

# 2024 ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ITN315114 ITALIAN

### General Comments

The 2024 Italian Level 3 external assessment highlighted strong student performance, reflecting high levels of preparation and motivation. Most candidates demonstrated solid comprehension, a good grasp of vocabulary, and the ability to use a variety of grammatical structures. While minor challenges were observed, they did not significantly affect overall performance.

### Oral Component

#### General Comments

Overall, candidates performed impressively in this section of the exam as the majority spoke with good fluency, pronunciation and confidence. They had been well-prepared by their teachers which obviously contributed to lowering their level of anxiety, allowing them to perform to the best of their ability. The conversations flowed naturally, and candidates had a solid control of the Italian structures and vocabulary required to answer the examiners' questions. In many cases, the format moved from a traditional question-answer structure to a more spontaneous, conversational style. The marking team recommends that teachers maintain the emphasis on conversational fluency and incorporate spontaneous speaking exercises to build confidence further. The few students who found the conversation challenging had limited vocabulary and structures with their pronunciation occasionally affecting comprehension. This said, it was yet another wonderful set of results for a highly competent cohort.

# Written Component

## Section A – Listening and Responding

### Spoken Text 1 – Question 1

Candidates scored well in this question as the topic was familiar and it was a good introductory passage for a suite of listening tasks. In question e) students were awarded a ½ mark if they mentioned Bologna. In question i) students were given a ½ mark for mentioning that Elena's mother worked in an elementary school as a part of the overall score.

### Spoken Text 2 – Question 2

This passage was well received by students because they would have recognised the format as it is used throughout Italian texts. However, this passage was slightly problematic for candidates. Firstly, a minor error occurred in the recording where the reader said "c'è" instead of "ci sono" in the line: "C'erano solo le immagini senza il suono. Le parole erano scritte sullo schermo." This error did not affect students' ability to answer questions correctly.

Questions b, c and d caused some confusion due to their similar structure:

- b) Name three (3) of the things mentioned that people used to do in the evenings.
- c) According to great-grandfather, what was one of the main advantages of not having a TV?
- d) Give an example of what he used to do whenever he was bored.

Students often combined answers for b and c or struggled to differentiate questions in the dialogue. The passage's conversational nature may have inadvertently contributed to this confusion, although students generally addressed the questions in some capacity. Some students translated "*fantasticare*" to mean "fantasy movies".

### Spoken Text 3 – Question 3

Despite initial concerns that the topic and vocabulary used in this question might be unfamiliar, students performed well. The subject matter, the *Codice stradale* (road rules), resonated with students, as many are currently obtaining their driver's licences. The similarity between Italian and English terminology likely supported comprehension.

### Spoken Text 4 – Question 4

Candidates had great affinity with this passage as many of them have or want part-time employment while they study. The text mirrored a real conversational situation about work whilst balancing a need for a range of vocabulary and structures that challenged students sufficiently. Candidates scored well in this question.

## Section B – Reading and Responding

### General Comments

Students performed well in the first reading passage, demonstrating strong comprehension of the text and providing accurate answers. However, challenges were noted in the second reading passage and Section B. The marking team encourage students to practise time management to avoid rushing through the Reading and Responding section and suggest teachers provide additional practise with questions requiring specific details or directions.

### Question 5

This passage was topical, engaging and well-constructed with a good range of vocabulary and structures taken from the course document. Candidates scored well and there were no significant issues with the questions nor answers.

### Question 6

Generally speaking, candidates managed this passage well and once again, the subject matter provided was relevant and familiar. The major challenge became obvious in questions e, f, and g which required students to give specific directions. Some students found this difficult with responses often lacking the level of detail expected.

### Question 7

The topic of reality shows was a good choice as it tapped into contemporary trends in media and assured a high level of student familiarity and engagement. Question a) was answered well with students clearly grasping the overall direction of the passage. Question b) saw students struggling to provide the correct response (*dannosi*). Many answered that the program was famous in 42 countries, which was correct but incomplete. In question g) answers varied and often addressed the question partially but lacked completeness.

