

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Italian (5IN01) Paper 1F

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Listening and Responding Foundation Tier

There are 10 questions in this paper, each of them carrying 4 marks. Total marks for this paper is 40. All questions are in English and invite non-verbal responses except for one question inviting one-word English responses.

Questions 1 – Have they remembered everything? This question offers a gentle lead-in to the paper. Nevertheless, scores were well distributed across the whole range of abilities. The top level candidates may have scored all the marks available but at the bottom end there were some poor performances and the weakest candidates failed to score at all. Surprisingly, "tickets" was the item for which most candidates failed to score. More predictably, "la guida della città" was often not understood by the candidates at the lower end of the range.

Question 2 – At the party was aimed at F graders. Weaker candidates scored no more than 2 marks, often only one. Most marks were lost over questions (iii) and (iv).

Question 3 – Eating out was a cross-over question. This differentiated well between abilities and produced a good spread of marks.

Question 4 – Saturday jobs was also a cross over question. It proved to be a good discriminator, with weaker candidates scoring one or two marks and more able scoring all the 4 marks available. The two items that were the least recognised were "mi aiuta con le pulizie in casa" and "serve la colazione in un albergo di lusso".

Question 5 – A cycling holiday was aimed at D graders, but the majority of candidates, including the weaker ones, were able to score some marks. "they will hire bikes" was the most recurrent wrong answer.

Questions 6 – A guided tour, Most candidate failed to recognise "*duomo*" and a large proportion of them thought of "*teatro comunale*" as the "town hall". Virtually everybody recognised "*museo*".

Question 7 – Booking a taxi weaker candidates only managed to score one or two marks even though it was targeting F graders.

Questions 8 – Keeping fit proved to be the hardest of the cross-over questions and consequently the best at sorting out the top performances.

Questions 9 and 10 – My school and Buying a jumper were meant to be of comparable difficulty. However candidates proved once more that having to produce a short answer, as they had to do for question 10, is much more of a challenge than a non verbal answer. In fact, only a handful of the candidates at the bottom end of the range managed to score at all on question 10. For those who did score some marks there was no clear pattern of wrong answers.

A small number of queries were received about the duration of the recording. Edexcel will be offering guidance for this on the front cover of the examination paper and on the recording to provide more clarity.

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