

ITALIAN

Paper 1346/01
Italian

Key Message

In addition to linguistic ability, this exam also rewards the ability to handle knowledge and to express opinion. Therefore, a well-researched topic and the ability to take part in a spontaneous discussion can compensate for some of the language weaknesses.

General Comments

Factual knowledge and opinion

Most candidates chose their topics wisely, making sure that there was scope for analysis, evaluation and opinion and were able to demonstrate their full potential.

A lot of candidates chose a literary text, while some chose to discuss social issues. All topics offered enough scope for evaluation and opinions. All candidates showed genuine interest in their topic and pleasure in discussing it.

Presentations were generally well timed and well articulated, leading naturally to discussion. In most instances the Examiner adopted the position of the “interested layman” acknowledging that the candidate was the “expert”. This ensured spontaneity of discussion and elicited from candidates the ability to adapt their prepared material to respond to the Examiner’s questions. Most candidates were able to present a good range of pertinent facts, had the ability to analyse them in an interesting way and to express their opinions in a naturally flowing conversation with the Examiner.

Language (range and accuracy)

Most candidates displayed good to very good, and in some cases excellent range of vocabulary and structures. They were generally able to control their accuracy and they were ready to correct themselves when they realised they had made a mistake. The most common mistakes concerned the use of prepositions, sometimes influenced by English and other times by their dominant foreign language, which may have also influenced vocabulary and structures at times. There were occasional instances of lack of control over agreements, gender and sometimes over verb endings.

Pronunciation and Intonation.

There were generally good or very good levels of pronunciation and intonation. The most common mistakes were misplaced stress and mispronunciation of double consonant or vowel sounds.

Conclusion

Candidates were well prepared for this unit and performed well.

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Paper 1346/02
Reading, Listening and Writing

Key Messages

The requirements for doing well in this paper are as follows: an ability to listen/read in a discerning fashion, i.e. in order to locate pertinent items of information; to pay close attention to the rubric of the paper e.g. to answer in the correct language; to transfer pertinent content to correct answer format i.e. manipulating the language where necessary to tailor the answer to the question. With regards to the writing section of the paper, candidates must use varied and accurate language, addressing all bullet points, in order to gain the highest marks.

General Comments

Listening and reading sections: strong candidates answered directly and succinctly, targeting the required information and not including unnecessary additional material. Their answers displayed convincing understanding of the passages rather than merely an attempt at transcribing what had been heard/ read.

Writing section: high-performing candidates addressed all bullet points in a balanced fashion, and were able to produce solid, well-referenced arguments to support their discussion of the stimulus by providing sound (not rambling or overly anecdotal) examples.

Comments on Specific Questions

PART I

Brano d'ascolto 1 (Questions 1–5)

The overwhelming majority of candidates performed very well on this section.

Brano d'ascolto 2 (Questions 6–14)

Most questions in this section were handled well by candidates.

Question 8: strong candidates were able to infer that Tiziano's decision had not gone down well with his mother and answered accordingly.

Question 12: many good candidates responded clearly to the 'che tipo di persona' element of the question.

Brano d'ascolto 3 (Questions 15–23)

Candidates generally performed well on questions 15–23.

Question 17: some candidates had difficulties with identifying the difference between playing as a profession and playing as a hobby.

PART II

Testo di lettura 1 (Questions 24–26)

Candidates generally responded very well to questions 24–26. For question 24 a degree of manipulation was required to answer correctly and some candidates missed the mark by merely copying the phrase beginning 'il 61% dei ragazzi...' from the text. Care must be taken not to lift material in this way.

Testo di lettura 2 (Questions 27–35)

For questions 27 and 29 there were a variety of points that could have been made in order to get the mark. Strong candidates were clear about how their chosen point specifically answered the question / proved the point being addressed in the question.

Question 33: strong candidates described aptly the process by which the fans numbered themselves and called a register in order to maintain their position in the queue.

Testo di lettura 3 (Questions 36–43)

Question 39: mention of the time frame was necessary in order to substantiate the significance of the figures involved. Candidates generally performed well on this section.

PART III

More candidates responded on 44(b) than 44(a) but there was a significant minority who chose the latter.

44 (a)

There was some degree of ambiguity about 'il ruolo dei mass-media' – whether this was in worsening / stirring up public opinion or on a more positive note, encouraging people to take steps to address the problem of global warming via raising awareness. Either inference was rewarded if content was thorough and well thought through.

44 (b)

Again, there was a degree of ambiguity about 'il costo di prolungare gli studi' – whether literal or more metaphorical. Again, either was acceptable provided the answer was well-supported.