

Examiners' Report
June 2016

GCE Italian 6IN04 01

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June 2016

Publications Code 6IN04_01_1606_ER

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Introduction

This paper is made up of three sections.

Section A is the translation: candidates are required to translate a text of approximately 80 words from English into Italian. 10 marks are awarded for this section. For marking purposes the text is divided into 30 assessable items and points are awarded for each item that is 100% correct in terms of grammar and spelling. Therefore candidates will be rewarded for their accurate handling of grammar and structures and their lexical knowledge.

Section B is Creative or Discursive Essay: candidates are required to write one piece of 240-270 words in Italian choosing from three creative titles and four discursive essays. They will be rewarded for their ability to organise arguments and ideas and to make relevant points in response to a general issue. They will be rewarded for their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic and for the ability to organise their ideas. Almost three quarters of the available marks (30 out of 45) are awarded for content (up to 15 for understanding and response and up to 15 for organisation and development) whilst up to 15 are awarded for language (up to 10 for range and application of language, i.e. lexis and structures, and up to 5 for Accuracy).

Section C is the Research Based Essay: candidates are required to write one piece of 240-270 words on a topic that relates to one of the four main areas of research (geographical area, historical study, aspects of modern society, literature and the arts). Their chosen topic must also relate to Italian culture and society, essays referring to non-Italian topics will score no marks. Candidates will be rewarded for their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic and their ability to organise ideas. Up to 30 marks are awarded for reading, research and understanding (i.e. their knowledge but more importantly their analysis and evaluation of the chosen topic), up to 9 for organisation and development and up to 6 for quality of language.

Question 1

The translation is a discriminatory section which focuses on lexical and grammatical accuracy. Candidates generally showed a fair to good knowledge of grammatical principles and vocabulary.

The majority of candidates answered many sections of the translation well although certain sections proved to be more demanding than others.

In terms of grammar, some difficulty was found with the use of the definite article at the beginning of the translation, e.g. *L'italiano* was found with no article a few times, and '*l'immagine d'Italia*' was also encountered (instead of *dell'Italia*).

Many candidates struggled with possessives and did not know how to translate 'its', getting confused between *suo* and *loro* or omitting the definite articles.

Many candidates, including more able, found it difficult to recognise the duration form and translated the present perfect with *the passato prossimo* instead of the present tense. Following from that, the preposition 'for' was translated with '*per*' and not with *da*.

The *periodo ipotetico* with the imperfect subjunctive and the conditional was translated correctly by a great number of candidates though "came" was at times translated in the present tense as "come", therefore not accepted.

Surprisingly, *contribuirebbero* was generally spelt correctly.

In terms of vocabulary, one of the most demanding phrases was 'is due to' with a variety of incorrect renditions such as '*a causa di, grazie a*', which were not accepted. 'Food' was sometimes not translated with *cibo*: to avoid the risk of losing marks, candidates are strongly advised to translate literally unless an idiomatic expression is required. The same can be said for 'dishes' (*piatti*).

Many marks were lost through common errors such as missed accents and apostrophes and spelling mistakes, especially with words that they would be expected to know such as *associazione, immagine* and even *diciannove* and *università*.

All in all the standard of the translation was better than last year although some candidates seemed to lack the grammatical knowledge and the attention to detail that could be reasonably expected at this level of study.

This is a satisfactory attempt at translating the given text and a good example of a slightly patchy translation.

Question 1

Translate the following passage **into Italian**.

Italian is the fourth most studied language in the world. Its popularity is due to various factors, first of all Italian culture with its music and literature but also its food. Many people have started to study Italian in order to be able to cook their favourite dishes.

There is an association of nineteen Italian universities which has been promoting the image of Italy for years. Its director said that if more foreigners came to study in Italy, they would contribute to the economic development of the country.

L'Italiano è la quarta lingua più studiata nel mondo. La sua popolarità è causata da vari fattori, prima di tutto la cultura italiana con la sua musica e letteratura ma anche il cibo. Tante persone hanno iniziato a studiare l'Italiano per essere abili a cucinare i loro piatti preferiti.

C'è un'associazione di ^{diciannove} ~~diciannove~~ università italiane che hanno promosso l'immagine dell'Italia per anni. Il direttore di essi ha detto che se se più stranieri venissero a studiare in Italia, loro potranno contribuire al cambiamento economico del paese.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate started off very accurately, translating correctly all of the first sentence. In the second sentence (s)he managed to choose the right lexis to translate the tricky phrase "is due to" but unfortunately lost the point due to wrong agreement, which was a shame. More points were lost due to spelling errors such as "literatura", "diciannove" and "imagine". Other points were lost due to small inaccuracies such as a missing apostrophe in "un'associazione".

