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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCSE Italian Unit 3: Reading and Understanding in Italian (5IN03 3F) Foundation tier

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Unit 3: Reading and Understanding in Italian (5IN03) 3F Foundation

Examiner's Report

Most candidates seemed to have been entered at the correct level but there were a few who performed extremely well at this level and should have been entered for the higher tier. The paper was accessible to the vast majority so that almost all candidates were able to attempt every question.

Question 1

This was reasonably well done, as most candidates are familiar with food items, with the odd candidate surprisingly not knowing *funghi* or even *formaggio*!

Question 2

The vast majority of candidates were familiar with these items of vocabulary relating to every day objects but some tried to apply the answer "80 euro" to either *borsa* or *scarpe* instead of referring it to the picture of *portafoglio* (not targeted in any parts of the question). Therefore they missed a point in either (a) or (c).

Question 3

This overlap question was answered very well at Foundation level, with only a few being possibly swayed by *ballare* in Dino and opting for him in (iv) ("He likes music"). Approximately 10% of candidates were not familiar with *fare compere* for (i).

Question 4

This overlap question was also answered reasonably well at Foundation level: some candidates were possibly confused by the mention of the number 46 in the text and thus opted for (c) Valentino has won 46 races rather than the fact that he always races with the number 46. Others missed the fact that (d) his father used to race motorbikes as well or the fact that (g) Valentino likes pasta. Some ticked incorrectly that (e) Valentino only likes motorbikes, possibly drawing on their knowledge of this famous sport personality.

Question 5

This was another overlap question and it proved a bit more demanding for Foundation candidates, although now that the questions are in English this type of task is more accessible to weaker candidates. Most managed to score a few points, especially in (i) and (ii), but many guessed incorrectly that (d) "On the second day you will have *lunch* in Milan" rather than "dinner" and some were not able to associate *Duomo* in the text with "cathedral" in the question.

Question 6

The same applies to this question, which is the last overlap question. Many candidates were not familiar with *agnello* in (a) and opted for "fish" instead. Some guessed incorrectly that (c) "Last year they went to Rome for a *week*" rather than a "weekend", possibly confused by the word *fine settimana* in the text. Some also were keen to say that at Easter they went to a party, as an incorrect answer to either (c) or (d).

Question 7

This question tested some basic school vocabulary but many opted incorrectly for *righello*, often omitting *soldi* instead.

Question 8

This question was answered correctly by most candidates, with only *a piedi* and *metropolitana* not being known at times.

Question 9

Most candidates managed to score at least a couple of points in this question. Most understood that the service was free, but many struggled to mention a subject although most words were English cognates. Most candidates managed to score at least one point on (c) but *passeggiando* was generally not understood.

Question 10

Most candidates managed to score a couple of points in this question as well, with virtually everyone understanding that for an extra charge you could have breakfast. However, as usual, basic vocabulary relating to months was not known, so that *maggio* was often confused with "March", and only about half of the candidates understood that the duration of the pottery course was one "afternoon" rather than one "day".

Grade Boundaries

Foundation (3F)

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	40				33	26	20	14	8	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	60				36	30	24	18	12	0

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries - Overall for 5IN03

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
60	54	48	42	36	30	24	18	12	0

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