilisation and present it during the oral test in about 10 minutes.

**Paper 2:**

- Written
- Comprehension Test. The exercise will contain two texts for comprehension of approximately 300-350 words each.
- Essay on general aspects of life in Italy and Malta.
- Literature: Students will have to answer one question on a set text.



# IL-MALTI

## Il-Malti huwa offrut fil-livell Avvanzat u fil-livell Intermedju

L-għan ewlieni ta' kull kors, barra li jhejji lill-istudenti għall-eżamijiet tal-MATSEC, hu dak li jwassalhom biex isiru aktar konxji tal-ilsien nattiv tagħhom, u anki ta' ċerti aspetti tal-letteratura Maltija. Jigifieri l-istudenti, waqt li jistudjaw l-ilsien nattiv tagħhom, jagħrfu jgħixuh aktar filwaqt li jakkwistaw il-ħiliet meħtieġa, permezz tas-sugġett, għall-edukazzjoni tul il-ħajja. L-istudenti jaqraw u jiddiskutu numru ta' testi letterarji li jqarrbuhom ftit iktar lejn il-poeżija u n-narrattiva Malija.

## Il-Malti fil-Livell Avvanzat

Dan il-kors ihejji lill-istudenti b'ħiliet u b'għarfien għall-eżami tal-Malti fil-livell Avvanzat tal-MATSEC. Matul dan il-kors, barra l-lezzjonijiet li fihom l-istudenti jridu juru l-ħila ta' parteċipazzjoni u koperazzjoni bejniethom, jistgħu jsiru preżentazzjonijiet mill-istudenti dwar aspetti varji marbuta mas-sillabu. L-istudenti jiġu mhejjija għal tliet karti tal-eżami:

- L-ewwel karta ta' tliet sigħat (IL-KARTA TAL-LINGWA: il-komponent tal-kitba argumentattiva, il-komponent tal-qari u l-fehim u l-komponent tal-lingwistika);
- It-tieni karta ta' tliet sigħat (IL-KARTA TAL-LETTERATURA A: il-kitba tal-komponent dwar poeżiji ta' Oliver Friggieri, il-kitba tal-komponent dwar il-poeżiji ta' Simone Galea u l-analiżi kritika ta' poeżija jew ta' silta narrattiva fittizja);
- It-tielet karta ta' tliet sigħat (IL-KARTA TAL-LETTERATURA B: il-kitba tal-komponent dwar ir-rumanz *Ħelsien ta' Ġuże` Bonnici*, il-kitba tal-komponent dwar in-novelli ta' Trevor Zahra u l-kitba tal-komponent dwar id-dramm *Karnival ta' Francis Ebejer*).
- Se jkun hemm ukoll ħin allokat biex l-istudenti jkunu mhejjija għat-taqsimha tal-orali.

Il-kors jgħin biex l-istudenti jtejbu aspetti ferm importanti dwar l-ilsien nattiv tagħhom: l-idjoma, is-sintassi u l-ortografija.

## Il-Malti fil-Livell Intermedju

Il-kors fil-livell intermedju jwassal lill-istudenti biex jagħmlu l-eżami tal-Malti tal-MATSEC. Tingħata karta WAHDA biss għall-eżami tal-kitba (tliet sigħat) li fiha l-istudenti jridu juru l-ħila tagħhom fil-qari ta' silta flimkien mal-fehim, l-għarfien, l-analiżi u l-applikazzjoni tagħha, il-komponent lingwistiku, il-komponent letterarju dwar il-Poeżija u l-komponent letterarju dwar in-Narrattiva. Flimkien ma' dan l-istudenti jiġu mħarrġa dwar kif għandhom jittrattaw l-eżami tal-orali.

F'dan il-kors ukoll tingħata attenzjoni partikolari lill-ortografija, lill-idjoma u lis-sintassi. Barra l-lezzjonijiet, li fihom l-istudenti huma mistennija li jipparteċipaw bis-sħiħ, l-istudenti jistgħu jiġu mitluba jagħmlu xi proġetti jew preżentazzjonijiet marbuta ma' temi diversi li jinsabu fis-sillabu.





# MARKETING

## Marketing is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Marketing, more than any other business function, involves dealing with customers. Understanding, creating, communicating and delivering customer value and satisfaction are at the very heart of modern thinking and practice.

“Marketing is the delivery of customer satisfaction at a profit.”

The twofold goal of marketing is to attract new customers by promising superior value and to keep current customers by delivering satisfaction.

Marketing is an interesting subject which can be related to real-life situations. However, constant reading of marketing material is a must. A sense of commitment towards and interest in the subject make this challenging course highly rewarding for students. A good level of English is essential in order to master the skills of essay writing.

