Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Italian (5IN03)
Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding
in Italian

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GCSE Italian
Unit 3F: Reading
Examiners Report

Examiner's Report
On the whole the paper was quite accessible and many candidates were able to
cope well with it and even achieve very high marks.

Question 1
This overlap question was answered reasonably well by almost all Higher
candidates.

Question 2
This overlap question was answered well at this level, though (iii) and (iv) scored
slightly lower marks even at this level.

Question 3
This question was answered quite well, with again virtually all candidates scoring
full marks.

Question 4
This was probably the most challenging questions in the paper as it is the only
section of the exam where candidates have to answer with verbal responses, but
on the whole it was answered reasonably well. Many marks were lost due to lack
of details.
In (a) only just over half of the candidates recognised the key word *laurea*:
many answers were too vague, such as "a qualification in psychology" rather
than the required "a degree in psychology".
(b) was answered correctly by less than half of the candidates. Many thought
that he was a tourist guide or else that he worked on boats or worked for the
United Nations or even that he was an estate agent, due to the mention of
estate in the text.
Most candidates managed to answer (c) correctly, either by mentioning that
Jacopo's company organises events or less frequently that they look after
websites or both.
In (d) most candidates were able to score at least one point by mentioning the
fact that he receives 500 euros per month from his father. Some lost the point
due to a lack of details as they did not specify how often he receives the money.
The second point was more problematic as many candidates failed to understand
that he often eats at his parents' house. Many thought that his parents give him
food or buy him clothes or paid for his scooter.
(e) was answered correctly by the majority of candidates, as the mark scheme
allowed a variety of answers (goes out at weekend / eats at friends' houses
/watches football/sport / goes camping). However, some candidates incorrectly
thought that "he goes to the cinema (misunderstanding the crucial *niente
cinema* in the text) / rides his motorbike / goes to the countryside (confusing
campeggio with *campagna*)". Other lost points due to a lack of detail or a lack of
clarity, such as "he eats at home with his friends".
(f) also had some low scores. Some of the wrong answers were quite
entertaining though clearly simple guesswork ("he doesn't like commitment / he
hasn't got time for a girlfriend / he prefers to go out with his friends / it is mere

relaxing"). A few said that he didn't have a girlfriend because he doesn't like to talk, probably taken from the phrase *mi dispiace doverlo dire.* Some may not necessarily have understood the word *risparmio*, but got the answer from the context of the text.

(g) also proved quite demanding with more than half of the candidates not understanding that he is not scared of being unemployed. Many understood the fact that he is not scared but thought that he is not scared because he has a job. Some native speakers lost this point because they were not able to translate *disoccupazione* and answered "he is not afraid of disoccupation".

Question 5
This overlap question was answered very well at Higher level, with the vast majority of H candidates scoring full marks.

Question 6
This overlap question was generally answered well at this level, but even at the Higher level candidates failed to understand part of the text and resorted to guesswork in (iii) and (iv).

Question 7
This question was answered quite well, with most candidates scoring at least three marks out of four. The most coomon incorrect answers were D, as candidates possibly confused *almeno tre giorni* with "*meno"*, thus choosing "ideal for stays of fewere than three days", and H as they understood *la compri online* but failed to understand the rest of that sentence informing them that the card can also be bought in airports, stations and hotels.

Question 8
This multiple choice question in Italian was answered successfully by many. The sub-questions were answered with varying degrees of success. Most incorrect answers seemed to be due to wrong guesses by candidates that had got the gist of the article but failed to identify all the details.

Most sub-questions were answered well by the majority of candidates.
In (i) some candidates thought that the Earth Hour was an initiative to reduce smog.
In (ii) a few did not discriminate between the two dates mentioned in the text, 2007 being the year in which this initiative was started in Sydney and 2009 the year in which it was introduced in Italy.
(iii) was the most demanding sub-question. Many opted for B, mistaking *due miliardi* for 2,000.
In (iv) some candidates may not have recognised *spente* as the past participle of *spegnere*.
In (v) some opted for C, possibly confusing *accendere* and *spegnere*.
In (vi) a few candidates must have felt compelled to do something during Earth Hour, be it listening to music or working on the computer rather than resting.
Equally in (vii) they must have thought that going dancing or dining out were preferable options to watching the night sky with no lights.
In (viii) some candidates thought that we should save electricity once a week rather than always.
Overall this question produced some very pleasing scores given that for most of the multiple choice questions all options were feasible from a logical point of view (but obviously only one answer was correct based on the text).

As a final point, this year there were many instances of marks being lost because candidates had ticked more than one box or else had left some boxes empty. Candidates are advised to check the number of marks available for each question and to choose only ONE answer and to always choose an answer, even if just randomly, rather than leave it empty!