Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Paper 1F. Listening and Responding - Foundation Tier

The format of Paper 1F allows for answers to be marked either by computer or by a clerical marker. The "Performance Evaluation Network" provides a detailed statistical analysis for most items, on which the comments which follow are based. For clerically marked questions with a single score, there is no indication of candidates' performances with individual items.

There are 10 questions in this paper, each of them carrying 4 marks. The total mark for this paper is 40.

All questions are in English and invite non-verbal responses except for one question inviting short English responses.

Question 1 – Shopping
This question offered a gentle lead-in to the paper. It required candidates to recognise 4 single-word items and was answered well by most candidates across the ability range.

Question 2 – My friend Stefano
This question was aimed at F grade candidates and was only slightly more demanding than the previous question: Surprisingly. *"alto"* was found to be the most difficult word to identify.

Question 3 – A bike ride from Lignano
This was a crossover question and only 3i was answered correctly by most 1F candidates, but 2/3 of them were not able to understand that the 10 bikes could be used free of charge.

Question 4 – My street
This was also a crossover question. Candidates had to decide what was there before and what is there now and enter their answers in a grid. The task appeared to be well understood and the majority of 1F candidates managed to provide at least two correct answers.

Question 5 – Weekend jobs
This question was aimed at potential E graders. Candidates were expected to understand what weekend jobs everybody was doing. It appeared to be pitched at the right level. Only 5iv was found to be more challenging as many candidates associated "wash cars": with "work in a garage", having overlooked the fact that he car washing took place in a car park at the shopping centre:

Question 6 – Keeping fit
This question was intended to offer a few easy marks. Most candidates were able to score 2 or 3 marks.

Question 7 – City transport
Another crossover question. The task was matching statements to people. It was generally well answered by most candidates who found it more accessible than was intended.

Questions 8 – Holiday accommodation
The task requested candidates to associate items with descriptions. It separated performances well. Most 1F candidates were able to answer (iv) *(*campsite*)* but only half of them recognised *pianterreno* and only a few more recognised *ultimo piano.*

Questions 9 – Using a computer
This question, and the next, targeted potential E graders. Candidates were expected to recognise what people use the computer for. This was well understood and most candidates managed to score 3 out of the 4 marks available*.*

Question 10 – Enzo's plans
Candidates were asked to produce their own answer in English. Candidates find this task type more demanding than other ones and performance was generally poor. Only a small percentage of candidates managed to recognise *all'estero.* Answers ranged from wild guesses to 'in Leicester.'

Summary

On the whole, 1F was a good paper, allowing differentiation between 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: candidates cannot rely on clues coming from the recorded text and, in the case of verbal responses, there is no possibility of scoring thanks to a successful transcription of the targeted information.

Whilst the complexity of the text is fundamental to the candidates' results, the format of the question also has a significant impact. Therefore, candidates need to be familiar with the whole range of tasks. In particular, more practice is needed for verbal responses: reading and understanding the question, identifying the relevant information and transferring it into English.

Entry levels have been wisely chosen. The best foundation candidates for this paper appeared to be comfortable with the tasks without having wasted an opportunity for a higher grade.