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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In Italian (1IN0)  
Paper 4H Writing in Italian

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For this paper each question is set in a context drawn from the themes and topics. The assessment tasks feature general content that is familiar and accessible to all candidates. Candidates are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express facts, ideas and opinions in Italian. The length of each response required and complexity of language increases across the paper. Recommended word counts are specified for each question. Candidates will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count or for going beyond the mandatory bullet points. All questions are marked against the assessment criteria as published in the current specification. The instructions to candidates are all in Italian. The use of dictionaries is not permitted.

The assessment time for paper 4H is 1 hour and 20 minutes in length and it carries 60 marks. The paper consists of two questions and one translation from English into Italian. Candidates must answer all questions.

Question 1 has two options, from which candidates have to select one. This question assesses candidates on their ability to convey information, narrate, express opinions, interest and convince the reader about a certain point. Candidates should use the informal register. This question is common to the Foundation tier (which in this exam session was entered only by 2 candidates).

Question 2 has two options, from which candidates have to select one. This question assesses candidates on their ability to convey information, narrate, express and justify ideas and opinions and interest or convince the reader. Candidates must use the formal register.

Question 3 is the translation question. Candidates are required to translate a short paragraph from English into Italian. The individual sentences are ordered by increasing level of difficulty.

The entry for the Autumn series 2021 was very small, consisting of only 35 candidates, most of whom appeared to be native or near native speakers, possibly because they had not been taught formally and had not been able to be assessed by their teachers. As a consequence, the level of response was generally extremely good.

There were no entries for Paper 4 F in this exam series.

### **Question 1 (a)**

Q1(a) was by far the most popular choice for question 1. It required candidates to write to a friend about their free time. They had to address the four bullet points and produce between 80-90 words in Italian. They had to include what they like doing in their free time; what they did last weekend; why free time is important for young people; their plans for a future weekend. The question had to be answered using past, present and future time frames.

This is a well-rehearsed topic and candidates generally answered all points very well. There were many lengthy descriptions of their free time activities and language was of a good standard. Most were able to express their views about the importance of free time for young people, as a time to relax, rest and destress and to do activities that you enjoy.

### **Question 1 (b)**

Q1(b) required candidates to write an informal email about their job. They had to address the four bullet points and produce between 80-90 words in Italian. They had to write what they do at work; what they have done recently with their colleagues; why a work experience is important for young people; what job they would like to do in the future.

This question was chosen by a handful of candidates. This might be partly due to the fact that most teenage candidates do not have any personal experience of the world of work. The very few responses appeared to have been written mostly by adult candidates. Responses were generally of high standards, and most were able to express ideas and opinions successfully, with most agreeing that a work experience is important to prepare youngsters for the world of work.

### **Question 2 (a)**

Q2(a) required candidates to write an article about a day with a famous person of their choice, as a prize for a magazine competition. They had to address the four bullet points and justify their ideas and opinions. They had to produce between 130-150 words in Italian. They had to include why they like this person; what they did together; the importance of famous people for youngsters, if they would like to become famous in future.

This question was not as popular as Q2(b), but it still elicited a number of responses. The chosen famous persons ranged from big celebrities such as Rihanna, Elton John and Zucchero to more obscure rappers but virtually all except one were singers (plus one actor, Gabriel Macht). Most candidates were able to cope with the demands of this question and all bullet points were generally answered well. Most of them agreed that it is good for young people to have a famous person as a role model.

### **Question 2 (b)**

Q2(b) required candidates to write about a journey. They had to address the four bullet points and justify their ideas and opinions. They had to produce between 130-150 words in Italian, including: details about the journey, their opinion on the journey, why travelling is important for young people and their advice for organising a journey.

This was by far the most popular choice for Q2(b), and it was generally well-answered by candidates. Some candidates wrote more about a holiday rather than a journey but that was deemed acceptable as long as all the bullet points were covered. Most were able to express their opinion about the importance of travelling for young people as an opportunity to relax and spend time with your family, make new friends, experience a new culture and taste new food. Most were also able to provide some advice for organising a holiday, such as organise everything in advance and choose carefully who to travel with. There were a few responses that explained the journey in detail but failed to address the other bullet points, which might be because of running out of time and leaving the task incomplete. Candidates are reminded about the importance of addressing all of the bullet points in the task.

### **Question 3**

Q3 required candidates to translate a short passage from English into Italian.

The standard of translation into Italian was generally high in this question. This year the topic of the passage to be translated was music. Most candidates produced accurate responses in terms of verb conjugation, vocabulary and word order and errors did not usually affect the clarity of communication (for example misspelling of *chitarra*). However, there was a surprising number of candidates who did not know the Italian word for "campsite". A few candidates left blanks where they did not know a word or phrase. They would be strongly advised to attempt all of the passage as no marks can be given to blank spaces.

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

- Read every question on the exam paper before you begin to write your answers.
- Answer only one question 1 and one question 2. Again, this year there were instances of candidates answering all questions.
- Look very carefully at the whole question, including the rubric, to make sure that you fully understand what you are being asked to do.
- Answer each of the bullet points in order.
- Write a separate paragraph for each bullet point, as this will help you check that you have covered all of them in detail.
- Leave enough time to check your work carefully at the end of the exam.

- Try and use a variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary to avoid repetition.
- Write your answers on the correct pages of the answer booklet. If you find that you have written, for example, part of Q2(b) on the page for Q2(a), then please write a brief note so that the examiner (who only sees one question at a time) is aware of this and can take the necessary action.
- In Q3, try and translate every word, including what might appear to be minor words.
- Ensure that your handwriting is as neat as possible. Many responses this year were very difficult to read.

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