

2022 ASSESSMENT REPORT

ITN315114 - ITALIAN

ORAL ASSESSMENT

This was an impressive year group whose spoken skills in Italian were very strong. Many students were clearly well-prepared for the conversation exam and their enjoyment in speaking Italian was obvious to the examiners. The students displayed a full range of tenses and had good control of both simple and compound verb forms. Examiners noted that tenses such as the conditional and the imperfect were used with much greater ease and confidence this year. Students self-corrected and used a good range of connectors when developing a train of thought e.g., quindi, dunque etc. Overall, the conversations flowed, and in some cases, in a truly naturalistic way. This is important to note as most students have never spent any time in an Italian-speaking countries which makes this an even more impressive achievement on their part. The oral examining team congratulates the 2022-year group on their hard work and their ability to make each conversation a wonderful experience for the team.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION PAPER

PART I: LISTENING AND RESPONDING

Students scored well in this section of the exam with a good spread of 'A, B and C' ratings, demonstrating that the spread of topics and degree of difficulty were appropriate for the listening tasks. Given that students must rely heavily on memory to answer questions, the marking team noted that where, on one or two occasions, some students' answers replied globally but fully to a question, full marks were awarded.

SPOKEN TEXT I - QUESTION I

Students experienced very few problems with this passage and scored highly. They had good knowledge of the vocabulary and the structures used were familiar to them. In item c), markers accepted the answer "soccer training" for full marks. Similarly, in item e), the question does not ask "with whom" Luisa participates in the activities but simply that the student name the activities Luisa is engaged in. In both cases the marking scheme was adjusted to reflect the changes.

SPOKEN TEXT 2 - QUESTION 2

This passage was the most challenging from a vocabulary point-of-view and students' scores were lower than in the other passages. The highly focussed vocabulary meant some students would have been reaching more for their dictionaries than spending their valuable (and short time) listening intently for meaning. That said, the students managed to do well overall, and a few made some very good, educated guesses that went their way.

SPOKEN TEXT 3 - QUESTION 3

Students experienced very few issues with this passage which was reflected in a good spread in the marks. Some vocabulary items proved problematic e.g., squalo but students' final scores were not affected by this as marks were made up overall.

SPOKEN TEXT 4 - QUESTION 4

Students had few problems with this passage as it was reminiscent of the style of text found in most textbooks and magazines.

PART 2: READING AND RESPONDING

This section was generally received well by students, and it was obvious that they had worked hard on developing the necessary reading comprehension skills for both in class, at home and examination-style reading passages.

QUESTION 5

This passage was very topical and of high interest but was the most challenging passage in this section. In item a), markers accepted the response "Giro d'Italia" and in item h), "the strongest person" was also allowed as a correct response.

QUESTION 6

Students handled this passage well as it was a format that they were very used to practising in class. In item a) the markers accepted "arrived in Milan" as the answer, as the other information given was additional information. In item b), the "the uncles' shop" was accepted as well as the supplied answer. Item i. was very hard for students as it required more deduction on their part than being able to locate a definitive answer in the text. The marking team accepted a range of answers if they related to the narrator's impression and/or enjoyment of the shop. The phrase "barattolli di vetro" was often translated as jars full of glass".

QUESTION 7

Overall, this passage was handled well by students. In item j) the examiners accepted the first 3 answers given in the box as correct as they felt they were all possible responses.

PART 3: WRITING IN ITALIAN

	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
Number of students attempting the question	1	7	2	2	5

Topics (9) and (12) were very popular and highly relatable for students and so produced some of the strongest essays. It seems that students are more aware these days that they should chose topics they can do rather than ones they would like to do. It was notable this year that students maintained their focus when writing their essays and so there were very few who strayed for their chosen topic. The marking team was very pleased to see that students have started to use a spread of tenses e.g., the conditional tense. Students wrote to the word limit with many writing beyond what was expected. The essays displayed a good range of relevant vocabulary and grammatical structures. Both time and dictionaries were wisely employed, and the result was a set of essays that flowed well and were a pleasure to read.