One of the most difficult sentence with *periodo ipotetico* is translated accurately but unfortunately there are some lexical errors such as "cambiamento" and "promotato" combined with some grammatical errors such as the wrong choice of tense, which resulted in losing also the point for "per anni" due to the incorrect preposition, and the incorrect use of the future tense rather than the conditional in "potranno contribuire".



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This candidate would have greatly benefited from checking their work at the end as (s)he might have spotted errors such as missing apostrophes and incorrect agreements.

Many candidates this year lost points by incorrectly spelling *diciannove* when in fact the number written in digits, 19 would have been acceptable.

Question 2 (a)

This was the most popular of the three creative titles. Candidates had to write an imaginative story about a unique opportunity in their lives. Most candidates showed a reasonable to good understanding of the requirements of this question and managed to write a continuation of the story in the first person. Many talked about an opportunity presenting itself, mostly in relation to work or study. Some talked about the opportunity to travel or go on holiday.

Many candidates did not develop the story well in relation to what happened as a result of the event itself though and they lost marks accordingly.

A few candidates let their imagination run free – too freely, perhaps – and wrote implausible adventures, therefore losing sight of the title.

Quite a few used the *passato remoto* to recount the story, but not always consistently.

This candidate wrote a creative story about a unique opportunity in their life, imagining to be a street beggar on Christmas day.

Quel giorno mi sono detto/a che certe occasioni si presentano una volta sola nella vita...

E la cosa che o sbagliato di più in quel giorno è che non ho preso quella occasione quando avevo la opportunità. Era il giorno di natale, stavo andando in piazza perché oggi era il giorno che uscivano tutti per festeggiare il giorno di felicità con ~~famiglia~~ amici e famiglia! Oggi era il giorno, ~~il giorno~~ il giorno in cui tutti prendano degli regali e mangiano bene. Ma era diverso per me, io sono un barbone. Oggi è un giorno come tutti i altri giorni, spero che trovo un' bella posto di dormire, spero che trovo qualcosa di mangiare, spero che qualcuno mi da un po di soldi per comprare delle scarpe che non ho avuto per mesi. Oggi è il giorno che spero di più che qualcosa successe qualcosa ha me, ~~veglio~~ ¹²⁷veglio che la felicità di questa vacanza entra in me.

Ero seduta nell'lo stesso posto che mi siedo tutto
 gli anni, un po' di soldi per favore? Chiedo, per
 ore chiedo. Due euro Euro? Anche un Euro mi fa
 bene per favore... Un punto dell'giorno, una ^{donna} ~~bambino~~
~~che sembra ricca, vestita elegante, mi ha~~
~~passato e lo chiesta 'un po' di soldi' per favore?~~
 che sembra ricca, vestita ^{tutta} elegante, mi ha
 passato e lo chiesta 'un po' di soldi' per favore?
 E lei non mi ha ne'anche guardato! ²⁰⁰ ~~che gente~~,
 se vedeva che aveva tanti soldi, un Euro non c'e
 lei?, che gente. Ho visto che la donna a fatto
 chiedere il portafoglio, ~~sen~~ mi sono alzato e lo andato
 a prendere. Ho guardato dentro il portafoglio. Non
 ci posso credere... I soldi che lei aveva, un sacco
 di soldi. Ho pensato per un secondo, [?] cosa faccio,
 lo riporto alla donna che non mi ha ne'anche
 guardato o lo tengo e mi prendo qualcosa da
 mangiare? No, lo riporto. Non cio mente ma non
 sono ~~un~~ un criminale.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

The candidate displayed a satisfactory understanding of the stimulus although the story revolves about the beggar 'missing' a unique opportunity in his life rather than seizing it, i.e. the dilemma of whether to keep or return a lost wallet containing a lot of money, which is arguably a slightly unusual interpretation of a "unique opportunity". However, the story is reasonably well organised as it reaches a feasible conclusion within the word limit and would score within the 10-12 band for Organisation and Development.

Language is not as good as we would expect at this level but lexis is adequate, with a number of major errors made, especially with prepositions and pronouns, although not as incorrect as it would appear at first glance, as most errors are spelling mistakes like missing accents and incorrect double letters. The candidate scores in the middle bands across Accuracy, Range and Application and Understanding and Response.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This candidate should have checked their work more thoroughly to try and correct the spelling errors, so that the quality of language would have been more consistent.

Question 2 (b)

Not many candidates opted for this question, which required them to write a dialogue based on the picture. Most of the responses dealt with the typical arguments between teenagers and parents, such as coming home late at night, being caught smoking or drinking or getting a tattoo. Most dialogues were quite realistic and written in the appropriate colloquial register, with only a few being more like a narrative story.

