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

The definite article is given by the following rules (in order of priority):
1. *ix* before alveolar consonants
2. *l* before vowels or silent letters
3. *li* before consonant clusters
4. *il* otherwise

Note that *j* is considered a vowel.

Out of interest, these rules apply in several Semitic languages, notably Arabic (Maltese's ancestor). The letters in group (1) are called ‘sun’ letters (the word for sun is *xemx*) while the other consonants are called ‘moon’ letters (moon is *qamar*).

**A1. *ktieb* and *gobon*.** You would expect *li ktieb*, because the noun begins with a consonant cluster, and you would expect *ig gobon* because ‘ig’ is a voiced ‘c’ and so should belong to the dental-alveolar set.

**A2.**

- *ix xkora* (sack)
- *ig gebla* (stone)
- *li mniher* (nose)
- *ix xemx* (the sun)
- *il kafe* (coffee)
- *l hena* (happiness)
- *l ghajn* (eye)
- *it tama* (hope)
- *l ors* (bear)
- *il missier* (father)
- *il lura* (back)
- *il ilma* (water)
- *il beraq* (lightning)
- *in nar* (fire)
- *in nifs* (breath)
- *id dlam* (darkness)