



De La Salle College  
Sixth Form | MALTA

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# COURSE GUIDELINES

SCHOLASTIC YEAR 2025/2026



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# ACCOUNTING

## Accounting is offered at Advanced and at Intermediate Level

The global dynamic business environment has increased the demand for accounting careers. Accounting provides essential information to business stakeholders to assist them in decision making. Businesses need to maintain adequate accounting records to produce both internal and external reports that aid the 'business' financial health and ensure compliance to legal requirements.

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

## Accounting at Advanced Level

By the end of this course, students are expected to be knowledgeable in various International Accounting Standards. At the end of their two-year course students sit for two 3-hour long papers. Each paper carries 50% weight.

Paper I examines Financial Accounting topics including:

- Basic knowledge e.g. accruals and prepayments, accounting concepts, VAT, control accounts.
- Depreciation and Disposal of Non-current Assets
- Financial Statements of a Sole Trader
- Manufacturing Accounts
- Types of errors and their correction
- Incomplete Records
- Non-profit-making organisations
- Company Accounting
- Interpretation of Accounts
- Statement of Cash Flow

Paper II examines Cost and Management accounting topics:

- The cost elements of raw materials, labour and overheads
- Job Costing
- Process Costing
- Marginal Costing and Break-Even Analysis
- Decision-Making
- Budgeting
- Standard Costing and Variance analysis

## Accounting at Intermediate Level

The Matsec examination consists of a 3-hour paper. Some of the Financial accounting topics covered include:

- Financial Statements of a Sole Trader
- Depreciation and Disposal of Non-Current Assets
- Types of errors and their correction
- Incomplete Records
- Manufacturing Accounts
- Company Accounting
- Ratios and Interpretation of Financial Statements

The Cost and Management accounting topics include:

- The cost elements of raw materials, labour and overheads
- Marginal Costing and Break-Even Analysis
- Budgeting

# 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.

The Matsec examination consists of a 3-hour long paper.

### 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

### Scheme of Assessment

The Matsec 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 two 3-hour long 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%)

## 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
- 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

### Scheme of Assessment

The Matsec 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 a 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 Matsec 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 examination 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 Matsec 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 Matsec examination consists of a 3-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 Python, 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, algorithms and artificial intelligence, machine architecture and assembly, networks, number systems, data structures, digital logic, databases, translators, operating systems, systems analysis & design.

### Method:

The course will consist of lessons covering the theoretical aspects as well as practical Python 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 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:

This subject is assessed by means of two components: two written examination papers and a portfolio. The weight of each is as follows: Paper I 40%, Paper II Section A 15%, Section B 30%, Portfolio 15%. The practical programming portfolio will be developed over a period of two years.

## Computing at Intermediate Level

### Scope:

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

### Content:

Programming in Python, algorithms and artificial intelligence, machine architecture and assembly, digital logic, databases, operating systems, systems analysis & design, networks.

### Method:

This subject is assessed by means of two components: a written examination paper and a portfolio. The weight of each is as follows: examination paper Section A 15%, Section B 50%, Section C 20%, Portfolio 15%.

# ECONOMICS

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

Economics is a social science concerned with the production and consumption of goods and services and the analysis of the economic activities of a society. It is an interesting subject which requires regular 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.

### Economics at Advanced Level

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, market structures and labour. Macro-economics deals mainly with real-life challenges of the economy, such as price stability, full employment and economic growth. Topics covered in this section include the role of the government in the economy, money, monetary policy, international trade and national income accounting.

The subject is taught from the very basics, so previous knowledge of the subject, although helpful, is not necessary. A good level of English is essential 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.

The Matsec examination consists of two 3-hour papers and candidates must show competence in both. The first paper consists of twelve essay type questions spread equally over two sections. Section A includes six questions on micro-economics, while Section B includes six questions on macro-economics. Some questions may relate economic theory to applied economic problems. Candidates will answer four questions, with two questions from each of Section A and B.

The second paper consists of six questions spread over two sections. Questions in Section A test candidates' ability to interpret and evaluate the relationships observed from statistical series; questions in Section B test candidates' skills at understanding and interpreting economic situations emerging from economic reports and studies. Candidates are required to answer three questions at least one from Section A and one from Section B. Paper I carries 60% of the global marks and Paper II carries 40% of the global marks.

### Economics at Intermediate Level

The Intermediate level course includes most of the Advanced level topics but at a lower level of detail. The study is mainly focused on understanding basic concepts related to economics and thus a background of economics, though helpful, is not essential.

The Matsec examination consists of a 3-hour paper, divided into three sections. Section A will consist of a compulsory case study carrying 20% of the total marks. The case study may cover any topic from the syllabus with the aim of assessing how students can apply the theoretical basics of the subject to a real-life scenario. Section B carries 40% of the total marks and covers micro-economic concepts. It consists of four questions from which candidates answer two. Section C carries the remaining 40% of the total marks and is based on macro-economic concepts. Students answer two of the four questions in this section.

# 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, analysing engineering problems and representing design concepts.

The Matsec examination consists of a one 3-hour paper.

