

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Italian (5IN01) Paper 1F

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

Questions 1 – Buying souvenirs. This question offers a gentle introduction 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 “cintura” and “maglietta” proved to be a hurdle for the weaker ones.

Question 2 – Buying tickets. The question was aimed at grade F. The very weak candidates scored no more than 2 marks. Interestingly, whilst stronger candidates found part (ii) the harder question, weaker candidates answered this question comparatively better but found (iv) to be out of their reach.

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

Question 4 – A wonderful friend, was also a cross over question. It was answered well across the board, with a mean mark of 3.09 for more able candidates and 2.89 for the weaker ones.

Question 5 – Travel by train was aimed at grade C and it was good at separating performances. Part (iv) - he helps the environment - however, was found difficult across the board.

Question 6 – At the village fair, was intended to offer a few accessible marks for weaker candidates and it did just that. Few candidates at the bottom end of the range failed to score at least 3 marks whereas top range candidates scored all 4 marks available.

Question 7 – Buying a snack was found a little more difficult than it was intended and weaker candidates only managed to score for (ii) – cheese sandwich, whereas they found ham sandwich, crisps or a slice of cake just as difficult. The pattern was repeated at the higher end of the scale, where, however, over 60% of candidates scored all marks available.

Questions 8 – Which school?, was found to be the most accessible of the crossover questions. Even weaker candidates were able to score 2 marks here.

Questions 9 and 10 – Asking the way and **Cinema** 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, the majority of the weaker candidates did not score on question 10 at all.

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