

## (A) Malteaser (1/2) [10 Points]

Here are some nouns in Maltese given along with their definite articles (“the”). Maltese is a Semitic language and is the national language of Malta, where it is spoken by about 560,000 people. Along with English it is an official language in Malta, and is also one of the European Union’s official languages.

<i>il lanġas</i>	(the pear)	<i>id dar</i>	(the house)
<i>li mħadda</i>	(the pillow)	<i>li bdiewa</i>	(the peasants)
<i>is sħana</i>	(the heat)	<i>l uffiċċju</i>	(the office)
<i>il mara</i>	(the woman)	<i>iż żir</i>	(the jug)
<i>iċ ċpar</i>	(the mist)	<i>il lvant</i>	(the east)
<i>il ġobon</i>	(the cheese)	<i>ir raġel</i>	(the man)
<i>li ksieħ</i>	(the cold)	<i>il ktieb</i>	(the book)
<i>l għonq</i>	(the neck)	<i>l jum</i>	(the day)
<i>il bar</i>	(the bar)	<i>il vjola</i>	(the violet)
<i>l art</i>	(the earth)	<i>is silġ</i>	(the snow)
<i>li ħmar</i>	(the donkey)	<i>il qassis</i>	(the priest)

As you can see, Maltese has some consonants that are different from those of English. To help you understand how these consonants are pronounced, here is some information on their location in the mouth and manner of articulation.

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Nasal	m	n				
Stop	p, b	t, d		k, g		q
Affricate		ċ, ġ, z				
Fricative	f, v	s, ż, x			ħ	
Semivowel			j			
Trill/Lateral		r, l				

Notes:

- **labial** = with the lips, **alveolar** = with the tip of the tongue, **palatal** = with the hard palate of the mouth, **velar** = with the soft palate of the mouth, **pharyngeal** = with the pharynx of the throat, **glottal** = with the glottis
- **nasal** = through the nose, **stop** = with stopped airflow, **fricative** = with friction, **affricate** = stop followed by fricative, **semivowel** = like a shorter vowel, **trill** = with the tongue vibrating, **lateral** = with air though the sides of the mouth
- Also, the letter **h** and combination **gh** are silent (not pronounced)



## (A) Malteaser (2/2)

**A1.** Two of the words above don't follow the normal rules of Maltese. What are these two words?

First word:

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Second word:

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**A2.** Give the appropriate form of the definite article for the following nouns. All of these nouns follow the normal rules of Maltese.

- \_\_ xkora (sack)
- \_\_ ġebbla (stone)
- \_\_ mniħer (nose)
- \_\_ xemx (sun)
- \_\_ kafè (coffee)
- \_\_ hena (happiness)
- \_\_ għajn (eye)
- \_\_ tama (hope)
- \_\_ ors (bear)
- \_\_ missier (father)
- \_\_ lura (back)
- \_\_ ilma (water)
- \_\_ beraq (lightning)
- \_\_ nar (fire)
- \_\_ nifs (breath)
- \_\_ dlam (darkness)

