



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Italian 3631 *Specification*

3631/W Writing

Mark Scheme

2008 examination - June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

WRITING TESTS - FOUNDATION AND HIGHER TIERS**PART ONE****Principles of Marking**

- All marking is to be done in accordance with the published Criteria for Assessment.
- The stress is on effective communication. Credit should be given for the language successfully conveying the target message without ambiguity.
- There is no need to count the number of words used to answer each question. The sole criterion is completion of the tasks set.

MARK ALLOCATION

Foundation	Communication	Quality of Language	Total
List	2		2
Message	12	8	20
Letter	8	12	20
Total	22	20	42

Higher	Communication	Quality of Language	Total
Letter	8	12	20
Question 2	8	12	20
Total	16	24	40

FOUNDATION TIER QUESTION 1 - List Question

This question will be assessed for Communication only.

Marks	Degree of Communication
1	1 - 2 words correct, without ambiguity.
2	3 - 4 words correct, without ambiguity.

Maximum mark - 2

QUESTION 2 - Message Question

This question will consist of six tasks and will be assessed for Degree of Communication and Quality of Language.

DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION

For each of the six tasks, the following criteria will be used.

Marks	Degree of Communication
0	Required message not communicated.
1	Comprehension difficult or ambiguous. Some relevant information conveyed.
2	Required message conveyed without ambiguity even if not totally correct.
6 x 2 = 12 marks	

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

A global mark out of 8 will be awarded. The mark awarded for Communication will determine the mark range available for Quality of Language according to the following criteria.

Marks awarded for Communication	Marks available for Quality of Language	Quality of Language
0 - 1	0	Inaccuracy is almost always a barrier to communication.
2 - 4	1 - 2	Some of the messages are intelligible but the frequency of serious error makes communication difficult.
5 - 6	3 - 4	Several of the messages are intelligible, despite frequent error which creates ambiguity and requires effort from the reader.
7 - 8	5 - 6	Errors occur regularly but most intended messages can be understood, with hesitation but without undue difficulty.
9 - 12	7 - 8	Despite various errors, the piece is more accurate than inaccurate; intended meanings are usually clear.

Maximum mark 12 + 8 = 20

QUESTION 3 - Letter Question

This question will consist of eight tasks and will be assessed for Degree of Communication, Range/Complexity and Accuracy, giving a maximum mark of 20.

DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION

- The assessment of Communication depends upon recognising an attempt to write something about the task.
- You should not take into account the quality of the language used, unless it interferes so much that communication would not take place.
- Candidates will be expected to go beyond the minimum level of response in order to score at least 3 marks. This means that the candidate will have added an additional detail (hereafter called a **Development**), which goes beyond the minimum required by the task.
- For a Development to be accepted, the quality of language should be the same as that which is required for a Communication task.
- Developments cannot be credited for a task which has been rejected.
- There can be only **one** Development per task in this question.

Tasks to Marks - Degree of Communication

Tasks	Marks	Requirement	Degree of Communication
0	0		Nothing of merit; fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.
1	1		Communicates <i>a little</i> basic information (e.g. simple facts).
2 – 8 (0 Dev)	2		
3 - 8 (1 Dev)	3		<i>Some</i> basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (e.g. description, simple opinion).
3 - 8 (2 Dev)	4		
5 - 8 (3 Dev)	5	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	Communicates clearly <i>quite a lot</i> of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.
5 - 8 (4 Dev)	6	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	
7 - 8 (5 Dev)	7	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	Communicates <i>a lot</i> of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.
7 - 8 (6 Dev)	8	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

- Marks will be awarded out of 6 for each of Range/Complexity and Accuracy. The marks will be added to make a total out of 12 for Quality of Language.
- The mark awarded under Range/Complexity must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- The mark awarded under Accuracy must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- If a mark is awarded for Communication this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range/Complexity and for Accuracy.
- For the award of 4 marks or more under Range/Complexity there must be at least one reference to each of past, present and future events.

Range / Complexity	Marks	Accuracy
Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	0	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	1	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	2	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	3	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	4	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicates descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses, are used more regularly and with increasing success.	5	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	6	There are hardly any major and few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

The maximum mark for the Foundation Tier Paper is 42.

HIGHER TIER**QUESTION 1**

This question is the same as that set for Foundation Writing Question 3. It should therefore be marked in accordance with the instructions given for Foundation Tier Question 3.

QUESTION 2

This question will consist of *four* tasks and will be assessed for Degree of Communication, Range/Complexity and Accuracy, giving a maximum of 20.

DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION

- The assessment of Communication depends upon recognising an attempt to write something about the task. All responses should be self-contained and comprehensible without reference to the rubrics.
- Candidates will be expected to go beyond the minimum level of response in order to score at least 2 marks. This means that the candidate will have added an additional piece of information, in the form of a phrase or clause (hereafter called a **Development**), which goes beyond the minimum required by the task.
- For a Development to be accepted, the quality of language should be the same as that which is required for a Communication task.
- Developments cannot be credited for a task which has been rejected. There can be *up to two* developments per task in this question.