Question 2 (c)

This was also a minority choice. Candidates had to write an article about a young person who found his/her real father after years searching for him. Most involved an account of how the person had found their real father after being adopted at birth. Candidates were expected to write in a journalistic style and quite a few wrote a convincing article but some used the *passato remoto*, which was not the best choice of register for a newspaper article.

Question 2 (d)

This was a reasonably popular essay question. Candidates were required to respond to Leonardo da Vinci's prediction of animals having equal rights to humans sometime in the future.

This was a question that produced quite a few controversial and original replies.

Many candidates presented a balanced argument about animal rights, mentioning the cruelty of vivisection versus the necessity of animal testing for treatments aimed at saving human life. Some candidates compared the advancement in animal welfare, recognising that, in most Western countries, pets are treated as well as humans, while in other countries animals are still abused and killed for their fur or ivory tusks. Candidates reached an informed conclusion, and the great majority concluded that animals would never have the same rights as human beings because animals would not know how to exercise them and animals cannot speak for themselves.

Other candidates slightly missed the point of the question and concentrated on the pros and cons of giving rights to animals or their mistreatment at the hand of humans or simply voiced their views on animal rights.

This candidate chose to address the question about animal rights, whether in future they will have the same rights as humans, as quoted by Leonardo da Vinci.

Cosmetici/medicina
 legale
 vivisezione - gabbie strette
 - condizioni terribili
 - qualche volta non
 - si rabilitano mai
 - ingorare le sostanze chimiche
 - potenzialmente nocive

- Spagna
 - La Corrida (assoluto*)

L'industria della carne
 - La caccia - uccidere gli animali per divertirsi
 Animali domestici / gli zoo
 Catena alimentare naturale

semmai, hanno una migliore vita della maggior parte dei tori.
 * grandi campi

Alternativi per tutto
 Oggigiorno, un tema di cui molti parlano è quello - - - Più persone che mai stanno diventando vegetariano e combattendo per proteggere le bestie. Ma gli animali - degli esseri umani?

incoraggiare
 promuovere

LAV - organizzazione contro la vivisezione
 Vegetariani/vegetariani
 Tecnologia / ricerca con gli embrioni
 "Conspiracy"
 Dichiarazione dei Diritti degli animali (1978) - non possiamo farli soffrire
 Prodotti Quorn - gusto simile, ma fatto con i funghi
 Gli scienziati tentano di creare la carne dei polli senza ucciderli

Oggi giorno, un tema di cui molti parlano è quello dei diritti degli animali. Più persone che mai stanno diventando vegetariane - per non parlare dei vegetariani - e combattendo per proteggere le altre specie. Ma gli animali saranno mai uguali agli esseri umani?

Da un lato, sembra che no. Prima di tutto, sebbene la vivisezione sia illegale in Italia, non vuol dire che nella maggior parte dei paesi, le industrie, come quella dei cosmetici, non facciano ~~test~~ i test sugli animali, faccendogli ingoiare le sostanze chimiche nocive e vivere nelle gabbie strette. Inoltre, ci sono tradizioni come la Corrida in Spagna e la caccia, ~~durante~~ ^{durante} ~~durante~~ le quale, si uccidono gli animali per divertirsi. Quelli che ne sono ~~parte~~ favorevoli dicono che queste attività fanno parte della loro cultura, e semmai, nel primo esempio, i tori che vengono usati hanno una ~~vita~~ migliore vita degli altri, perché, tranne negli ultimi minuti della loro esistenza, passano il tempo a pascolare nei grandi campi. Finalmente, non si può negare che molti mangino ~~della~~ la carne.

Tuttavia, non è tutto così. Per ~~nomina~~ esempio,

ci sono molte organizzazioni come LAV, che lavorano per ^{ottenere} ~~data~~ più diritti per le bestie. Inoltre, la Dichiarazione dei Diritti degli Animali ~~fu~~ fu scritta nel 1978, quindi non è come se non fossero protetti dalla lega. Per di più, tanti stanno diventando vegetariani e mangiando i prodotti ~~Quorn Quorn Quorn~~, che hanno lo stesso gusto della carne ma che sono creati usando i funghi.

~~Per Insomma~~ Insomma, benché molti facciano sforzi per aiutare gli animali, non penso che ~~senza~~ avranno mai gli stessi diritti di noi. Comunque, è importante che tutti li rispettino, e dovremmo darglielo, ~~avvicinandoci~~ incoraggiandoli ad ~~trovare alternative~~ ^{essere} più ~~umanamente~~ ^{essere} più umanamente.

