



*Let the mind manage the body  
Que l'esprit gère le corps*

**MAURITIUS  
EXAMINATIONS  
SYNDICATE**

**NCE 2025  
Social and Modern Studies**

Subject code: N570

**EXAMINERS' REPORT**

April 2026

## Key Messages

- Candidates are advised to attempt all questions in the question paper.
- Candidates should pay attention to the command words in each question. Words such as 'Name', 'List', 'Give', 'Describe' or 'Explain' indicate the type of response required and the level of detail expected.
- In SMS, it is important for candidates to know the exact definitions of key concepts, such as '*population density*', '*import substitution strategy*', '*migration*', and '*push and pull factors*'.
- Candidates should remember key dates related to significant historical events, particularly regarding the independence of Mauritius and the struggle for the recognition of the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos archipelago.

## General Comments

Performance in the Social and Modern Studies (SMS) paper of 2025 (92.26%) was noticeably higher than in 2024(80.60%). Candidates scored higher marks in **Section A**, which consisted mostly of lower-order questions assessing knowledge and understanding of basic concepts in SMS.

Multiple Choice Questions, matching exercises, fill-in-the-blanks with options provided, and True/False questions were generally better attempted than open-ended questions.

Questions supported with visual aids were also well answered.

This cohort of candidates demonstrated better handling of structured questions compared to previous years. However, some candidates' scripts revealed difficulty in addressing higher order questions in Section B, which required analysis and application of knowledge to given contexts or situations.

While the quality of responses in Section B improved compared to previous years, candidates' limited command of the English language continues to impede their ability to express their understanding clearly.

It was also noteworthy that some candidates demonstrated a good understanding in Section A, but left several questions unanswered in Section B. In structured questions, candidates often failed to score full marks because their answers were vague, lacked precision or insufficiently described the required concepts.

## **Specific Comments**

### **Section A**

#### **QUESTION 1**

Question 1 carried a total of 17 marks and was divided into two parts. Part A consisted of 10 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Part B was a True/False exercise worth 7 marks.

This question assessed basic knowledge and was generally well attempted by most candidates, regardless of their overall performance in the paper.

#### **Part A**

Most of the candidates responded successfully to items (d), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j). Items (a), (b), (c) and (e) proved more challenging.

Item A:

Many candidates failed to identify answer C - The President as the Head of State of the Republic of Mauritius. Instead, they opted for 'The Prime Minister' indicating confusion about the role of the Head of State.

Item B:

Candidates struggled to identify the cyclone that hit Mauritius in 1975. The correct answer was C -Gervaise but many chose A - Alix and even B - Carol.

Item C:

While most candidates correctly identified A - Malaria, as the disease that affected many Mauritians in the 1940s, some incorrectly chose B - diabetes, C - Chikungunya and or D - Covid-19.

Item D:

This item was well answered, with most candidates correctly identifying A - Population as the focus of demography.

Item E:

Candidates struggle to identify an example of deviance. The correct answer was B - 'disturbing the class' but many selected examples of crime, showing difficulty distinguishing between crime and deviance.

Item F:

Most candidates correctly identified A - 'Mauritius Revenue Authority' as the organisation responsible for collecting taxes in the Republic of Mauritius.

Item G:

This item was well attempted, with most candidates selecting B - 'Diego Garcia' as the island of the Republic of Mauritius where there is a military base.

Item H:

Candidates were asked to identify a source of income for the Mauritian government. Most of them correctly chose C - Taxes.

Item I:

Most candidates successfully identified D - Nuclear family, as the type of family consisting of a mother, father and their dependent children living under the same roof.

Item J:

Candidates were asked to identify the economic problem faced by Mauritius in the 1960s. Most candidates correctly chose D, High unemployment.

## **Part B**

Overall, candidates performed well and demonstrated sound reasoning skills in this True/False exercise. Most candidates scored full marks or 6 out of 7.

Some common mistakes were observed, particularly on Item (d). Even candidates with average to low performance were generally able to score well in this section.

(a) Candidates were asked whether '*The French named Mauritius Ile de Sables*'. The correct answer is FALSE.

(b) Candidates were asked whether '*the Independence party was led by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam*'. The correct answer is TRUE

(c) Candidates were asked whether '*People above 80 years of age are usually economically active.*' The correct answer is FALSE.

