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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Italian (1IN0)

Paper 3H Reading and understanding in Italian

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November 2021

Publications Code 1IN0_3H_2111_ER

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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 young people and work. The vast majority of candidates answered at least 2 of the 3 questions correctly. In part (a) a surprising number of candidates did not know the word *laurea* and some did not read the question properly.

Question 2

In this question candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Bianca come il latte, rossa come il sangue* by Alessandro D'Avenia and answer questions in English. This proved challenging for some candidates, although most candidates scored at least 3 out of 4 points. Part (c) caused the most issues for candidates as some answers were not specific enough and some candidates did not know the word *pittrice*. Candidates are reminded that answers need to be precise.

Question 3

In this question candidates were required to read a blog with the opinions of three people about school. Most candidates were able to score at least 3 of the 5 points here. Part (a) proved to be challenging for some candidates who chose 'Antonio' instead of 'Stefano'. Parts (b), (c), (d) and (e) were answered correctly by the majority of candidates. In part (e), while most candidates gave the correct answer, some lost marks as they were not specific enough, eg they gave answers such as 'he could do what he wanted' but this needed to be in relation to the subjects he would like study in order to be awarded the mark.

Question 4

Here candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Gita domenicale* by Carlo Cassola 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 (iii) as candidates had to interpret meaning. Some candidates appeared not to know the meaning of the word 'indifference' In English.

Question 5

In this question, candidates were required to read a passage outlining the views of 4 people about the Sanremo Festival. 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 although a few seemed to think that they needed to use all 4 names, even though the question clearly stated that 'some names may be used twice or not at all' and candidates are reminded to read the instructions very carefully. Overall, most candidates scored at least 4 of the 6 available points for this question.

Question 6

Here candidates were required to read a passage about the Verona Card. 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), almost all candidates correctly stated that the card can be bought by tourists and/or residents of the city.

Part (iii) was answered correctly by the vast majority of candidates, although some candidates answered that the card is not worthwhile for people who do not like to visit places or go sightseeing but this is not actually in the text and is therefore incorrect.

Question 7

This question was a multiple choice exercise that required candidates to read a blog about a disastrous holiday 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 high-frequency words in the text. Part (iii) proved to be the most challenging as some candidates did not know the prepositions *vicino* and *lontano* and therefore many opted for C (*lontano dalla spiaggia*) rather than D (*vicino al mare*).

Question 8

This question required candidates to read information about 4 different places in Milan and then choose the correct one to complete the sentences related to the text. Candidates answered this questions very successfully and the vast majority 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 stray animals 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. Part (a) was answered correctly by most candidates and almost all candidates answered part (b) correctly, although some were not specific enough, eg some simply wrote 'devono controllare' but failed to say what, i.e. *i propri animali*. Parts (c), (d) and (e) were answered correctly by the majority of candidates.

In this question, there was a small number of candidates who left blank spaces and candidates are 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 online shopping into English. This was well attempted by the majority of candidates. A few candidates did not translate *è diventato* and simply wrote 'online shopping is very popular' but the meaning of this is not the same as 'has become more popular'. It was encouraging to see that

candidates were not put off by the subjunctive and correctly translated *'c'è sempre il rischio che qualcuno ci possa rubare i dettagli personali'*. 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 6 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.