

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Italian (5IN03)
Paper 3H: Reading

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**GCSE in Italian
Paper 3H: Reading
Examiner Report**

Foreword

On the whole the paper was quite accessible and many candidates were able to cope well with it and even achieve very high marks.

Question 1

This overlap question was answered reasonably well by Higher candidates, though even at this level almost half incorrectly chose C in (iv), swayed by the mention of fine settimana in the text.

Question 2

This overlap question was answered well at this level, though (i) scored slightly lower marks even at this level.

Question 3

This question was answered quite well, though some candidates opted for A in (ii), probably due to the mention of dormire in that paragraph.

Question 4

This was probably the most challenging questions in the paper as it is the only section of the exam where candidates have to answer with verbal responses, but on the whole it was answered reasonably well. However, marks were lost due to lack of details.

In (a) less than half of the candidates were familiar with term 'stage', so that not many grasped the idea that Valerio was doing a work experience for Ferrari. Some understood the connection with Formula 1 but their answers were quite vague. Many seemed to think that he was racing in Formula 1 cars.

In (b) only just over half of the candidates recognised the key word 'laurea'. Many answers were again too vague, such as 'economics/a qualification in economics'.

Most candidates managed to answer (c) correctly, either by mentioning Valerio's good knowledge of English or else the fact that he had spent two months in America doing a work experience there. However, again some marks were lost due to incorrect or insufficient details, such as 'he spent two years in America' or 'he understands English'.

In (d) just over half of the candidates understood that Valerio's job involved buying car components. Some candidates did not provide enough details ('he works in an office'), others simply resorted to guesswork ('he works in a garage', 'he drives F1 cars').

(e) was answered correctly by the majority of candidates, as most understood that Valerio was lucky in combining his passion for Ferrari with his work. Some incorrect answers were based on the mention of his father, as some thought his father had been a F1 driver.

(f) also had some low scores, again due to lack of details. Many candidates simply wrote that 'he would like to continue his experience', which is a bit too vague. Only the best candidates understood that he wanted to continue working for Ferrari. Many incorrect answers also stemmed from the mention of stage, so that some candidates thought he wanted to go on stage/become an actor!

In (g) most candidates managed to score at least one point for 'you have to be well qualified/determined'. Quite a few did not understand the idea of being disponibili a lavorare all'estero and answered incorrectly 'you must work hard/work in the summer' (some confusion here between estero and estate).

Question 5

This overlap question was answered very well at Higher level, with the vast majority of H candidates scoring full marks.

Question 6

This overlap question was generally answered well at this level, with almost all candidates scoring close to full marks apart from (iv), where even at this level some candidates opted for E ('rich') or F ('famous').

Question 7

This question was answered quite well, with most candidates scoring at least three marks out of four. Most incorrect answers seemed to be based on guesswork, as some candidates incorrectly ticked C F or G, which are all plausible. The correct answer that candidates most missed was E, as they probably did not expect Italian students to want to stay at school in the afternoon!

Question 8

This multiple choice question in Italian was answered successfully by many. The sub-questions were answered with varying degrees of success. Most incorrect answers seemed to be due to wrong guesses by candidates that had got the gist of the article but failed to identify all the details.

Most sub-questions were answered well by the majority of candidates.

In (i) some candidates thought that you should write a list of what you want to buy rather than your expenses.

In (ii) some thought that in order to save money you should not drink coffee, possibly as caffè was mentioned in the text.

(iii) was the most demanding sub-question. Many opted for B, possibly due to the mention of messaggi gratis in the text.

In (iv) some thought that you should ask money to your parents or your friends rather than look for a job.

The vast majority of candidates answered (v) and (vi) correctly.

In (vii) and (viii) some candidates incorrectly opted for motorino as it was mentioned in the text but the majority was able to link libri di testo usati with libri di seconda mano and i trasporti pubblici with autobus.

Overall this question produced some very pleasing scores given that for most of the multiple choice questions all options were feasible from a logical point of view (but obviously only one answer was correct based on the text).

As a final point, this year there were many instances of marks being lost because candidates had ticked more than one box or else had left some boxes empty. Candidates are advised to choose only ONE answer and to always choose an answer, even if just randomly, rather than leave it empty.

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