(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 ***ġobon.*** You would expect *li ktieb*, because the noun begins with a consonant cluster, and you would expect *iġ ġobon* because 'ġ' is a voiced 'ċ' and so should belong to the dental-alveolar set.

A2.

ix xkora	(sack)	*l ors*	(bear)
iġ ġebla	(stone)	*il missier*	(father)
li mniħer	(nose)	*il lura*	(back)
ix xemx	(the sun)	*l ilma*	(water)
il kafè	(coffee)	*il beraq*	(lightning)
l hena	(happiness)	*in nar*	(fire)
l għajn	(eye)	*in nifs*	(breath)
it tama	(hope)	*id dlam*	(darkness)