(d) Candidates were asked whether '*Mauritius has strong historical links with China*'. The correct answer is TRUE.

(e) Candidates were asked whether '*It is legal to use a phone while driving in Mauritius.*' The correct answer is FALSE.

(f) Candidates were asked whether '*Manufacturing industries form part of the secondary sector in Mauritius.*' The correct answer is TRUE

(g) Candidates were asked whether the statement '*Television is an example of Print Media.*' is true or false. The correct answer is FALSE.

## QUESTION 2

Question 2 carried a total of 10 marks and was divided into two parts. Overall, candidates performed well in both parts.

Part(a):

This part consisted of a set of pictures, each illustrating a different **economic sector** in Mauritius. Candidates were required to complete the grid by writing the corresponding letters in the correct order to show the development of each sector on the island. Most candidates identified and arranged the sectors in the correct order.

Part(b):

In this part, candidates were required to identify the correct type of media in the table provided and tick in the appropriate columns. This was a high-scoring question. Most candidates correctly identified 'newspaper' and 'book' as examples of 'Print Media', and 'YouTube' and 'Facebook' as examples of 'New Age Social Media'. A few candidates incorrectly identified 'laptop' as an example of 'New Age Digital Media'.

## QUESTION 3

Question 3 carried a total of 9 marks and was divided into two parts.

Part(a):

This part consisted of 4 items and carried 4 marks. Candidates were required to identify each picture and fill in each blank using the correct word from the options provided.

This part was relatively well answered. However, a few candidates incorrectly selected "steel" or "concrete" as the answer instead of "straw" for a picture showing shelter in the 1940's.

Part(b):

This part was a matching exercise comprising of 6 pictures and carrying 5 marks. Candidates had to match each picture in Column A with the corresponding factor in Column B that should be considered before setting up a factory.

Only a few candidates answered this question correctly. Some common incorrect linkages included:

- the picture showing "site" to "capital";
- the picture showing "labour" to "site";
- the picture showing "capital" to "Government".

#### **QUESTION 4 (6 marks)**

Part (a):

Candidates were provided with a map showing the population density of some districts of Mauritius.

Item (i): This was a skill-based question where candidates had to complete the map by shading two districts, namely Port Louis and Savanne, which had different population densities. This proved very challenging for some candidates, as they could not differentiate between the two types of shading provided in the Key box. Some shadings did not match the examples in the key and, therefore, could not be credited.

Item (ii): Candidates had to identify the population density of two districts, namely Grand Port and Plaines Wilhems. This item was easier and most candidates provided correct answers.

Part (b):

This part was based on a population pyramid for a village in Mauritius and included two skill-based items.

Item (i): Candidates were asked to identify the number of females in the 0-14 age group. Most candidates correctly identified 350.

Item (ii): Candidates had to complete the population pyramid by indicating 100 males for the 65+ age group. This proved more challenging, and many candidates were unable to provide the correct answer.

#### **QUESTION 5 (8 marks)**

Question 5 was divided into Parts (a) and (b), carrying a total of 8 marks. Part (a) focused on Agalega, while Part (b) focused on Rodrigues.

Part (a) - Agalega

Candidates were required to study the map of Agalega.

Item (i): Candidates were asked to shade the North Island of Agalega. The majority correctly shaded the North Island although a few shaded only the northern part of the Island. This indicated limited understanding of the topography (physical features including the natural and man-made characteristics) of Agalega.

Item (ii): This fill-in-the-blank question proved challenging. Many candidates incorrectly identified 'La Fourche' and 'Ste Rita' instead of 'Vingt Cinq' which is the administrative centre.

Item (iii): Most candidates correctly identified the two economic activities of the people of Agalega, namely 'fishing and production of coconut oil/planting of coconut' being the correct answers. A common incorrect response was 'exportation of fish'.

#### Part (b) - Rodrigues

This was a fill-in-the-blank exercise about the economic conditions in Rodrigues since Independence, comprising four items and carrying four marks. Candidates generally performed well.

Item (i): The majority of candidates correctly identified '*airport*' as the location for the construction of a new passenger terminal.

Item (ii): Most candidates correctly identified that people in Rodrigues practice agriculture for food production.

Item (iii): A few candidates had difficulty identifying '*tourism*' as the most important economic activity in Rodrigues. The most common incorrect answer was 'manufacturing'.