## Marketing at Advanced Level

Students are expected to grasp the major philosophies of marketing thinking and practice and strategies of today’s marketing and to discuss some of the major new challenges that marketers face throughout the years. Students are required to relate these theories both to the current local scene as well as to markets overseas. The Matsec Examination consists of two Papers of three hours each, each paper subdivided into two sections.

## Marketing at Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level students are introduced to the basic concepts of Marketing. They are required to relate marketing principles to both the current Maltese situation as well as markets overseas. The Matsec Examination consists of a three-hour paper subdivided into two sections.



# PHILOSOPHY

## Philosophy is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Since the time of the ancient Greeks, philosophy has developed into a discipline which asks fundamental questions about all areas of human activity, while seeking to offer plausible answers to such questions. Past philosophers lived in particular historical and cultural circumstances, but their questions and answers have inspired many views of how human beings understand, interpret and change themselves and the reality around them.

### Philosophy at Advanced Level

At Advanced Level, Philosophy introduces students to some of its core areas, including, the study of being and reality (metaphysics) and various theories of knowledge (epistemology), among others. It invites them to explore how philosophy relates to and complements other subjects such as Sciences, Languages, Psychology, Sociology, History, Art and Literature, Law and Politics, Religion, Computing, Marketing and Communications. Through the presentation of historical, theoretical and practical considerations, this syllabus is designed to illustrate how the contribution of philosophy lies within these different realities. Studying Philosophy strengthens the development of a deeper, critical reflection on practical issues in everyday life.

#### Aims and Objectives

The Assessment consists of two written papers of three hours each. Each paper carries 50% of the total mark.

**Paper 1:** This paper is divided into two sections. Section A covers Module 1 (Logic and Reasoning) of the syllabus and carries 30% of the marks for this paper. Candidates will answer three out of four questions carrying equal marks. Section B covers Module 2 (Ethics and Society). Candidates will have to answer a compulsory question and another question from a choice of three. Each answer will be in essay form and carries 35% of the mark of this paper.

**Paper 2:** This paper is divided into two sections and covers all of Module 3 (Key Questions in European Thought). Section A will consist of one question and carries 30% of the marks for this paper. An extract paragraph (gobbet) taken from the selected extracts of this module will be given and candidates will answer one or more questions (short or long essay form) on it. Section B has five essay questions of which candidates will answer any two. Each question carries 35% of the marks for this paper.

### Philosophy at Intermediate Level

At Intermediate Level, Philosophy gives students the opportunity to develop constructive thinking skills. It invites them to explore how Philosophy relates to and complements other subjects such as the Sciences, Languages, Psychology, Sociology, History, Art and Literature, Law and Politics, Religion, Computing, Marketing and Communications. Through the presentation of historical, theoretical and practical considerations, this syllabus is designed to illustrate how the contribution of philosophy lies precisely in giving meaning to how people, as individual persons and societies, live these different realities. Studying Philosophy strengthens the development of a deeper, critical reflection on practical issues in everyday life.

#### Aims and Objectives

This paper is divided into two sections. Section A covers Module 1 (Logic and Reasoning) of the syllabus and carries 30% of the marks for this paper. Candidates will answer three out of four questions carrying equal marks. Section B covers Module 2 (Ethics and Society). Candidates



will have to answer a compulsory question and another question from a choice of three. Each answer will be in essay form and carries 35% of the mark of this paper

It is advisable that students who are taking Philosophy at Intermediate Level possess a good command of English since most of the essays have to be written in the English language.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Physical Education is offered at Intermediate Level

This syllabus provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the theoretical and practical aspects of physical education and sport, enabling candidates to know about, understand and analyse the major concepts and principles underlying sport and physical education.

### Aims

The aims of an intermediate course based on this syllabus, are

- To ensure that the candidate has acquired technical and tactical knowledge of a selection of sports, and the rules related to those games.
- To develop an understanding of human performance based on the study of the function and structure of the body.
- To develop an understanding of the physiological, socio-cultural and psychological factors which influence physical activity and sport.
- To foster an ability to relate theory and practice, through analysing concrete experiences.
- To acquire knowledge of the structure, roles and responsibilities of international and local organisations running sport.
- To provide an experience which is valuable both as a means of personal development and as a foundation for employment or more advanced study.
- To ensure that the candidate has achieved a required level of fitness.

### Content

The syllabus consists of five modules:

Module 1	Techniques, tactics and Rules in Team Games
Module 2	Anatomy and Physiology
Module 3	Acquiring Movement Skills
Module 4	Socio-cultural Studies and the Role and the Structure of International and Local Sport Organisations
Module 5	Fitness tests

The examination will consist of one exam paper (80%) and a practical component (20%). The theory will be assessed by means of a written examination paper of two hours. The practical component will be assessed by means of a practical examination (30 minutes).