270 parole 269 parole



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

The candidate demonstrates a very good understanding of the question as the essay is quite focused on whether animals will have the same rights as humans, or not. Many relevant points are made: the candidate mentions some reasons against it, such as vivisection, bull fighting and *caccia*, and some reasons pointing to changes in our attitude, such as animal welfare organisations, animal protection laws and the increasing number of vegetarians, reaching a conclusion where their stance is quite clear: in his/her view animals will not have the same rights as humans but we should still respect them and treat them better. Here the candidate scores in the top band for Understanding and Response.

Organisation and Development are also very good, with a clear introduction outlining the issue and a clear conclusion that illustrates the stance. Arguably, there is only one minor lapse in development where the candidate diverts onto the treatment of bulls in too much detail. The candidate scores within the 10-12 band for Organisation and Development.

Language is also very good, with a very wide range of appropriate lexis and a very good variety of complex structures. Grammar-wise, it is virtually faultless. For Accuracy and Range of Language the candidate scores in the top bands.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

This candidate produced a very good response thanks to careful planning which helped him/her to focus on the issue. (S)he rightly chose a topic (s)he clearly knows a lot about and possibly feels strongly about personally, which helped reach an informed conclusion.

Question 2 (e)

The philosophical option was quite popular this year. The majority of candidates offered a balanced view about whether it is true that happiness does not depend on money. Most candidates felt that there were clearly two sides to the argument and that yes, money does make you happy but that it can also bring problems with it. Many felt that money is necessary for modern living and it can go some way towards making people happy as it enables people to fulfil their wishes. However, it was argued that feelings like friendship and solidarity are the most important source of happiness in life and that love and relationships that cannot be obtained as a result of money. Some candidates substantiated their points well and made reference to different points of view.

Question 2 (f)

This question also attracted many responses. Candidates were required to decide whether religion should be taught in schools nowadays. Most candidates offered valid reasons for teaching religious education, explaining that the teaching of RE nowadays is not aimed at converting anybody but is instead about the teaching of different visions of the world. The ultimate educational goal should be the understanding of different cultural viewpoints, which is a necessary step to gain tolerance in a multicultural world. The majority actually felt that religion should not be abolished in schools as they felt that it is essential in interpersonal understanding and that it helps people to question the world around them.

Only a few candidates felt it should be completely separate from school and the domain of family life.

Some candidates unfortunately deviated into a discussion, and at times a rant, about the advantages and disadvantages of religion not in the context of school and went off point. This failure to address the question sufficiently resulted in marks being lost.

Question 2 (g)

This was the most popular choice for the discursive essays. Candidates had to consider the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a foreign country.

The majority of them showed at least satisfactory understanding of the question and many presented well-informed opinions. Amongst the advantages, candidates mentioned the need to avoid unemployment, studying abroad, learning a foreign language, embracing a better way of life, having new experiences, full immersion in a different culture and the ensuing benefit of learning tolerance and respect for other customs and traditions. On the other hand, the disadvantages included the difficulty in integrating into a new culture, the fact that people miss family and friends, the difficulties in making new friends, the language barrier, the difficulty of adapting to a new country.

Some candidates sequenced their ideas well and substantiated points. Other candidates often provided superficial responses which weakened their argument.

Some gave responses that were too personal and based on their own experiences, which was not appropriate for a discursive essay. Some candidates took this question as an opportunity to narrate their own experiences in moving to live in another country which did detract from the question.

A few candidates produced a general rant about immigration, showing that they had not fully understood the question.

This candidate chose to write an essay about the advantages and disadvantages of going to live in another country.

~~pro~~

~~pro~~ - Tempi più belli, trovare nuove culture / persone, per avere una vita migliore.

Cons - l'integrazione può essere un problema (lingua, religioni) trovare un lavoro è difficile, può causare la discriminazione o il razzismo.

Oggi come oggi, possiamo vedere che tante persone vogliono vivere all'estero per molti motivi ~~oggi~~ ma, non ci sono i svantaggi di andare all'estero? In questo tema analizzerò quali sono i vantaggi e gli svantaggi, ~~da~~ ~~se~~ secondo me, d'andare all'estero.

Innanzitutto, parlerò dei vantaggi. Sostengo che la maggioranza delle persone vanno vivere all'estero per avere i tempi più belli. per ~~es~~ esempio, molte persone ^{Inglese} vogliono vivere in ~~Italia~~ Spagna perché ci fa molte sole. Per di più, reputo che trovare le nuove culture o persone è importante perché possono vivere una vita diversi più

interessante in un altro paese come Australia, perché la vita da ogni giorno è molto differente da quella che gli altri paesi. Inoltre, credo che alcune persone vogliono avere una vita migliore, quindi credono che vivere all'estero è la soluzione perché possano cominciare da nuovo.

Dall'altro lato, ci sono alcuni svantaggi. Il primo svantaggio che esaminerò è il fatto che l'integrazione nel nuovo paese può essere molto difficile, per esempio hanno bisogno di parlare la lingua per fare i casi semplici e a mio parere, non possono vivere in un paese senza parlare la lingua. In più, trovare un lavoro può essere un problema perché ~~è~~ ~~per~~ qualche ~~volta~~^{volte} le persone del paese originale non vogliono ~~dare~~^{dare} i lavori agli immigranti. Inoltre, ~~molte~~ alcune persone hanno stato vittime della discriminazione o del razzismo quando vanno in un altro paese per vivere e alcuni pericoli sono causati per la gente.

In conclusione, benché ci sia molte vantaggi da vivere in un altro paese, è

importante notare che alcuni degli
svantaggi sono più importanti ad pensare
perché possono causare molti problemi. ~~È~~
Nella mia opinione gli svantaggi sono
preoccupanti e ~~è~~ direi che se la
gente non pensano su queste i problemi
saranno più gravi.



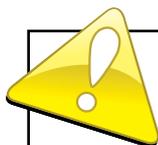
ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate demonstrates a good understanding of the question although the points made are not very sophisticated, especially regarding the advantages of moving to another country, which are a bit superficial: better weather, the opportunity to discover a new culture and meet new people, the chance to have a different/better life. Disadvantages are better developed: integration can be difficult because of the language barrier, it might be difficult to find a job, people might suffer due to discrimination and racism. Candidate scores in the 10-12 mark band for Understanding and Response.

Organisation and development are satisfactory: the essay has a clear introduction but the advantages of moving to a different country have not been planned too well and the conclusion is a bit weak.

Language is satisfactory, with an adequate range of lexis and structures, with quite a few spelling errors, and a number of major errors, especially in prepositions and also some verb forms.

Scores for Accuracy, Range, and Organisation and Development are mid-range across.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The candidate could have planned the essay more carefully so as to make a few more substantial points regarding the advantages of moving abroad. A plan would have also helped reach a clearer conclusion.

Question 3 (a)

Candidates had to consider to which extent environmental issues affected the city or region they studied. There were some unusually good responses which mentioned environmental problems such as flooding, air and water pollution, rubbish, mass tourism and their impact. Points were generally well substantiated with clear evidence of research.

Weaker candidates wasted words on a long, generic introduction about the region or produced essays that were too descriptive and did not consider the impact of the environmental problems, or general essays about environmental problems with no evidence of in-depth research about a particular region or city.

Unfortunately there were still a few examples where candidates did not score any points as they chose a non-Italian geographical areas, e.g. *Il Polo Nord* or *La Cina*.

This candidate chose to write an essay about environmental problems in the Marche region and their impact.

innanzitutto

SECTION C: RESEARCH-BASED ESSAY

26
15
114
58
162
60
222

Question 3

Rispondi a **una** delle seguenti domande. Scrivi tra **240–270 parole in italiano**. Questo tema deve fare riferimento alla cultura e alla società italiana o di una comunità di lingua italiana.

Area geografica

(a) Qual è l'impatto dei problemi ambientali sulla regione o città da te studiata?

perdita dell'humus
smottamenti / frane
espansione eccessiva dell'edilizia → patrimonio itico
→ humus

Studi storici

(b) Quale cambiamento politico ha avuto più impatto sul periodo storico da te studiato?

riano Strategico regionale
di sviluppo rurale (2007-13)

Aspetti della società moderna di lingua italiana

(c) Quale impatto ha avuto l'immigrazione sull'aspetto della società italiana da te studiato?

Letteratura e arte

(d) Quale scena o episodio del libro o film da te studiato illustra meglio un tema fondamentale dell'opera? Giustifica la tua scelta.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 3 (a)** **Question 3 (b)**
Question 3 (c) **Question 3 (d)**

~~Le Marche, per essendo una regione dinamica~~
Le Marche, negli ultimi anni, hanno subito una perdita dell'humus ed un'espansione eccessiva dell'edilizia attorno ai poli urbani, che hanno ~~accentuato~~ accentuato il problema preesistente delle frane. Questi problemi ambientali hanno avuto un impatto notevole sulla regione. (36)

Innanzitutto, il problema ambientale più grave delle Marche è quello delle frane e ~~delle~~ ^{delle} smottamenti. E11

~~Il~~ ~~ha~~ ~~contribuito~~ ~~alla~~ ~~cementificazione~~, soprattutto di genere balneare, ha aumentato l'inquinamento del mare e ha contribuito alla cementificazione del litorale, ^{l'ampliamento} ~~l'espansione~~ dei porti ha avuto impatti simili ~~sulle~~ ~~Marche~~ ~~sulla~~ ~~costa~~ ~~del~~ ~~Marchigiana~~.

60
222

Per concludere, è chiaro che l'impatto dei problemi ambientali sulle Marche ~~è~~ sia notevole, e che se il governo regionale avesse ~~agito~~ ~~prima~~ ~~per~~ ~~limitare~~ varato più leggi per tutelare l'ambiente, questi ^{problemi ambientali} ~~aspetti~~ sarebbero meno ~~gravi~~ gravi.

52

254



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Examiner Comments

This is an exceptionally good example of an essay relating to geographical studies.

The candidate demonstrates an excellent knowledge of the Marche and a very good understanding of the question set in all its implications. The essay is completely relevant and all points are substantiated by facts all the way through. There is clear evidence of extensive reading and research on the region.

Organisation and development are also very good as all material is sequenced very logically and effectively, with each point following on from the previous one and virtually no lapses.

Language is extremely good, varied and appropriate, with a wide range of lexis and structures.

Candidates scores in the top bands across all Assessment Objectives.



ResultsPlus

Examiner Tip

This candidate obviously benefited greatly from having an in-depth knowledge of the chosen region but on top of that (s)he was also totally focussed on the question set so as to see the many implications of the environmental issues and to achieve a very sophisticated level of analysis.

Question 3 (b)

Candidates had to consider which political change mostly affected the period they studied. The most common periods were Fascismo and Risorgimento.

Candidates were generally able to identify a political change – most wrote about events during the Fascist era and Mussolini coming to power and the changes that it brought about. Other candidates wrote about key episodes in the Risorgimento. However, many essays showed some knowledge and attempts at analysis and evaluation but this was not sophisticated and not always well-linked to the title. Candidates did describe a specific political change in great detail, but its impact was often not analysed. At times it was hard to see what the *cambiamento* was.

Some candidates struggled to identify a political change at all and produced rather irrelevant responses, simply writing pre-learnt material with no reference to the question.

Some candidates lost many marks – if not all - by choosing to write about inappropriate historical periods, such as the Roman empire or the Berlusconi era. Also, pre-1992 Mafia cannot be considered a historical period as it is rather an aspect of society.

Question 3 (c)

Candidates had to consider the impact that immigration had on the aspect of society they studied.

In most essays it was not clear which aspect of society candidates had studied, as most tended to ramble on about the issue of immigration in general terms. Candidates were able to talk about immigration in general but there was little evidence of reading and research and little discussion of the impact on an aspect of society. Some candidates mentioned aspects such as youth and employment but there was no real evaluation here.

As in previous series, unfortunately, almost all of the responses were very general and at times almost like a discursive essay and responses often became personal rants with no real conclusions being drawn.

Question 3

Rispondi a **una** delle seguenti domande. Scrivi tra **240–270 parole in italiano**. Questo tema deve fare riferimento alla cultura e alla società italiana o di una comunità di lingua italiana.

Area geografica

(a) Qual è l'impatto dei problemi ambientali sulla regione o città da te studiata?

Studi storici

(b) Quale cambiamento politico ha avuto più impatto sul periodo storico da te studiato?

Aspetti della società moderna di lingua italiana

(c) Quale impatto ha avuto l'immigrazione sull'aspetto della società italiana da te studiato?

Letteratura e arte

(d) Quale scena o episodio del libro o film da te studiato illustra meglio un tema fondamentale dell'opera? Giustifica la tua scelta.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: Question 3 (a) Question 3 (b)

Question 3 (c) Question 3 (d)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

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Secondo me, l'immigrazione ha avuto molti impatti sulla cultura italiana. Infatti, l'Italia con la l'immigrazione, ha molti - erzia in Italia è aumentata, portando modi di fare e culture completamente diverse dalla nostra. Ciò, con il tempo, ha cambiato anche il modo di vedere e di affrontare gli immigrati.

Quando più immigrati sono arrivati in Italia, l'Italia era ancora un paese più chiuso mentalmente. Infatti, al loro arrivo, gli italiani erano

molto più individualisti e razzisti. Le persone non accettavano il fatto che gli immigrati venissero nel nostro paese, iniziando ad usufruire dei servizi statali, delle nostre risorse, e che iniziassero a prender parte nella nostra economia. Gli italiani, inizialmente, si rifiutavano di avere a che fare con gente del genere, standoci alla larga, facendo discriminazioni nei loro confronti, e trattandoli come se fossero tutti ladri.

Con ~~il~~ il tempo, però, nonostante queste visioni riguardo i nuovi immigrati, che vivono in condizioni misere esistono ancora, gli italiani, sono ora, molto più aperti mentalmente. ~~Distinta~~ Discriminazioni su gente con ~~di~~ maggiori diverso colore della pelle o credenze, che vivono da molto in Italia, non vengono più quasi più fatte. Per esempio, le persone che vivono in Italia da anni, vengono trattate come tutti gli altri cittadini, questo è anche grazie alle nuove amicizie, nate tra bambini ^{italiani e} di diverse etnie, a scuola. Credo che ciò abbia contribuito all'apertura mentale dei genitori, che accettano più volentieri e in modo cordiale le amicizie dei figli.

Comunque sia, i pregiudizi da parte di alcune persone esistono ancora, ma con il tempo e la continua integrazione di queste persone, la gente italiana ~~sta~~ diventerà sempre più disponibile e aperta.



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Examiner Comments

As in previous series, unfortunately, almost all of the responses were very general and at times almost like a discursive essay and responses often became personal rants with no real conclusions being drawn.

Question 3 (d)

This was by far the most popular choice of Research-based essay. It was pleasing to see a much wider range of texts and films than in previous series. The most popular book/film was *Io non ho paura*, with other common choices being *La vita è bella*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *Il postino* and *Volevo i pantaloni*, but there was a great variety of films and books including *Mine vaganti*, *La grande bellezza*, *I cento passi*, *Roma città aperta*, *Ladri di biciclette*, *Il giorno della civetta*, *Il visconte dimezzato*, *Di noi due*, *Gli occhiali d'oro*, *Il Gattopardo*, *Se questo è un uomo*, *Inferno* and even *I promessi sposi*.

Candidates had to consider which scene or episode of the book/film they studied best illustrated one of the main themes in the book/film and were expected to evaluate its importance.

Candidates generally showed evidence of reading, but many responses tended to be too narrative: a summary of the work studied, albeit in great detail, but without replying to the question.

Many others found it a challenge to make a clear link between theme and episode: some replied by narrating an episode or scene but without contextualising the theme which they aimed to illustrate whilst others mentioned the theme, but did not identify the scene or episode which best illustrated it, thus losing sight of the title and writing irrelevant material. Nevertheless, most candidates revealed that they had done a great deal of reading and preparation.

Better candidates substantiated their points well and showed a good knowledge of the book or film. They displayed a good understanding of the question and clearly explained the theme they wanted to focus on. Some candidates chose to write about the scene or episode which best represented the theme, analysing and evaluating the importance of the scene/episode in a convincing and logically sequenced way.

Io non ho paura was still the most popular choice of novel, with many candidates choosing the scene where Michele finds Filippo as that which best illustrates the theme of friendship. Many others chose the last scene as they felt that this best illustrates the theme of loss of innocence or becoming an adult.

There were some good answers on *Volevo i pantaloni* and candidates felt that the episode where Annetta is caught kissing Nicola best illustrates the theme of gender inequality due to the treatment she receives as a result.

In *Cinema Paradiso*, some candidates felt that the scene at the end with the film reel best illustrated the theme of reconciliation and some chose the scene of the fire in the cinema as important for the theme of friendship.

Responses on *La vita è bella* almost all discussed the themes of love and sacrifice and chose the scene at the end where Guido tries to reach Dora and is killed as a result or the scene in which Guido turns reality into a game to protect Giosuè as the ones that best illustrate these chosen themes.

Some candidates did not stick to one theme or one scene and therefore did not fully understand the question. Some made successful reference to other scenes by way of illustration of their points, but answers in which several scenes were mentioned tended to lack focus and organisation and ended up rambling.

Unfortunately there were still a few examples where candidates did not score any points as they chose a non-Italian film, e.g. *The Avengers* or *Il padrino*.

This candidate chose to write an essay about *La vita è bella*, considering which scene from the film best illustrates one of the main themes of the film.

Question 3

Rispondi a **una** delle seguenti domande. Scrivi tra **240–270 parole in italiano**. Questo tema deve fare riferimento alla cultura e alla società italiana o di una comunità di lingua italiana.

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Chosen question number: Question 3 (a)

Question 3 (b)

Question 3 (c)

Question 3 (d)

Nel film "La vita è bella" il tema più importante è la tragedia dell'Olocausto vissuta dagli Ebrei, ed il compito di Guido di salvare il proprio figlio, Giosué, dall'essere una ~~una~~ vittima ^{una} spettatore del massacro. 38

Secondo me la scena migliore per descrivere il tema del film è la scena in cui le guardie tedesche entrano nella stanza degli ebrei in maniera molto violenta e chiedono per un traduttore che parli tedesco per tradurre le regole al campo di concentramento; senza neanche esitare, Guido si offre volontario, pur non sapendo una sola parola in tedesco. Guido poi traduce le regole del campo. 109

~~nome~~ in modo sbagliato per poter salvaguardare l'innocenza del proprio figlio. Invece di tradurre le regole spietate, Guido parla di regole per vincere un gioco a premi, dove il vincitore si impadronisce di un carro armato. Il resto dei prigionieri lo ascoltano con facce pallide, quasi storditi dal coraggio spontaneo del padre. 155

Questa è la scena che meglio protrae il tema perché racchiude tutti gli elementi ~~del~~ ~~tema~~ del film in pochi minuti. Prima di tutto ha il tema tragi-comico che ~~si~~ ridicolizza i tedeschi, per come la loro aggressività è tradotta in un gioco da Guido, ~~non~~ invece delle regole spietate. Allo stesso tempo fa vedere a che misure il padre andrebbe per proteggere il figlio, tanto che gli altri prigionieri pensano quasi che Guido sia impazzito. C'è anche il tema ricorrente del carro armato, che è promesso come premio a Giosué nel caso di vittoria e la fiaba vuole che tale carro armato compaia ~~ad~~ ~~essi~~ davanti a ~~gli~~ Giosué come per magia, alla fine della guerra, come simbolo di liberazione.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate displayed a very good understanding of the question set together with a good knowledge and understanding of the film. (S)he starts off by outlining one of the main themes of the film, the Holocaust, and then describes and analyses the scene which in his/her view best illustrates that theme. The description of the scene might look a bit too descriptive at first glance but it is actually quite evaluative in the way people and places are described. The mark here is at the top of band 19-24.

Organisation and development are quite good, as there is a clear introduction which outlines the main theme of the film, immediately followed by a detailed description of the chosen scene and an explanation of why that scene is so significant, which constitutes a clear conclusion to the essay. The mark here is in band 7-8.

Language is extremely good, as it is fluent, varied and accurate. Candidate scores in the top mark band.



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Examiner Tip

In order to produce very good essays like this one, candidates must have first of all a detailed knowledge of their chosen topic; secondly they should always stay focussed on the question set. They should plan their essay with the question in mind and never lose sight of it, so as to include only relevant material and to organise it logically and effectively.

Paper Summary

This year this unit produced some pleasing results, with the mean mark being slightly higher than last year.

The translation appeared to be accessible to most candidates who had been entered at the appropriate level.

All of the Creative and Discursive essays appealed to a number of candidates, with a great variety of answers and a good spread across the various questions. Most candidates opted for the Discursive essays this year, with the majority choosing q.2g.

The Research Based essay displayed some good analytical responses which showed extensive research.

All-in-all candidates appeared to be well prepared for the demands of these questions, especially q.3a and q.3d, and there have been many instances of candidates producing good essays and displaying good knowledge and research on their chosen topic.

Unfortunately some issues still remain with this section, due to an unsuitable choice of topics with no relevance to Italy or pre-learnt essays which did not address the questions set, although this seemed to have been less of a problem this year. Candidates and centres are reminded that they need to choose a topic which belongs to one of the four main areas of research or has to refer to Italian culture and society.

In terms of language, standards have been quite varied, with some very pleasing results at times. Candidates sometimes struggled when there was a lack of topic-specific vocabulary but overall the lexis was sound and fairly accurately spelt. There were generally some attempts at using more complex structures, like the subjunctive (at times misused) and *periodo ipotetico*. Accuracy is always variable, with verb conjugation, prepositions, articles and agreements being the most common mistakes, but on the whole language appeared pleasingly accurate.

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

Question 1:

- Read the passage through carefully and do not rush to start until the
- passage is understood as a whole and the language analysed.
- Do not leave gaps
- Pay attention to details and check verb
- forms, endings, agreements and spelling thoroughly.

Question 2:

- Concentrate on the title
- Plan work carefully
- Make sure they have enough knowledge of their chosen topic
- Have topic specific vocabulary
- Attempt some more complex structures
- Keep to word count
- Check work for grammar agreements, verb forms, endings and spelling

Question 3:

- Make sure that their chosen topic refers to Italy
- Ensure proper research is carried out
- Address the title
- Be concise and bear in mind the word count
- Plan work carefully
- Check language at the end.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Ofqual



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