Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Italian (5IN01/1H)
Paper 1H: Listening and
Understanding in Italian

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GCSE Italian
Unit 1 Listening and Understanding in Italian
Examiner Report

Paper 1H Listening and Responding Higher Tier

There are 8 questions in this paper: four crossover questions, two questions aimed at grade B each carrying 4 marks and questions aimed at A and A* each carrying 8 marks. The total mark for this paper is 40. All questions are in English and invite non-verbal responses except for one of the 8 mark questions inviting free-text English responses.

Questions 1, 2, 5 and 6 were the crossover questions and were, as expected, answered better at higher level, with a large proportion of candidates scoring all 4 available marks. Average candidates' performance was comparable to that of top range candidates for 1F, which shows that the questions were at the right level. Like in 1F, **Tina's plans for the future** proved to be the most challenging of the crossover questions.

Question 3 Rail card
This question was targeted at grade B but was found a little more accessible than intended. Most candidates scored at least 3 marks for this question. In part (iii) some candidates did not understand "all'estero" but well over half the cohort answered it correctly.

Question 4 – Gardaland
This question required verbal responses in English. Once more, the task made this question the biggest hurdle and the best discriminator for top performances. In their answer to (c) a number of candidates proved not to have read the question carefully and wrote answers relating to restaurants and bars. "The park" was also a popular wrong answer. Those who identified the correct information provided a variety of renditions of it, some of which were acceptable, some not.

Question (d) was found to be the most challenging. Many candidates did not know what "tedesco" means and made wild guesses from 'Dutch' to 'disco lovers'. Some understood it had to do with speaking another language but were not able to identify it as German. Sadly, some candidates did identify it but offered it just as one example (Speak another language, for example German). Question (g) –una fotografia- was supposed to be straightforward but in fact it produced only a slightly better response than question (d).

Question 7 – Looking for a flat
This question produced similar scores to the other question targeting grade B (question 3). Part (ii) was found to be the most accessible, the others of comparable difficulty.

Question 8 Speed dating

This question was made up of two sections: 8a) concerning a young man and 8b) concerning a young lady. Both sections had to be answered by selecting four correct statements. Both sections produced similar results overall, although stronger candidates appear to have done better in section b) than in section a).

On the whole, papers 1F and 1H were both good papers, with the right level of challenge allowing differentiation between different abilities. The fact that all questions for the listening papers are set in English does not necessarily mean that answering them is easier than if they were in the target language. In the case of verbal responses, there is no possibility of scoring thanks to a successful transcription of the targeted information. This was the case for 'disco' or 'Dutch' for "tedesco", 'photography' for "fotografia" and 'March' for "maggio" or for the various interpretations of "lana" in question 10 on paper 1F.

Candidates need to be familiar with the whole range of question types. In particular, more practice is needed for verbal responses: reading and understanding the question, identifying the relevant information and transferring it into English. Candidates also need to be reminded that tidy presentation is essential.

Entries for the different tiers have been wisely chosen. The best foundation candidates appeared to be comfortable with the tasks without having wasted opportunity for a higher grade and very few of the candidates entered at Higher Level really struggled with the difficulty of the paper.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:
http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx