

# Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Italian (5IN01) Paper 1H

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Publications Code UG028291

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## Listening and Responding Higher Tier

There are 8 questions in this paper: four cross-over questions and two questions aimed at B grade each carrying 4 marks and questions aimed at A and A\* each carrying 8 marks. Total marks for this paper is 40.

All questions are in English and invite non-verbal responses except for one of the 8 mark questions inviting free-text English responses.

**Question 1 – A cycling holiday, Question 2 – Keeping fit, Question 6 – Eating out and Question 7 – Saturday jobs** were the cross-over questions and were obviously answered better at higher level, with a large proportion of candidates scoring all 4 available marks. Average candidate's performance was comparable to that of top range candidates for 1F, which shows that the questions were at the right level.

**Question 3 – At the doctor's surgery** targeted B graders, yet candidates found this more demanding than either section of Q5, which targeted potential A\* candidates. Item (iv) had to be answered with reference to two statements, one containing "tomorrow" and the other "6 p.m." and this proved to be beyond a vast number of candidates. Weaker candidates also had a problem with item 1, where a little inference was required.

**Question 4 – L'Isola dei famosi** targeted B graders and it proved to be an effective discriminator, producing a good distribution of the whole range of marks.

**Question 5 – An Italian summer camp**, was made up of two sets of questions each carrying 4 marks. For section 5a the more frequent wrong answer was D (It was in a quiet part of the city). Other errors did not follow a definite pattern. Scores were fairly similar to those of 5b. In 5b, items (iii) and (iv) attracted the highest number of wrong answers. Surprisingly, this question was answered better than q 3.

**Question 8 – Interview with a music student** proved to be the biggest hurdle, in spite of its text being simpler than text 5. Once more it was proved that the nature of the task influences results more than the complexity of the text and that having to produce answer, albeit short and in English, is much more of a challenge than selecting an answer from those given.

On the whole 1F and 1H were good papers, with the right level of difficulty allowing differentiation between different abilities. The fact that all questions for the listening papers are now set in English does not necessarily mean that answering them is easier: candidates can no longer rely on clues coming from the recorded text and, in the case of verbal responses, there is no longer the possibility of scoring thanks to a successful transcription of the targeted information.

As the format of the question appears to influence results even more than the complexity of the text, candidates need to be familiar with the whole range of task. 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 candidates appeared to be comfortable with the tasks without having wasted opportunity for a higher grade and very few of the candidates entered at Higher Level really struggled with the difficulty of the paper.

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.

## **Grade Boundaries**

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Order Code UG028291 June 2011

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