Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Italian (1IN0)
Paper 03 Reading, Higher Tier

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Introduction

GCSE Italian paper 1IN0 3H is assessed by means of a sixty minute examination. During this time, candidates are assessed on their understanding of written Italian across a range of different types of texts. The paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all of the themes.

The assessment consists of 10 questions and the total mark for the paper is 50 marks.
Section A has six questions set in English, two of which are questions based on literary extracts.
Section B contains three questions set in Italian.
Section C contains one translation passage from Italian into English.

Texts for individual questions within the assessment use high frequency language and vary in length, including both short and longer written passages. Texts include authentic sources that introduce more complex language and unfamiliar materials. Literary texts consist of short extracts from texts that may have been adapted and abridged from authentic sources to be appropriate to this level.

Question 1
In this question candidates were required to read an article about summer holidays. The vast majority of candidates answered all questions correctly. In part (b) some candidates lost marks as they stated that Luisa and Tommaso sometimes went out on the bicycle in the afternoon. Some candidates appeared not to understand *mattina* and *pomeriggi* in the question or did not read the text closely enough.

Question 2
In this question candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Nero è l'albero dei ricordi, azzurra l'aria* by Rosetta Loy and answer questions in English. This proved challenging for some candidates, although most candidates scored at least 3 out of 4 points. Part (a) caused the most issues for candidates as some of them misred the question and wrote answers such as 'to a pizzeria'. This did not answer the question of 'Why did the three friends go out that evening?'. Candidates are reminded of the importance of reading the question carefully before answering. Parts (b), (c) and (d) were answered correctly by the vast majority of candidates.

Question 3

In this question candidates were required to read a blog with the opinions of three people about local area. Most candidates were able to score at least 3 of the 5 points here. Part (a) proved the most challenging for some candidates who chose 'Andrea' instead of 'Isabella'. Parts (b), (c), (d) and (e) were answered correctly by the majority of candidates. In part (e), while most candidates arrived at the correct answer, some used rather colourful language to answer the question! Candidates are reminded of the need to use appropriate language when answering examination questions.

Question 4

Here candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Dov'è più azzurro il fiume* by Italo Calvino and select an answer from the four options available. The majority of candidates were able to score at least 4 points on this question. The most challenging part was part (v) as candidates had to interpret meaning. For part (v), less successful candidates chose D instead of C.

Question 5

In this question, candidates were required to read a passage outlining the views of 4 people on studying abroad. They then had to complete 4 statements with the correct names from the list of 4 as well as answer two questions in English on the text. The vast majority of candidates were able to successfully identify the correct names and more candidates scored at least 4 of the 6 available points. In part (e), while most candidates correctly answered that learning the language is the main reason for young people wanting to study abroad, some lost credit as their answers were too generic, e.g. 'to experience the culture' and 'to learn new skills'. Answers here need to be specific. In part (f), again most candidates answered correctly while some did not provide answers that were specific enough for the mark to be awarded, e.g. 'by saving money' without explaining how.

Question 6

Here candidates were required to read a passage about il Calcio Storico Fiorentino. They then had to choose three correct statements from a choice of 7 and then answer 2 questions about the text in English. In part (i), many candidates were able to correctly identify the three correct statements and the majority scored at least 2 of the 3 marks in this part.

In part (ii), most candidates correctly stated that 'Calcio Storico' is more violent than football although some lost credit as they did not actually make a comparison and wrote answers such as 'violent'. It is important that candidates read the question carefully and respond accordingly.

Part (iii) was answered correctly by the vast majority of candidates, although many struggled to recognise 'fiorentini' as the adjective pertaining to Florence. However, as long as they communicated the idea of local residents, they were awarded the mark.

Question 7

This question was a multiple choice exercise that required candidates to read an article about school and choose an answer from the four options available. Here candidates generally scored at least 4 points, as a result of being able to recognise lexical items and verb tenses in the text. Parts (i) and (iv) proved to be the most challenging. In part (i) some candidates did not understand the adjective 'stretto' and in part (iv) some did not link the correct answer 'studiava e parlava' to the text, possibly as a result of the 'non' before 'parlavo' in the text. Candidates need to read texts very carefully and think about their meaning.

Question 8

This question required candidates to read information about 4 different restaurants in Rome and then choose the correct restaurant to complete the sentences related to the text. While spome candidates did not seem to recognise the word 'cuore' and chose a different restaurant rather than 'Baffetto' in part (a), the vast majority of scored 4 or 5 points as they were able to identify key vocabulary items from the text and the questions.

Question 9

This question required candidates to read a passage in Italian about a competition related to the environment and answer questions in Italian, which the majority of candidates did very successfully, showing good understanding both of the text and the questions. Most candidates scored at least 4 points from the 5 available. Almost all candidates answered part (a) correctly, although some were not specific enough, e.g. some wrote 'una forte sensibilità' but here they needed to say 'una forte sensibilità ambientale'. Part (b) was answered correctly by most candidates. In part (c), some candidates also lost the mark as their answer was not specific enough. They simply wrote 'una biblioteca' but 'i libri' was the essential element in this answer. Parts (d) and (e) were answered correctly by the majority of candidates, alhough in part (e) some candidates left out the adjective 'energetici' and this was essential for the point to be awarded.

In this question, there were a number of blank spaces and a few completely blank responses and candidates are again advised to attempt all questions in order to be able to access the full range of marks.

Question 10

This question required candidates to translate a passage about school uniform into English. This was well attempted by the majority of candidates. Most candidates managed to communicate the message of 'far adottare' although surprisingly some candidates did not know the word 'divise' and this affected the clarity of communication. Many candidates did not translate 'sembra' in the second line and simply left this out. The rest of the passage was generally well translated with candidates managing to successfully convey the meaning. However, some struggled with verb tenses, translating verbs in the future tense instead of the conditional tense. It was encouraging to see that practically all of the cohort attempted the translation in its entirety with minimal blank responses. The majority of candidates scored 5 or more points from the 7 points available.

Paper Summary

Most candidates at this level achieved a good measure of success on questions with English prompts which required the recall of familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the specification and most candidates were able to gain some marks on the translation into English task. However, some candidates were less successful on questions which required processing or interpreting meaning. The literary texts and questions with rubrics in Italian proved accessible to those achieving higher scores on the paper.

Based on their performance in this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates should read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to the question words.
- Candidates must remember that, in the multiple-choice questions, most alternative incorrect options will contain an element of distraction, such as a word or phrase candidates will have read. Learning to look for these can be a helpful skill.
- Candidates must ensure that their translation reads naturally in English. It is often not possible to translate word-for-word from the original Italian text.There will possibly be unknown words, or even whole sentences, in the translation. Candidates should translate the words they do know and then make a sensible guess at the unknowns from the context.
- Candidates need to proof-read what they write and run a 'sense-check'.
- Candidates must answer all questions and not leave blank spaces. An educated guess may get some credit but a blank space will not. They should also check that they have not missed out any questions by accident.
- Candidates must remember to be careful with handwriting and to present their work neatly.