# 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.

The Matsec examination consists of three 3-hour 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 Matsec examination 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 is designed to enable an understanding of the environment from a scientific and socio-economic perspective. It aims to equip candidates with the basic scientific background necessary for a more objective and holistic evaluation of environmental issues and explore alternative strategies for their resolution. These environmental issues are grouped into six subject foci.

### Subject Foci:

1. The atmosphere and air pollution
2. The hydrosphere and water pollution
3. Biodiversity
4. Population dynamics and human populations
5. Earth and management of its resources
6. Climate change

This course assumes only a limited prior knowledge of science.

### Career Options:

Besides providing candidates with essential environmental literacy, this syllabus should also be viewed as a fundamental stepping-stone for those who, later on, may wish to follow tertiary education degree programmes and/or explore career possibilities directly or indirectly related to the environment sector.

### Method of Assessment:

Three lessons a week are made available for this subject. The Matsec examination consists of a 3-hour paper split into two sections. Section A is compulsory and consists of short answer questions. It carries 80 marks. In section B candidates are to choose two questions out of 6 and it carries 40 marks.

# 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.

The Matsec examination consists of three written papers as well as an oral component.

### 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.

The Matsec examination consists of a 3-hour written paper as well as an oral component.

# 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 and/or Austria. 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 during 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, traditions and current affairs.

At Intermediate 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 Germany, its regions, traditions, economy, recent history and culture.

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 regards 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 Matsec Intermediate German examination consists of an oral component (20% of the global mark), a listening comprehension (20% of the global mark) and a written paper (60% of the global mark). The written paper consists of a 150-word composition (10 marks), a 100-word formal/semi-formal letter/email (10 marks), a reading comprehension exercise (25 marks), and a 15-mark exercise related to the culture, geography and modern history of Germany.

# 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 analysed. 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 analyse 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. The Matsec examination consists of a one 3-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 area of Information Technology (IT) is a very actual, pervasive, and critical area of study that is impossible to avoid in the context of modern business and other processes. This course is meant to prepare candidates for applicative business-related and computer information-related courses as well as preparing candidates for work in industry in the information management fields.

The contents of the course include insights into the role and types of information systems in organisations as well as the techniques, technologies, and strategies used in supporting modern organisations and their processes. In this respect, this course aims to equip candidates with an appreciation, and understanding, to implement solutions that satisfy industry requirements. Candidates will also be provided with practical hands-on skills through their participation in projects involving web design.

### **Subject Foci:**

1. Information Systems
2. ICT in Organisations
3. Software

### **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the programme, students will be able to:

LO 1. understand the various parts of a computing system in terms of hardware and Information Systems (IS) in organisations and the types of IS.

LO 2. understand the different types of technologies, the systems used in organisations, and the different organisational structures.

LO 3. understand software (system, online and application), and the use and modelling of data.

### **Scheme of Assessment:**

At Matsec, Information Technology is assessed by means of TWO components:

#### **i) Written Paper:**

- One 3 hour written paper assessing Subject foci 1, 2, and 3. This has a weighting of 80%.

#### **ii) Coursework:**

- The coursework is assessed through ONE assignment carried out by the candidate during the course of study, monitored and assessed by the tutor and moderated by the Markers' panel.
- ONE compulsory assignment will be set during the course. This assignment deals with Web Design and has a weighting of 20%.

# 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

The Matsec examination consists of 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

At Matsec, Italian at intermediate level is assessed as follows:

### **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 għixuh aktar filwaqt li jakkwistaw il-hiliet 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'hiliet 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-hila 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 siġhat (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 siġhat (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 siġhat (IL-KARTA TAL-LETTERATURA B: il-kitba tal-komponent dwar ir-rumanz Helsien 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 jtejbaw 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 siġhat) li fiha l-istudenti jridu juru l-hila 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 jitrattaw 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-siġħ, 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 3 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 3-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 Matsec examination consists of two 3-hour papers. 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

The Matsec examination consists of a one 3-hour paper 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 studying 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 Matsec examination consists of a one 2-hour written paper (80%) which assesses theory and a 30-minute practical component (20%).

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 explores matter, energy, and their interactions. It is not a collection of isolated facts and formulas to memorize; rather, it is a coherent framework where every concept relates to others. Students are encouraged to visualize the physical situations behind each quantity or phenomenon described.

Success in Physics requires curiosity, a thirst for understanding, and the ability to bring concepts to life in the mind. It's not enough to read or listen — students must actively engage with ideas and apply them creatively.

A solid foundation at SEC Level is essential for further study at both Intermediate and Advanced levels. However, it is important to note that success at SEC Level sometimes relies heavily on rote learning. At higher levels, this approach is not enough. Students will need to think critically, develop their own strategies, and deeply understand the principles to solve a wide variety of problems.

### Physics at Advanced Level

The Advanced Level course covers a broader and deeper range of topics. Students must not only understand the fundamental principles but also apply them to unfamiliar situations. This demands the development of strong problem-solving skills, which can only be built through regular practice.

Students are expected to dedicate several hours each week to solving problems, whether as classwork, homework, or self-initiated practice. Independent reflection on one's skills and proactive improvement are key expectations at this level.