Module 1 is assessed by means of a video analysis that is part of the written paper (Section A). Modules 2, 3 and 4 are assessed on the basis of a written examination paper (Sections B, C and D). Module 5 is assessed through a practical examination.

**Section A** (Techniques, tactics and Rules in Team Games): the examination board will issue 5 questions including at least one from each area of techniques, tactics and rules. Candidates are to answer all questions.

**Section B** (Anatomy and Physiology): Candidates are to answer all questions.

**Section C** (Acquiring Movement Skills): Candidates are to answer all questions.

**Section D** (Socio-cultural Studies and the Role; Structure of International and Local Sport Organisations): Candidates are to answer two out of three questions.



# PHYSICS

## Physics is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Physics is a major natural science that deals with matter and energy as well as the interactions between the two. It must be stressed that Physics is not simply a set of unrelated facts and equations which must be memorised. Every quantity defined and described in Physics must be seen in relation to other quantities. Furthermore, one must try to visualise situations relevant to that particular quantity being described.

As with most science subjects, the budding physicist must have that spirit of curiosity and thirst for knowledge. In addition, one must acquire a sense of vision – to bring a concept described in a book, or by the lecturer, to life in one's mind.

Having studied the subject at SEC (Paper 2 A syllabus) is important for building upon at both Advanced and Intermediate level. However, good marks at SEC level can sometimes be obtained through rote learning of problem-solving patterns. At both Advanced and Intermediate level, more often than not, there are no ready-made strategies to tackling problems. Based on all that is learnt, students will be required to think and come up with good strategies to tackling a wide variety of problems. Hence, a deep understanding of the concepts involved is essential.

### Physics at Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course is understandably wider, both in breadth as well as in depth. Not only must the A Level student understand the principles of the subject well but must be able to apply those principles to a wide range of situations, many times to ones which have never been encountered before. This requires skill, and just like any other skill it can only be honed through practice. Students will need to commit several hours a week to practise solving problems, be it as part of classwork or homework given by the teacher, or otherwise. Over and above what is asked of students by the teacher, at this level it is expected that students are able to reflect on their abilities in the subject and decide for themselves if and when they need to take up the initiative and better their problem-solving skills without anyone asking them to.

Laboratory work is also an appreciable part of this course. Through laboratory work, at the end of the course, students should be able to both follow instructions to conduct an experiment and translate them into practical skills, all this whilst linking the theory discussed in class to observations and results obtained from the experiment.

### Physics at Intermediate Level

Most of the areas of the subject already covered at SEC Level are pursued in slightly greater detail so that the student may understand the principles of the subject as thoroughly as possible. There are also a few new topics to make the subject a little more interesting at this level.

Intermediate Physics coursework consists of both theory and problems involving mathematical skills. It is a must that students master the following skills which lie within the problem-solving skills throughout the entire syllabus: changing the subject of the formula, simultaneous equations, conversion of units, basic trigonometry and geometry and plotting and analysis of graphs.

Due to the vast syllabus, the material is covered at a fast pace, so the students are required to commit themselves to having homework to do once a week so that they can follow the course smoothly.



# PSYCHOLOGY

## Psychology is offered at Intermediate Level

Psychology is best described as the scientific study of people. It observes the various ways how individuals think and act in specific situations, and attempts to establish a reliable explanation as to why they do so. Psychology today is professionally applied in various fields such as health, law and management, education, family and sport, among many others.

At Intermediate level, psychology introduces students to its major approaches, research methods, and areas of interest as outlined in the syllabus below. This programme will make psychology accessible to those who are interested in this area of study. It can be a preparation for the undergraduate study of Psychology or complement other fields of study by offering a depth perspective of human behaviour. It is also an opportunity for students to gain insight and reflect upon their own behaviour and that of others.

### **Assessment method:**

The Assessment consists of a three-hour written paper, divided into two sections. Section A covers modules 1 and 2 from the syllabus, and carries 40% of the mark. Section B tackles the other three Modules and carries 60% of the mark. In both sections, students will be required to answer a compulsory question together with another question from a given choice of two questions. In section A the compulsory question covers module 1 and in section B it will be a case study with a number of short questions. Each question in section A is allotted 20 marks, and each question in section B is allotted 30 marks.

### **Syllabus structure:**

Module 1: What is psychology?

Module 2: Major approaches in psychology;

Module 3: Development and observation of the human behaviour: reflexivity and the process of awareness;

Module 4: Psychopathology;

Module 5: Themes in psychology: stress, aggression and gender.

Students taking this subject should note that although the subject is extremely interesting and relevant to many aspects of life, it is challenging and extensive nonetheless and therefore they should be prepared to devote a good amount of study time, at least a minimum of 1hr 30mins every week.



