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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In Italian (1IN0)  
Paper 03 Reading Foundation Tier

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## Introduction

GCSE Italian paper 1IN0 3F is assessed by means of a forty-five minute examination. During this time, candidates are assessed on their understanding of written Italian across a range of different types of texts. The paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all of the themes. The assessment consists of 10 questions and the total mark for the paper is 50 marks.

Section A has six questions set in English, two of which are questions based on literary extracts.

Section B contains three questions set in Italian.

Section C contains one translation passage from Italian into English.

Texts for individual questions within the assessment use high frequency language and vary in length, including both short and longer written passages. Texts include authentic sources that introduce more complex language and unfamiliar material. Literary texts consist of short extracts from texts that may have been adapted and abridged from authentic sources to be appropriate to this level.

This is the second full-scale series examination under the 2017 specification since 2019.

Most entrants at this level achieved some success on questions with English prompts which required the recall of familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the specification and many candidates were able to gain at least some marks on the translation into English task. However, candidates were less successful on questions which required processing or interpreting meaning and although the literary texts and questions with rubrics in Italian proved accessible to those achieving higher scores on the paper they were more problematic for some candidates.

### Question 1

This question required candidates to read information about part-time jobs and select the person for whom the statements that followed the text were appropriate. Most candidates found this question very accessible as it contained very familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the specification. Most candidates scored 4 or more points from the 6 available.

The first two parts were those in which most candidates answered incorrectly, even though there are no obvious distractors for these parts. Perhaps candidates did not understand the meaning of 'to socialise' in English.

### Question 2

This question required candidates to choose words from a box to complete sentences related to a text about a language school in Switzerland. Less successful candidates found this type of gap-filling question challenging. Errors were often made at random, which indicates that some candidates seemed to guess an answer, perhaps without carefully reading the text. It was pleasing to see that candidates selected words/phrases from the box for their answers and there were no made-up answers, as was the case in previous series. Candidates do however need to think about the syntax of the sentence in English to ensure that their choice of answer fits the sentence.

Candidates generally scored 3 marks or more from the 5 available. Parts (b), (c) and (d) proved to be the most accessible for candidates, however in part (a) some candidates did not seem to know *ferroviaria* and answered 'bus station' instead. In part (e), some thought that *centro commerciale* meant 'leisure centre' instead of 'shopping centre'.

### Question 3

This question required candidates to read an extract from a website about *Legambiente*, an Italian environmental organisation, and answer questions in English.

Part (a) proved to be more accessible than part (b) for many candidates, although in both parts many candidates did not appear to know some common vocabulary items.

However, in part (a) (i) many candidates did not know the word *ambiente* and they gave incorrect answers as a result. In (a) (ii) a considerable number of candidates incorrectly answered 'adults' as they appeared not to know the word *giovani*. In (a) (iii) most candidates correctly answered 'volunteers'.

In part (b) (i) the majority of candidates understood *quindici giorni while in* (b) (ii) many did not know *all'estero*.

#### Question 4

Here candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Lacci* by Domenico Starnone and select an answer from the four options available. The majority of candidates were able to score some points on this question. The most challenging parts were parts (i) and (iv) as candidates had to interpret meaning. For part (i), less successful candidates chose A or D instead of C and for part (iv) some chose A instead of C, presumably as *parco* was in the text. Candidates are to be reminded of the importance of knowing vocabulary related to time references.

#### Question 5

In this question candidates were required to read an article about a competition in a newspaper and answer questions in English. The majority of candidates managed to score at least 1 point but few scored all 3 points. In part (a), many lost marks as they appeared not to know the meaning of *gita*, writing answers such as 'their favourite class' or 'their favourite school activity'. In part (b) many candidates lost marks as their answer was not precise enough, giving answers such as 'on a website' or 'online' instead of 'on the website of the newspaper'. Part (c) was the part in which candidates were most successful, although some lost marks by confusing *luglio* with *giugno*. In this questions some candidates answered 'Rome' and this is clearly not an answer to the question 'where?'. It is essential the candidates read the questions very carefully and answer accordingly.