Laboratory work forms an important part of the course. By the end of the course, students should be able to follow experimental procedures accurately, develop practical skills, and connect theoretical knowledge with real-world observations and results.

The Matsec examination consists of two 3-hour written papers focused mainly on applying theoretical concepts to situations presented in question format. In addition, students must sit a 2-hour practical exam, where they use skills developed during school practical sessions to follow instructions, take measurements, manipulate equations, sketch graphs, and draw conclusions based on the given tasks.

### Physics at Intermediate Level

Most of the areas of the subject already covered at SEC Level are pursued in 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.

The Matsec examination consists of a one 3-hour examination paper.

# PSYCHOLOGY

## Psychology is offered at Intermediate Level

The Psychology syllabus (as from May 2027) offers an engaging and accessible introduction to the study of the human mind and behaviour, tailored for students eager to explore what shapes our thoughts, emotions, and actions.

The course covers a wide range of thought-provoking topics, including memory, childhood development, social influence, emotional intelligence, and the psychology of learning. Students will examine how we grow and relate to others, what influences our choices, and how we respond to challenges in everyday life.

Grounded in real-life applications, the syllabus encourages students to connect psychological theory to the world around them—be it in education, media, relationships, or mental well-being. From understanding how habits are formed to exploring what fosters empathy and resilience, students will find the subject both relevant and inspiring.

In addition to acquiring a foundational understanding of key psychological concepts and research, learners will be guided to think critically, question assumptions, and reflect thoughtfully on human behaviour. These are essential skills that support personal growth and provide a strong base for future academic or professional pathways.

Whether students intend to pursue psychology further or simply wish to gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others, this course offers a valuable and enriching learning experience.

The Matsec examination consists of a one 3-hour paper.

# 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:

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.

The Matsec examination consists of two 3-hour papers.

### 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.

The Matsec examination consists of one 3-hour paper.

# 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 Matsec examination consists of a 3-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 baby girls are often dressed in pink and baby boys in blue? Why groups like ISIS emerge? Why fewer young people are getting married? Or why more women are in the workforce today than in previous generations?

Sociology explores these kinds of questions by examining how people behave, interact, and influence one another. It helps us understand how individual actions are shaped by society—and how society itself is shaped by those actions. Through sociology, you'll start to see the world from new perspectives and gain insight into the social forces that shape human behaviour.

The course introduces key sociological concepts such as culture, identity, gender, ethnicity, disability, family, and religion. You'll explore how these factors affect people's lives and contribute to the stability—or instability—of society. You'll also engage with contemporary issues like poverty, crime, and racism, and consider how societies attempt to address these challenges.

Studying sociology will help you build critical thinking skills, challenge assumptions, and better understand your role in the social world. Whether taken at Advanced or Intermediate level, the subject encourages discussion, reflection, and deeper awareness of how societies work and change.

## Sociology at Advanced Level

Sociology explores the complexity of human societies, focusing on how people interact within social structures and cultural contexts. This course encourages students to analyse the forces that shape human behaviour and contribute to societal development. Students taking Sociology at Advanced Level will sit for two exam papers of three hours each.

### Key Areas of Study:

- Culture, Identity and Socialisation – How cultural norms and values shape personal and group identities.
- Families and Intimate Relationships – The structure and dynamics of family life and personal relationships.
- Poverty, Social Exclusion and Welfare – The causes and impact of inequality and the role of welfare systems.
- Environment – How societies interact with the natural world, including sustainability and global challenges.
- Crime and Deviance – Why certain behaviours are labelled deviant, and how societies respond to crime.
- Information Society – The influence of technology and media on communication, identity, and power.
- Religion – The role and influence of religion in contemporary society and its relationship with other institutions.
- Race, Ethnicity and Migration – Issues around diversity, integration, identity, and social justice.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy discussion, critical thinking, and examining the deeper structures behind everyday life. It offers tools to understand and analyse the changes shaping modern society.

## Sociology at Intermediate Level

Curious about how society shapes who we are and how we live? Sociology helps you make sense of the world by exploring how people interact, form relationships, and respond to change.

The Matsec consists of a one 3-hour paper.

### Key Areas of Study:

- Culture, Identity and Socialisation – How cultural norms and values shape personal and group identities.
- Families and Intimate Relationships – The structure and dynamics of family life and personal relationships.
- Poverty, Social Exclusion and Welfare – The causes and impact of inequality and the role of welfare systems.
- Environment – How societies interact with the natural world, including sustainability and global challenges.
- Crime and Deviance – Why certain behaviours are labelled deviant, and how societies respond to crime.
- Information Society – The influence of technology and media on communication, identity, and power.
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You'll engage with real-world issues, challenge assumptions, and deepen your understanding of how society works. If you're interested in exploring ideas, questioning the world around you, and making sense of social change, Sociology is the subject for you.

# 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 Matsec assessment is as follows:

40%	Project
60%	3-hour written paper

- A pass in the 3-hour written exam paper is required for the candidate to obtain an overall pass (grade A to E)

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