Gender equality in education is always present on the education agenda, yet statistical figures indicate that there is still inequality between males and females. From analysis of the 2005 census of the Maltese population, less women have attained a standard of secondary education or better. There are, however, doubts whether this will be the same in the next decade as more women are continuing to proceed beyond compulsory school age than men. In 2001-02 at the University Junior College the female component was 56.4%. This increased to 57.8% during the academic year 2003-04 and to 59.3% in 2007-08 (based on data provided by the Junior College Administration Office). At MCAST females might still be trailing males, perhaps as this institution is focused more on vocational education. In 2003-04 the number of females in this College was 41.6% of the total intake for that year (based on data supplied by the MCAST Administration Office). In 2004-05 the percentage was even lower at 33.8% (ETC 2005, p. 17).

Extract taken from Social Transitions in Maltese Society by J. Cutajar and G. Cassar, (2009), pp. 62-63

Questions:

1. Explain this sentence: Gender equality in education is ever present on the education agenda, yet statistical figures indicate that there is still inequality between males and females. (4)

2. Why do you think there are more females than males who continue with their studies beyond compulsory school age? Give TWO reasons for your answer. (4)

3. In today’s society we find few women taking high profile jobs. Give TWO reasons leading to this. (4)

4. Whereas more than half the students attending the Junior College are females, the above passage indicates that a lower percentage of females attend MCAST. Give TWO reasons for this. (4)

5. Name TWO benefits that women enjoy so as not to lose their job when they have children. (4)

6. Article 14 of the Constitution of Malta states that: the State in particular has to make sure that working women enjoy the same rights as men and get the same pay for the same work as men. Comment on this in a paragraph of about 30 words. (6)

7. Name TWO international organisations which help towards the advancement of women in society. (4)

8. What developments have been made regarding the role of women in Maltese society? (5)

(35 marks)
A country’s population directly affects the state of the environment in a variety of ways. Unsustainable consumption of resources and the generation of waste and harmful by-products are topping the list of activities that impact the environment. The small size of the Maltese Islands and, in particular, their relatively high population density is bound to have a direct impact on the environment. Between 1990 and 2005, the total population in Malta has increased by 12.01% (National Statistics Office 2006, p. 19). Indeed, Malta has the highest population density in the world. In 2005, the EU average of persons per square kilometre was 25, whereas in Malta this was 117.5, that is 10.8% higher.

Adapted from Social Transitions in Maltese Societies by J. Cutajar and G. Cassar (2009), p. 314

Questions:
1. Explain what is meant by unsustainable consumption of resources. (3)
2. Briefly explain what is population density. Mention THREE environmental problems found in densely populated regions. (6)
3. In 2005, the EU average of persons per square kilometre was 25, whereas in Malta it was 117.5. Name TWO areas in Malta which are highly populated and TWO which are less populated. (4)
4. One main reason for increased human activity is tourism. Name TWO positive and TWO negative effects of increased tourism. (4)
5. Suggest TWO practical and acceptable ways by which population growth can be controlled. (4)
6. Why is it easier for a developing country to reduce the death rate rather than its birth rate? Give TWO reasons for your answer. (5)
7. Agricultural land is fast disappearing and being taken over for construction purposes. In your opinion is this a positive development? Should it be stopped or controlled in any way? How? Support your arguments with examples. (9)

(35 marks)

Section C: Choose ONE of the following titles and write a composition of about 250-280 words:

1. The influence of the peer group on young people is stronger than that of other agents of socialisation. Discuss.
2. Malta is becoming a secular society. Discuss and give some examples to substantiate your answer.
3. What is the difference between welfare state and welfare society? Give practical examples. Discuss the link between welfare and social justice. (30 marks)