Item (iv): Most candidates correctly identified that tourists in Rodrigues stay in '*guest houses and hotels*'.

### **Section B**

#### **QUESTION 6 (9 marks)**

This question carried a total of nine marks and consisted of three parts. This question assessed candidates' knowledge and application skills of how the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) encouraged manufacturing for export purposes in Mauritius during the 1970s.

Many average-performing candidates left this question unanswered, missing the opportunity to score marks.

#### Part (a)

Candidates were required to state what EPZ stands for. Most candidates correctly wrote "Export Processing Zone" although some wrote "Economic Processing Zone or Export Product Zone".

## Part (b)

Candidates were required to identify the industry that expanded rapidly in the 1980s. The expected answer was Textile (Industry) or Manufacturing (Industry).

Other common mistakes included:

- Providing examples of manufacturing companies (e.g., Jewel Industries; Soap & Allied Ltd; Mauritius Breweries Ltd) instead of the industry itself.
- Incorrect responses such as Sugar Industries, Tertiary industries, Tourism, Banking.

## Part (c)

This part was divided into two sub-items.

### Item (i)

Candidates had to identify two infrastructural facilities provided by Mauritius as incentives to attract investors. Expected answers included: Road; Electricity; Water Supply; Industrial Estates.

Common incorrect responses included: School; Houses; Buildings

### Item (ii)

Candidates were required to 'explain why Tax Exemptions and Labour attracted investors to Mauritius'. This item was worth 4 marks. One mark for correct identification and one mark for a correct explanation for each of the two items. (2 x 2marks)

An example of a complete correct answer:

- Taxation: No payment on import duties (1) such as machinery/ equipment, which results in higher profit margin for investors (1)

Incorrect responses included statements such as: "*There was more labour work in the fields*".

On a general note, Part(c)(ii) was the least scoring item. Many candidates identified incentives but failed to explain them adequately.

## QUESTION 7

It carried a total of 12 marks and comprised of two parts and candidates generally performed well.

### Part(a)

Candidates were required to identify the social force depicted in each picture and describe a consequence of each social force. Most candidates correctly identified the social force in each picture and described an appropriate consequence.

#### Item (i):

Most candidates mentioned the adverse effects of *Artificial Intelligence*, particularly its role in replacing human jobs and contributing to unemployment.

#### Item (ii):

Most candidates correctly described the consequences of Environmental Change, providing answers related to flash floods to the destruction of houses and infrastructure.

Some candidates scored only partial marks because their answers lacked clarity. For example, answers relating to floods or cyclones were sometimes not credited, as these were events, not consequences of environmental change.

### Part(b)

#### Item (i):

This item was well attempted. Most candidates correctly identified injustice in the education system as the reason for the protest.

#### Item (ii):

Both questions were highly scoring. Most candidates identified 'Free secondary education' as the consequence of the protest and 'collective behaviour' as the driving force behind the social change.

### Part (c)

Candidates had difficulty explaining waste sorting as a driving force for positive social change in Part (c), often providing partial answers such as 'reduce pollution' without elaborating on its broader social impact.

## QUESTION 8

This question carried a total of 9 marks and consisted of two parts. Most candidates correctly explained the historical link through indentured labourers.

Part (a)

Item (i)

Candidates were asked to explain how a large part of the population of Mauritius is historically linked to India. Most candidates attempted this question successfully. A few candidates scored partial marks, as they could only identify terms such as “indentured labourers”, “ancestors” and “slaves from India” without providing explanations.

Item (ii) 1:

Candidates were required to explain how the ‘*ENT Hospital project has benefitted Mauritius.*’ Most candidates answered correctly. However, some scored partial marks as their responses lacked elaboration. For example, answers like “provides health care facilities”, “free treatment for nose, ears and throat”, did not compare the facilities of the old and new ENT Hospital. A few candidates left this question unanswered.