# PURE MATHEMATICS

## Pure Mathematics is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate level

The principal aims of both syllabi are to create a setup which is flexible enough to accommodate possible future introduction of newer mathematical topics and to prepare students for further studies in various related subjects such as Business and Management, Economics, Statistics, Computing, Physics, and obviously Mathematics itself.

### Pure Mathematics at Advanced Level

The main fields of study at A-Level are:

- Algebraic topics (roots of quadratics, quadratic inequalities, simple binomial expansions, partial fractions, remainder theorem, indices, surds and logarithms)
- Functions
- Trigonometry
- Calculus (differentiation and integration including applications)
- Vectors and coordinate geometry (2D and 3D)
- Matrices
- Differential equations
- Series
- Complex numbers
- Proof by induction
- Principles of counting (permutations and combinations) and probability
- Approximations (numerical methods)
- Curve sketching
- Polar curves

The depth and width of each area is as defined in the MATSEC A-Level syllabus. The first year covers most of the material in Paper 1 of the exam and also serves as a foundation for other topics.

#### Recommendations:

Students who choose Pure Mathematics at A-Level should have a very good knowledge of the topics studied for SEC at Paper 2A Level, particularly algebra.

Due to the vast syllabus covered at this level, students must be prepared to revise class explanations and work out a substantial amount of homework on a daily basis. Students will be expected to dedicate approximately seven hours per week for homework and study.

### Pure Mathematics at Intermediate Level

The syllabus will cover logarithms, surds, partial fractions, various functions, inequalities, series, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, probability, differentiation, integration and matrices.



# RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

## Religious Knowledge is offered at Intermediate Level

The Intermediate Level Religious Knowledge course examines the Catholic Tradition in a comprehensive way by developing the knowledge and understanding of the basic beliefs and the core practices of Catholic Christianity.

**The course consists of four main sections:**

- 1. Profession of Faith**  
The Creed, the human search for God and our response through faith.
- 2. The Celebration of the Christian Mystery**  
Christian worship through the liturgy and the sacraments.
- 3. Christian Morality**  
Christian living, morality and ethics.
- 4. Christian Prayer**  
Forms and expressions of prayer.

The examination consists of a three hour paper divided into two Sections. The compulsory 10 questions in Section A require answers in paragraph form. These direct questions cover all areas of the syllabus and carry 4 marks each. Section A thus has a weighting of 40% of the total mark.

Section B consists of five questions from which students are to choose three. Each question carries 20 marks and is to be answered in detailed essay form. Section B thus has a weighting of 60% of the total mark.





# SOCIOLOGY

## Sociology is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

Have you ever wondered why we dress baby girls in pink and baby boys in blue, why terrorist groups like Isis exist, why is it that young people are marrying less, why more women are working now as opposed to a couple of generations ago?

Sociology attempts to find answers to such questions about people's behaviour. In sociology we see how people's behaviour affects one another. Much of people's behaviour is a result of what other people do. Through sociology you will better understand human behaviour, and why is it that people do the things they do. You will be able to observe and discuss society from a different standpoint.

Sociology aims to understand the ways in which people seek to organise their lives together; the restrictions people face in doing so; how and why people tend to behave in similar ways, and above all, what makes societies stable or unstable. Studying sociology will strengthen your ability to understand how the social world operates and what your place is in it.

Those students sitting for Sociology at Advanced Level will sit for three papers whilst those studying the subject at Intermediate level will sit for one paper. The topics which will be discussed in the two years vary and range from: culture; what it means to be a man and a woman in today's society; how our identities are related to gender and ethnicity; disability; how one's family of origin may influence one's life course; and the impact of religion on society. Students will also become more aware of issues in society and how they are being addressed. These include crime, poverty, and racism.

Choose sociology if you're up for a challenge, if you like discussing issues and events or if you are just curious. Once in, the world will seem a different place.



# SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE

## Systems of Knowledge is a Compulsory Subject

Systems of Knowledge at Intermediate Level is an interdisciplinary course designed to provide the student with a wider standpoint than that of a single discipline. The course explores a number of values in particular areas, within civic, cultural, historical, environmental and scientific perspectives.

The Systems of Knowledge course is divided into four modules.

1. Democratic Values and Responsible and Active Citizenship
2. Culture, Art and Aesthetic Values in Western Civilisation
3. The Environment and Sustainable Development
4. Scientific Values and Technology

### Systems of Knowledge Project

The emphasis of the project is to experience and reflect upon the values of:

- being an active, responsible citizen,
- participating in activities and/or creating artefacts that explore aesthetic value,
- being actively responsible towards the environment.

Students are expected to explore the role of scientific principles within these areas.

The final grade will be allocated in the following manner:

40%	Project
60%	Three-hour written paper

- A pass in the three-hour written exam paper is required for the candidate to obtain an overall pass (grade A to E)





## **COURSE GUIDELINES 2023**

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