## Section C – Writing in Italian

	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
Number of candidates attempting the question	0	2	6	2	4

This section was the highlight of the examination with most students choosing questions 10 and 12 to write about. Candidates delivered responses that were well-structured and directly linked to the prompts. The writing showcased a wide range of vocabulary and grammatical structures, including both simple and complex sentences, consistent with Level 3 expectations. The range of topics provided was very good and clearly targeted the age group and their interests. Students had no trouble respecting the desired word limit and, in some cases, they blended humour and narrative very well indeed. Writing in a second language in a first examination is one of the most difficult tasks a student can do. This year's group of students acquitted themselves exceptionally well and their teachers should be very proud of themselves as well as of their students' work. The marking team encourages teachers to continue reinforcing students' ability to link ideas and expand on prompts with detailed, cohesive responses.

## Appendix 1 – 2024 Marking Tool

### Section A – Listening and Responding

#### Spoken Text 1 – Question 1

- a) What year of senior secondary school is Elena attending and what is she studying? /1  
**5<sup>th</sup> year ½ languages ½ (or English & Spanish)**
- b) What do we know about her age and birthday? /1  
**turned 17 ½ in July ½**
- c) How does Elena describe herself physically? Give 4 pieces of information. /2  
**quite tall / brown/ wavy hair/ blue eyes ½ for each**
- d) i. is Elena's brother older or younger? /1  
**Older ½**  
ii. by how much?  
**5 years ½**
- e) What work does he do? /1  
**works in a travel agency**  
**accept also in Bologna ½**
- f) What reason does Elena give for her getting on so well with her sister? /1  
**practically the same tastes**
- h) Name **3 (three)** things we learn about Elena's father's current and past work situation? (any 3) /3  
**unemployed now / worked in a car factory/ for almost 30 years / will be difficult for him to get a new job because of his age**

- i) Where does Elena's mother currently work? /2  
**in an office**  
**opposite their house**  
**give ½ mark for mentioning elementary/primary school**
- j) Why is Elena not able to have a cat? /1  
**Sister ½ allergic to animals ½**

**Total 13**

### Spoken Text 2 – Question 2

- a) What reason does the little girl's great-grandfather give for not watching TV when he was a little boy? /1  
**it didn't exist**
- b) Name **four (4)** of the things mentioned that people did in the evenings? /3  
**chatted/read/went to bed quite early/ played cards /went for a walk**
- c) According to the grandpa, what was one of the main advantages of not having a TV? /1  
**more communication**
- d) Give an example of what he used to do whenever he was bored? /1  
**used his imagination to create stories**
- e) What information does grandpa give about the films he saw at the cinema? /2  
**they were mute/soundless**  
**subtitles or words written on the screen**
- f) Why didn't great-grandpa go to the movies very often? /1  
**too far away**  
**or took ½ hour to get there**
- g) How did great-grandpa travel around and why? /2  
**on foot**  
**only rich people had cars, or they didn't have a car**

**Total 11**

### Spoken Text 3 – Question 3

- a) What is the first condition given by the driving instructor in regard to obtaining your "B" Drivers Licence /1  
**you must be 18**
- b) According to the instructor, what must you never do before driving? /1  
**drink alcohol / take drugs**
- c) Name two of the possibilities that he suggests could happen should you break this rule? /2  
**cause an accident/ lose licence/ end up in prison**
- d) According to the information given, what could happen if you don't have your licence with you? /2  
**Lose lots of points / have licence suspended**
- e) Name any 2 of the things mentioned that you should check before a long journey? /2  
**tyres/petrol in tank/engine/water level/ oil level/ presence of spare tyre**
- f) What are the speed limits given for a person holding their licence for the first 3 years? /2  
**100km on highway/ 50 in urban areas**
- g) In which circumstance might you earn a fine of 600 Euros? /2  
**having a mobile phone (in your hand) while driving**

**Total 12**

### Spoken Text 4 – Question 4

- a) Why does Carlo seem to be surprised to see Marisa? /1  
**Because it's so early**  
**Or she's in a hurry**
- b) Why is Marisa in a hurry? /2  
**Today is first day of new job**  
**She doesn't want to be late**

