

Keep in touch

Email us ...

info.htamalta@gmail.com

Our Facebook page



Several educators are making increasing use of our Facebook page, sharing links or posting comments of interest. It has proved to be an effective way of communicating. We encourage you to circulate the word to others who are not aware of this page to start using it.

Membership renewal

With the beginning of a new scholastic year, it is time for membership renewal. Our membership fee is kept to a minimum of €5 despite the costs incurred by publications and printing. Enclosed herewith please find the membership form.

Send your name and surname, address, telephone number and email address to the Treasurer's address hereunder. Cheques are to be made payable to *L-Għaqda tal-Għalliema tal-Istorja*.

Mr. Alex Cutajar, 23, Ave Maria, Triq M.A. Vassalli, Hal Qormi QRM 3414.



L-Għaqda tal-Għalliema tal-Istorja
History Teachers' Association
(Malta)

NEWSLETTER

November 2011
Issue 3

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“A subject that insists on the critical evaluation of evidence ... and encourages the analysis of problems and the communication of ideas, not only contributes to pupils' general education, but develops skills and perceptions that increase the employability of young people.”

HMI (1985)

Editorial

Another scholastic year has kicked off. For teachers this means new schemes of work, new resources and new classes. Indeed, teaching is both exciting and challenging. And for this scholastic year, the challenge for history teachers teaching Form 1 students seems to be greater than ever. Since students starting their first year of secondary schooling are now grouped in mixed-ability classes, teachers have to face new classroom realities. Addressing students with different learning needs having different learning styles is no mean feat. In this issue we will highlight some principles of differentiated teaching, for being aware of specific challenges makes it easier to deal with any difficulties that may arise.

This year marks the 10th Michael A. Sant Memorial Lecture. To commemorate this event, the HTA has published the last five papers given during these yearly lectures in a book entitled *History teaching and research: bridging the theory/practice divide*. This publication is in its second volume and is a continuation to the first five lectures. These lectures have always been given by foreign lecturers who are experts in the field of history teaching; this year, however, being the tenth anniversary, it was most fitting to have local lecturers. Dr George Cassar and Prof Yosanne Vella, President and Vice-President respectively of the HTA have teamed up to discuss matters pertaining to history teaching in Malta during the last hundred years up to present times.

Presently the new National Curriculum Framework is in the phase of

Principles of Differentiated Teaching

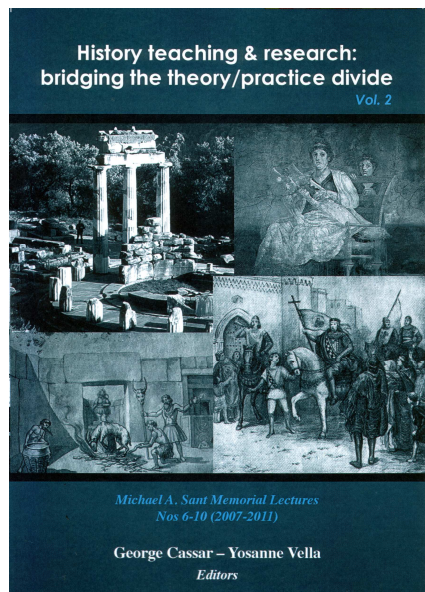
1. Cater for different learning needs—include everyone, exclude no one.
2. Allow for different rates of progress.
3. Provide opportunities for students to contribute in their own way, however limited that may be.
4. Set tasks which are realistic, yet challenging.
5. Grade tasks according to abilities; give precise indications of your expectations.
6. Vary classroom organisation to suit teaching and learning needs.
7. Provide appropriate, precise and continuous feedback and the necessary support.
8. Allow pupils to make mistakes.
9. Value and encourage all students.
10. Believe in the learning potential of all.

New Publication

The recent publication by the HTA is *History teaching & research: bridging the theory/practice divide. Vol 2. Michael A. Sant Memorial Lectures Nos. 6-10 (2007-2011)* by George Cassar and Yosanne Vella (eds).

This publication consists of a collection of five papers given at the Michael A. Sant Memorial Lecture held annually by the HTA. The fifth paper by the editors—*A hundred years of history teaching and learning in Malta*—is also included. The other papers are penned by Terry Haydn, Christine Counsell, Ian Phillips and Robert Stradling.

The cost of this book is €6. If you would like a copy please e-mail us on info.htamalta@gmail.com or contact Dr Cassar on george.cassar@um.edu.mt



consultation. With regards to the challenges history teaching is facing resulting from present curricular reforms, we urge everyone to read the NCF documents and provide the necessary constructive feedback in the appropriate fora. One augurs that the relevance of the subject of history in the curriculum, especially in its endeavour to instil in students an appreciation of our unique culture, is ascertained and reinforced.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting.

Alex Cutajar



Noticeboard

Following the Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2011, the positions within the HTA were re-confirmed for the scholastic year 2011-2012:

President: Dr. George Cassar

Vice-President: Prof. Yosanne Vella

Secretary: Ms. Pauline Cassar

Treasurer: Mr. Alex Cutajar

Public Relations Officer: Mr. Adrian Zahra

Michael A. Sant Memorial Lecture

On Wednesday 19 October 2011, the HTA organised the Michael A. Sant Memorial Lecture—the tenth one in this series of yearly lectures. Throughout these years, we have had foreign lecturers coming over to present papers dealing with various issues pertaining to history teaching.



Mr Adrian Zahra opened this year's



lecture with a presentation about the video clip he himself edited about promoting history as an option subject. The content and music are highly appealing to students—indeed, a most praiseworthy initiative.

To commemorate this tenth

lecture, it was most fitting to give a historical look at history teaching in Malta. Dr George Cassar and Prof Yosanne Vella, from the University of Malta, took up the matter to discuss *A hundred years of history teaching and learning in Malta*. On his part, Dr Cassar dealt with historical perspectives where he brought under the spotlight a string of



history school textbooks.

books which were in use in Maltese schools during British rule. It was interesting to see how these changed in response to different political scenarios along Britain's long colonial administration, and how these stand in stark contrast to modern

history school textbooks. Prof Vella focused on the pedagogical styles needed for becoming effective history teachers—methods which were adopted by Michael A. Sant at the Faculty of Education some thirty years ago and which were in line with New History. While the journey towards adopting investigative methods in history continues — and it must be acknowledged that the progress registered is encouraging — there are still various challenges ahead, especially in view of present curricular reforms.

Past publications of the HTA were on sale during the event. Some light refreshments followed.