Tasks to Marks - Degree of Communication

Tasks	Marks	Requirement	Degree of Communication
0	0		Nothing of merit; fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.
1 – 4 (0 Dev)	1		Communicates <i>a little</i> basic information (e.g. simple facts).
1 - 4 (1 Dev)	2		
2 - 4 (2 Dev)	3		<i>Some</i> basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (e.g. description, simple opinion).
2 - 4 (3 Dev)	4		
3 - 4 (4 Dev)	5	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	Communicates clearly <i>quite a lot</i> of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.
3 - 4 (5 Dev)	6	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	
4 (6 Dev)	7	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	Communicates <i>a lot</i> of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.
4 (7 - 8 Dev)	8	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

- Marks will be awarded out of 6 for each of Range/Complexity and Accuracy. The marks will be added to make a total out of 12 for Quality of Language.
- The mark awarded under Range/Complexity must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- The mark awarded under Accuracy must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- If a mark is awarded for Communication this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range/Complexity and for Accuracy.
- For the award of 4 marks or more under Range/Complexity there must be at least one reference to two of past/present/future events.

Range / Complexity	Marks	Accuracy
Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	0	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	1	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	2	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	3	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	4	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicates descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses, are used more regularly and with increasing success.	5	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	6	There are hardly any major and few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

The maximum mark for the Higher Tier paper is 40.

Italian Writing – Part 2 Mark Scheme

Foundation Tier

Question 1

Principles of Marking

- Accept the best three replies from the four answers given.
- Spelling should not be penalised if it does not lead to ambiguity of understanding.
- If the example is used it can not be credited.
- Accept the means of transport without any article e.g. 'macchina', or with wrong article e.g. 'il macchina'.
- Accept 'in/a' + means of transport, e.g. in macchina.
- Accept ways of travelling instead of actual means of transport, e.g. 'camminare', 'volare'.
- Accept English words where they are the same as the Italian words.

Question 2

- Each task should be awarded 0, 1, or 2 marks.
- If there is no verb, award a maximum of 1 mark.
- Do not penalise spelling or grammatical errors if they do not cause ambiguity or difficulty in comprehension.

Degree of communication

Task	2	1	0
1	Mi piace guardare la T.V. guardo la T.V.	[no verb] la T.V. Guardare la T.V. Mi piace guardo la T.V. lo guardare la T.V.[subject pronoun+infinitive]. Mi piace guardato	Guardi la T.V. [wrong verb ending].
2	Guardo 'Neighbours'. Non guardo la T.V. Guardo tutto. Guardo i film. Mi piace guardare	lo guardare 'Neighbours'/ i film [an attempt at writing Italian].	Guardi 'Neighbours'. Guardare 'Neighbours'. 'Neighbours' [No Italian].
3	Preferisco andare al cinema. Mi piace andare al cinema. Preferisco il cinema.	Andare al cinema. Al cinema. Preferisco al cinema.[No infinitive]. Mi preferisco Preferisco vado	Preferisci andare al cinema. (wrong verb ending).
4 Accept plural forms of colours and wrong genders	Il mio colore preferito è rosso. Preferisco rosso. Mi piace rosso. Non ho un colore preferito. Mi piacciono tutti i colori.	rosso (no verb)	rouge (not Italian) negro Il tuo colore preferito è rosso. (wrong message)
5	Il mio compleanno è [il] 5 febbraio.	Il 5 febbraio	Il tuo compleanno è il 5 febbraio.
6	Sono divertente.[must be character not physical].	Divertente. Tipo divertente.	Sei divertente. Sono bello.

Question Three Foundation Tier/Question One Higher Tier*Degree of Communication*

Examples of acceptable tasks with developments, opinions and justifications of opinions.

Only one opinion and one justification is required overall to access the higher mark bands for Degree of Communication.

T= Task, D= Development, O= Opinion, J= Justification, Pr = Present, Pa= Past, F= Future.

Task 1	Ho un lavoro [T] il sabato [D] al supermercato. Accept past/future tense.
Task 2	Vado al cinema [T], compro i CD [D] e vado allo stadio.
Task 3 Accept various spellings of 'London' eg. 'London', 'Londre' 'Londres'	Mi piace [O] fare lo shopping a Chester [T] perché [J] ci sono molti negozi [D] belli Accept in città/al supermercato/ Don't' accept vorrei/mi piacerebbe
Task 4	Ho fatto lo shopping sabato scorso [T] a Chester [D] con gli amici.
Task 5	Ho comprato i CD [T], un libro [D] e i jeans
Task 6 Accept various English spellings for cities e.g. Milan, Rome, (if easily recognizable)	Mi piacerebbe fare lo shopping a Roma [T] perché è una bella città [D] con molti negozi. Mi piace....
Task 7 Must be 'shopping' not 'pizza' (food shopping o.k.) (gelato)	Mi piacerebbe comprare una giacca [T] perché mi piacciono i vestiti italiani [D], sono belli.
Task 8	Non spendo molto per i regali [T] perché non ho un lavoro [D] e ho pochi soldi.

Vorrei

Mi piacerebbe + **infinitive** to be counted as correct time frame. Io + inf

For marks for Range/Complexity and Accuracy
See Part One Mark Scheme.

Question 2 Higher Tier*Degree of Communication*

Example of minimum required to gain full marks:

Task 1	Secondo me c'è molto inquinamento [O] perché [J] c'è troppo traffico nelle città [T], la gente non va più a piedi [D], molta gente lascia rifiuti per terra [D].
Task 2	Gli autobus sono comodi [T] [O] e non costano troppo. [D] È meno stancante viaggiare in autobus. [D]
Task 3	Quest'anno ho riciclato i rifiuti [T], sono sempre andata a scuola a piedi [D] e ho preso l'aereo solo una volta [D]. Accept present tense.
Task 4	Per migliorare l'ambiente si potrebbe riciclare [T], si potrebbe usare di più la bici [D] e si potrebbe camminare di più. [D]. Accept 1 st person singular + plural, or second person singular + plural.

For marks for Range/Complexity and Accuracy
See Part One Mark Scheme.