

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCSE Italian (5IN01)  
Paper 1F Listening and Understanding  
in Italian

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**GCSE Italian**  
**Paper 1 Foundation Tier**  
**Listening and Understanding in Italian**  
**Examiner Report**

There are 10 questions in this paper, each of them carrying 4 marks. The total number of 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.

**Q1 – Birthday presents.** This question offers a gentle lead-in to the paper. Nevertheless, scores were well distributed across the whole range of abilities. The top level students may have scored all the marks available but “orologio” proved to be a hurdle for the weaker ones, who also failed to make a connection between “30 euro” and “money”

**Q2 – A weekend job.** The question was targeted at grade F students who, on average, scored no more than 2 marks, having found (ii) and (iii) quite challenging.

**Q3 – Teresa’s errands,** was a crossover question. This differentiated well between abilities and produced a good spread of marks. Some of the stronger students scored all of the 4 marks available but at the lower end of the spectrum the average score was one (generally having recognised “hospital”).

**Q4 – Vincenzo’s summer,** was also a crossover question. It was answered well across the board. Weaker students found this more accessible than question 2 and scored 2 or more marks.

**Q5 – Future plans,** was targeted at grade C and it differentiated well, especially Q5(iii) – to go travelling and Q5(iv) – travel agent.

**Q6 – Buying food,** was intended to be accessible to weaker students. Although most students managed to score two marks, performance was not any better than with some of the crossover questions.

**Q7 – Leisure activities** was found more difficult than it was intended and weaker students, who were intended to be the target of this exercise, only managed to recognise “leggere” but not “cavallo”, “nuotare” or “biciletta”.

**Q8 – At the tourist office,** had the same question format as Q4 and produced similar results, which at the lower end of the spectrum were better than with Q6.

**Q9 and Q10 – The weather forecast and Renting accommodation,** targeted at grade E, were intended to be of comparable difficulty. However, students proved once more that having to produce a short answer, as they had to do for Q10, is much more of a challenge than a non verbal response.

In fact, this proved challenging across the ability range and very few of the weaker students managed to score on Q10 at all.

Generally, 1F and 1H were both good papers, with the right level of difficulty allowing differentiation between different abilities. The fact that all questions for the listening papers are set in English does not necessarily mean that answering them is easier than if they were in the target language: students cannot rely on clues coming from the recorded text and, in the case of verbal responses, there is no possibility of scoring due to a successful transcription of the targeted information. This was proved this year by *"libreria"* and *"giornale"* and, to a lesser degree, by *"periferia"*.

The format of the question appears to influence results and students need to be familiar with the whole range of tasks. In particular, more practice is needed for verbal responses: reading and understanding the question, identifying the relevant information and transferring it into English.

Entry levels have been wisely chosen. The best foundation students appeared to be comfortable with the tasks without having wasted opportunity for a higher grade and very few of the students entered for the Higher Tier really struggled with the difficulty of the paper.

**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>

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