

MATRICULATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

April 2008

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>April 2008</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.</b>

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Answer 4 questions, one question from each module.  
You may answer in either English or Maltese.  
This paper carries 60% of the global mark.  
Each question carries 25 marks.  
Each question should be discussed and the arguments clearly made.  
Make sure you discuss each question fully.  
Answers that are out of point (not relevant to the question) will not be considered.

Wieġeb erba' mistoqsijiet waħda minn kull taqsima.  
Tista' twieġeb bil-Malti jew bl-Ingliż.  
Il-marki ta' din il-karta jammontaw għal 60% tal-marka totali.  
Kull mistoqsija fiha 25 marka.  
Wieħed irid jiddiskuti t-tema tal-mistoqsija b'argumenti ċari.  
Kun żgur li twieġeb kull mistoqsija b'mod shiħ.  
It-tweġibiet li ma jkunux relevanti għall-mistoqsija ma jiġux aċċettati.

## Module 1

### Either

- A1**
- i. Freedom of expression is essential to a democracy; discuss.
  - ii. Should there be any restrictions on this freedom or should it be absolute?
  - iii. What, if any, should these restrictions be?
  - iv. What is the value of the free media in a democratic society?

### Or

- A2**
- i. What is the difference in the political participation of the citizens in a direct and in a representative democracy?
  - ii. Is a direct democracy possible today with the communication technologies available in our society?
  - iii. What is the value of citizen participation in the democratic processes of a country?
  - iv. How do you evaluate the contribution of local councils to the democratic process of our country?

## Module 2

### Either

- B1**
- “I was out walking with two friends - the sun began to set - suddenly the sky turned blood red - I paused, feeling exhausted, and leaned on the fence - there was blood and tongues of fire above the blue-black fjord and the city - my friends walked on, and I stood there trembling with anxiety - and I sensed an endless scream passing through nature.”*

This is how the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch describes an experience that led to the painting of his most famous work, *The Scream* (1893) (see attached reproduction of the painting). Describe the painting by Munch and interpret it, focusing on its colour and expressive power. Why is this considered to be one of the most important paintings of its times?

### Or

- B2**

According to the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, all art is a form of imitation or representation of nature (*mimesis* in Greek). For this reason, painters for Plato were not involved in an intellectual activity that led to the knowledge of the truth; instead, they deceive us by representing the external appearance of things. Discuss whether artists just represent the world in this way, or play a more significant role in society.

### Module 3

#### Either

- C1** *When we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.*

John Muir (1838-1914)

The production of any successful technological product usually depends on a strong alliance between interdisciplinary fields. Discuss with examples.

#### Or

- C2** *The advancement and perfection of mathematics are intimately connected with the prosperity of the State.*

Napoleon I (1849-1925)

Evaluate and discuss the above statement in relation to the strong investment in scientific and technological research adopted by modern developed countries today.

### Module 4

#### Either

- D1** Which are the nine principles of a sustainable society?

Choose any three principles from the list and assess to what extent Malta is respecting them.

#### Or

- D2** On the 12th November 1997 the United Nations adopted a resolution which states:  
'..... Concerned by the fate of future generations in the face of the vital challenges of the next millennium,'  
'.....Conscious that at this point in history, the very existence of humankind and its environment are threatened,'  
'.....Resolved to strive to ensure that the present generations are fully aware of their responsibilities towards future generations,'

Which are the 'vital challenges of the next (this) millennium', the threats to 'humankind and its environment' and our 'responsibilities towards future generations'? To what extent should we moderate our way of life for the sake of those that have yet to come?