Item (ii) 2:

Candidates were asked to explain how the ‘*Metro Express project has benefitted Mauritius.*’ Most candidates attempted this question successfully. Some received partial marks because their answers were incomplete such as “metro is faster, easy and safe to travel”, “reduce travel time” and “reduce pollution” without further elaboration. Full credit required answers such as:

- Has helped people to travel more easily and safely, at the same time reducing traffic congestion in urban areas
- More efficient/improved transportation as it reduces travel time
- No use of fossil fuels, reducing pollution

Part (b)

Item (i):

Candidates were asked to name the centre which has been constructed to raise awareness of African and Creole Culture. This question was well attempted by many candidates. However, some candidates were not awarded any mark as they provided incorrect answers such as “Nelson Mandela” instead of the full correct answer: “Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture”. Full marks were awarded for “Nelson Mandela Centre”. Few candidates left this question unattempted.

Part (ii) (2 marks): Candidates were asked to name two countries in Africa with which Mauritius has strong economic ties. Most candidates scored full marks. Only

a few candidates provided incorrect answers such as “India”, “Britain”, “China” or “France” instead of providing correct answers such as “South Africa”, “Madagascar” and “Mozambique”.

## QUESTION 9

This question carried a total of 10 marks and focused on the impacts of industrialisation on the Mauritian society. It comprised of Parts (a), (b) and (c).

### Part (a)

Candidates were asked to describe two ways in which industrialization has helped increase life expectancy in Mauritius. Each reason carried 2 marks.

Most candidates scored partial marks, as they identified the factors but did not explain how their answers were related to higher life expectancy.

Some common responses were:

- Better/Free/Improved/Upgraded/Good health care facilities/services/ sanitation/hygiene/ medical facilities/care
- Higher/Better living standards
- Access to Vaccination/Medication
- More/larger hospitals being built making people living
- Answers related to awareness about healthy living/life style.

An example of a fully correct answer would have been:

‘New educational opportunities (1) led to an awareness of better health practices (1).’

‘Pensions for elderly’ was not credited, as the government introduced pensions for elderly in the 1930’s, before industrialisation. However, ‘increase in pension for elderly’ was awarded partial marks.

### Part (b)

Candidates were required to explain two ways in which industrialisation impacted on the family with two marks for each descriptive reason.

Most candidates understood this question and provided a range of full-mark descriptive answers. However, a few candidates scored partial marks due to lack of elaboration:

- Change in family types/ structure/ size

- The movement from extended family to nuclear family
- Better/improved standard of living
- Increased participation of women in the labour force
- Specialized institutions taking over the functions performed by the family.

An example of a fully correct answer:

'Industrialisation brought changes in the family structure (1) with the decline of the extended family and nuclear family becoming more common (1)'

Answers mentioning the negative impacts of industrialization on family relations or quality family time with better amenities at home were credited

Fewer candidates mentioned women obtaining jobs compared to previous years, indicating improved understanding on the participation of women in the labour force.

'*Urbanisation*' was not credited, as industrialisation did not directly cause urbanization in Mauritius

Part (c)

Candidates were asked to describe how industrialisation has helped people move up the social ladder.

High-scoring answers related industrialisation to 'access to better educational opportunities (1) provided people with better job opportunities/salaries and improved standard of living'. (1)

Some candidates misunderstood the term '*social ladder*', resulting in irrelevant answers. Many candidates obtained partial marks due to lack of description.

## **QUESTION 10**

This question carried a total of 10 marks and focused on Migration and factors affecting migration. Overall, candidates performed poorly, as this question required both understanding and application skills in the topic 'Population Studies'.

Part (a)

Item (i): This question was popular amongst candidates. They correctly identified that the size of population increases when birth rate is higher than death rate.

Item (ii):

This question was more challenging. Most Candidates were unable to identify population structure as the definition for the composition of a population. Over the

past years, emphasis has been placed on understanding population pyramids, which show the demography and structure of the population.

Part (b):

Candidates had to give '*two reasons why some places have a low density.*' Many candidates failed to achieve full marks because they only named the reasons without providing a further explanation. Common answers included physical, economical or political reasons, but the lack of justification meant they could not earn the second mark. Overall, this part was poorly answered.

Part (c):

Candidates were asked to describe reasons why people migrate from one region to another. As with Part (b), candidates needed to provide a description or explanation to score full marks. Many limited their answers to the economic and physical reasons, or copied answers from part (b) without proper elaboration. This led to low scores in this part as well.

Overall, Question 10 was poorly answered for many candidates. Emphasis has previously been placed on command verbs and the marks allocated for each question. Candidates should be aware that questions like Parts (b) and (c) require not only identification, but also explanation and/or description to attain full marks.