- c) Name **four (4)** things we learn about the job. (any 4) /4  
**Part time / very convenient / in an elegant clothing store / 9-1 / Mon-Thurs**
- d) What do these working hours allow her to do? /2  
**Giver her Saturdays and Sundays free (1)**  
**To go to the gym (1/2) / go out with friends (1/2)**
- e) How did Maris find out about the job? /2  
**Her uncle knows the owner well**  
**Or her uncle works in a bank near the store**
- f) How does Carlo offer to get Marisa to work on time? /1  
**Offers her a lift**

**Total 12**

## Section B – Reading and Responding

### Question 5

- a) What does the author claim about this festival and how often is it held? /2  
**oldest in the world / every year**
- b) What do we learn about the 1932 film *Il dottor Jekyll* by Rouben Mamoulian? /1  
**First foreign film shown**
- c) How were the winners chosen in 1932? /1  
**public voting / referendum**
- d) Name **two (2)** things that we are told about Nikolaj Ekk? /2  
**he is soviet /won best director /or director of film *Il Camino...***
- e) What was introduced in 1934? Give as much information as possible. /2  
**Introduced Mussolini cup  
For best Italian film and best foreign film**
- f) Who would the "Coppa Volpi" be awarded to? /2  
**Best actor, male or female**
- g) State **4 (four)** facts we are told about the "Leone d'oro". (any 4) /4  
**most important prize for best film  
started in 1946  
named after the lion of the Basilica  
which is the symbol of the city**
- h) What information is given in the footnote about Benito Mussolini? /2  
**politician dictator  
founder of fascism**
- i) You would most likely find this article in which of the following? (tick only one answer) /2  
**Arts and Culture magazine**
- i) Complete the following. The event around which this passage is centred is. /2  
**Venice film festival**

**Total 20**

## Question 6

- a) What we are told about the Rocca Borromea? /2  
**medieval castle that's well conserved**
- b) Describe Laveno. /2  
**town with old buildings along the port**
- c) What mode of transport is suggested for your return trip from Laveno? /1  
**ferry**
- d) According to the article, how might you enjoy your time back at Angera? /2  
**relax**  
**admire the beautiful view of the lake**
- e) Explain where the station of Stresa is situated. Give as much detail as possible. /2  
**high in relation to the banks of the Lake Maggiore**
- f) State the **four (4)** main directions given for the second tour. /4  
**go south towards V**  
**then onwards towards G**  
**then continue on to A**  
**follow signs to Monte M**
- g) What is the alternative suggestion given for the tour? Give as many details as possible. /3  
**do it in reverse**  
**first take the cable car up**  
**go down by bike to Stresa**
- h) These tours are mainly based /2  
**Around a lake**
- i) Finish this sentence. /2  
This article would mostly interest people who...  
**any plausible answer eg like active holidays, want to see Italy in a different way**

**Total 20**

## Question 7

- a) Dove sono apparsi inizialmente i reality show? /1  
**in America**
- b) Qual'è l'opinione del narratore riguardo a programmi come "Grande Fratello"? /2  
**possono essere dannosi**
- c) Secondo il narratore cosa non fanno più attenzione le persone che guardano il "Grande Fratello" e programmi simili? Evidenzia almeno due esempi. /3  
**a quello che succede nel mondo reale (1)  
per esempio, (any two of the following) (2)  
la situazione economica la disoccupazione  
i problemi ambientali**
- d) Perché questo tipo di programma ha un effetto negativo soprattutto sui giovani? /2  
**tendono facilmente imitare quello che vedono alla tv**
- e) I giovani che guardano il programma, che idea hanno del successo? /2  
**è essenziale ½ litigare½, gridare½ e lamentarsi½**
- f) i. Era facile raggiungere il successo una volta?. /3  
**no, era difficile**  
ii. Perché?  
**era necessario lavorare tanto  
per migliorare il proprio talento**
- g) Come fanno i canali televisivi a fare soldi con i reality show? /3  
**pubblicità  
il costo della produzione è inferiore al costo di altri tipi di programma**
- h) [Tick the **one (1)** answer which best answers this question] /2  
Il narratore è del parere che i reality show sono piuttosto...  
**negativi**
- i) Tu sei d'accordo con l'opinione dell'autore dell'articolo? Perché, o perché no? /2  
**answers will vary**

**Total 20**