#### Question 6

In the question candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *La traversata dei vecchietti* by Stefano Benni and answer questions in English. This proved challenging for many candidates and most scored a maximum of 2 points from the 4 available. In part (a) most candidates were able to identify that the men wanted to cross the road as there was a park on the other side. In part (b) some candidates gave answers such as 'there was a lot of traffic' or 'it was very busy' but these did not communicate the idea that it was 'rush hour'. Part (c) was straightforward for many of candidates who correctly answered, 'traffic lights', although a significant proportion did not know the word *semaforo* and incorrectly guessed answers such as 'a crossing' instead. In (d) many simply guessed the answer and wrote answers such as 'a car hit him' instead. Very few candidates gave the correct answer here. There were also many blank responses in this question and while candidates may not know a response, they are advised to at least have an educated guess based on the context of the question, as leaving a blank space will never be given any credit.

#### Question 7

In this question candidates were required to read a text about an Italian singer-songwriter and then select words from a box to complete sentences related to the text in Italian.

Many candidates found this question challenging, with many only picking up 1 or 2 points.

Many candidates showed a lack of awareness of syntax and grammar here and all parts showed responses where candidates seemed to be simply guessing the answers.

In part (a) while many candidates selected the correct answer, *Egitto*, some opted for *Italia* while a significant proportion chose a random word from the box. In part (b) many chose *adolescente* instead of *piccolo*. Part (c) appeared to be the most accessible with most candidates correctly choosing *suo padre* as the answer. For part (d) many candidates opted for *la spiaggia* instead of *la Sardegna*, even though there is no reference to the beach or the seaside in the text. In part (e), many chose *teatro*, while the correct answer was *lingue*. Again, there was no reference to *teatro* in the text.

#### Question 8

This question was a multiple choice exercise that required candidates to read an article about a visit to a hotel and choose an answer from the four options available. Here candidates generally scored 3 or 4 points, some perhaps as a result of guess work but some as a result of being able to recognise lexical items that appeared in the text. Most scored the points in parts (i), (iii) and (v). In part (ii) some candidates chose A instead of C, possibly not spotting the word *non* in the question. In part (iv) many candidates chose A instead of C.

#### Question 9

This question required candidates to read information about the experience of 4 people who had completed volunteering work and then choose the correct name to complete the sentences related to the text. Here, the majority of candidates scored at least 3 points as they were able to identify key vocabulary items from the text and the questions. Parts (d) and (e) proved to be the most challenging.

#### Question 10

Here, candidates were required to translate a passage of Italian into English, on the topic of free time. This question worked very well and the whole range of marks was equally represented, with the majority of candidates scoring 4 or more points. Candidates tried hard to make sense of the passage and there were many successful attempts.

A significant number of candidates were unable to translate *nel tempo libero* accurately, with some writing 'library' or 'book' for *libero*. Most candidates correctly translated *suona la chitarra* but not as many understood the time reference *ogni giorno* in the second sentence. Most candidates managed to successfully convey the message in the third sentence. In the fourth sentence, some struggled with the past tense in *la settimana scorsa sono andato al cinema*, with some candidates translating this as a future reference instead. In the final sentence, most candidates wrote the correct translation for *il*

*film era fantastico* but not many understood the full meaning of *ci siamo divertiti*. Many translated this as ‘it was fun’ and this does not have the same meaning.

A few candidates left gaps or only translated the first couple of sentences. While most candidates managed to convey at least some of the meaning of the passage, some struggled to render meaning and used incorrect time frames or made up random sentences that were not connected to the text. There were a few responses with a large number of gaps or that were completely blank and candidates are advised to attempt the whole question as they can receive marks for partial communication, even if they do not understand the whole passage.

### **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance in this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates should read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to the question words.
- Candidates must remember that, in the multiple-choice questions, most alternative incorrect options will contain an element of distraction, such as a word or phrase candidates will have read. Learning to look for these can be a helpful skill.
- Candidates must ensure that their translation reads naturally in English. It is often not possible to translate word-for-word from the original Italian text. There will probably be unknown words, or even whole sentences, in the translation. Candidates should translate the words they do know and then make a sensible guess at the unknowns from the context.
- Candidates need to proof-read what they write and run a ‘sense-check’.
- Candidates must answer all questions and not leave blank spaces. An educated guess may get some credit but a blank space will not.
- Candidates must remember to be careful with handwriting and to present their work neatly.