

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Italian (5IN02) Unit 2: Speaking in Italian

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Unit 2: Speaking in Italian (5IN02)

A huge majority opted to send picture-based discussions for moderation. Candidates obviously enjoyed talking about their personal experiences linked with the photos they had chosen.

Whatever the task undertaken, most candidates performed very well and had interesting things to say. It is always pleasing for moderators to hear so many competent students of Italian.

Those who obtained the highest marks achieved them not only by displaying good linguistic ability, but also by having a genuine dialogue with their Teacher/Examiner.

Conversely, those who had pre-learnt a presentation or over-rehearsed questions and answers produced a less effective performance.

Many centres failed to submit the required paperwork for 5IN02. The candidates whose tests are to be moderated are shown with a * on OPTEM A. When a * candidate is absent, the one above or below on the list should be used as a replacement. In addition, the test with the highest mark and that with the lowest marks should be forwarded, unless already included in the * candidates.

The recordings must be clearly labelled on the CDs (in case they become separated from the paperwork), and sent together with the candidates' Authenticity Sheets and the paperwork relevant to the speaking tasks. Tasks pertaining to OPTEM B should not be selected for moderation.

In centres where more than one TE conducted the tests, internal moderation must be done prior to entering any marks on the OPTEMS.

Further information can be found in the Instruction for the Conduct of Examination on the Italian subject specific page at www.edexcel.com.

Recommendations for future examinations

1. All Teacher Examiners should read the 'Instruction for the Conduct of the Examination', and also the 'Controlled Assessment Teacher Support book - Speaking' for further guidance. Both documents are available to download from www.edexcel.com on the subject specific Italian page.

2. Please ensure that the following are submitted:

a) The recordings - 1 per candidate - clearly recorded with the microphone favouring the candidate rather than the Teacher Examiner and the volume and tone controls turned down.

b) The 2 yellow copies of the Optems forms - Optems A with the marks recorded for all Candidates in the centre including those orals that are not being submitted for moderation. Optems B containing the marks for all Candidates in the centre including those that are submitted for moderation.

c) Candidates who are submitted for moderation, copies of the stimulus are submitted.

d) The Authenticity Record Forms for all the Candidates whose orals are being moderated - signed by both the candidate and the teacher.

e) Copies of the CA2 Candidate preparation forms containing the 30 words / 5 pictures maximum that the Candidate used as a prompt during the test.

2. If more than one Teacher Examiner is conducting the orals within a centre then a co-ordinated system of moderation must take place to ensure that there is standardisation of marking within the centre. Edexcel will moderate the centre, not individual examiners, and if

marking is found to be inaccurate or inconsistent then the whole centre's marks will be affected.

3. Candidates must not know in advance all the questions that are likely to be asked during the oral. The Content and Response assessment grid specifically mentions 'unpredictable elements' and candidates will lose marks heavily if there is no unpredictability.

4. Teacher Examiners should listen carefully to what the candidates are saying and interact accordingly rather than rely on a list of prepared questions. The conversations or discussions should be as natural as possible and not simply a question and answer session.

5. Make sure that timings are strictly adhered to - 4 to 6 minutes per test. Up to 3 minutes is allowed for the candidate to present their topic if they are offering the Presentation task but do remember that there must be interaction between the Teacher Examiner and the candidate if they are to access the higher marks. Up to 1 minute is allowed for the candidate to introduce a picture-based discussion. If the candidate is likely to go beyond these time limits, it is important for the Teacher Examiner to interrupt and initiate some interaction. A stopwatch is recommended for use when conducting the oral tests.

Moderation Marking Principles

Tests which are too short: < less than 3'30" - so 3'29 " is too short

- Automatic deduction of 2 marks on the Content and Response grid.
- There is no penalty applied to either Range or Accuracy.

Test which are too long: > more than 6 minutes

- Stop listening and assessing at the end of the first sentence after 6 minutes have elapsed

Test which are a monologue and have no interaction

- No more than 7 for Content and Response
- There is no penalty applied for either Range or Accuracy

Open interaction tasks only

- Candidate asks only one question - deduct 1 mark from the Content and Response (where two or more questions are clearly required)
- Candidate asks no questions - deduct 2 marks from the Content and Response.

Marks for content and language are awarded discretely - i.e. if a candidate scores 8-11 for content, there is no imposed ceiling on either of the other assessment boxes for range or accuracy.

These are the only penalties to be applied. Pro-rata calculations from other specifications or languages should not be used.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	60	50	44	38	32	28	24	20	16	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	90	81	72	63	54	45	36	27	18	0

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

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