



Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback
Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Italian (1IN0) Paper 3F: Reading

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Summer 2024

Publications Code 1IN0_3F_pef_20240822

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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.

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 food and select the person to whom the statements that followed the text applied. 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 part was that in which most candidates answered incorrectly, with some choosing Edoardo instead of Giovanna.

Question 2

This question required candidates to choose words from a box to complete sentences related to a text about Leonardo Bonucci. 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 most candidates selected words/phrases from the box for their answers, but there were a few made-up answers and candidates should be reminded of the importance of following the instructions here. 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 (c), (d) and (e) proved to be the most accessible for candidates, however, in part (a), some candidates did not seem to know *maggio* and answered 'March' instead. In part (c), many candidates chose 'younger' rather than 'older', suggesting that they did not know *maggiore* and in part (d), a significant number of candidates chose 'pets' instead of 'children', even though *figli* is very frequently taught. In part (e), some thought that *serio* meant 'sensitive' instead of 'serious', which was somewhat surprising given that it is a near cognate.

Question 3

This question required candidates to read an extract from a website about living and working in Northern Italy 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 *lingue* and they gave incorrect answers as a result, with some choosing 'media' as the answer. In (a) (iii), many candidates lost marks as they were not specific enough, with many simply answering 'a city', but the correct answer was 'her (home) city'.

In part (b) (i), the vast majority of candidates correctly answered 'expensive', while in (b) (ii), most got the idea that she is looking forward to going back to see her family, but some lost the mark as they wrote that she is going on holiday with her family, and this is not mentioned in the text.

Question 4

Here, candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Città irreale* by Cristina Marconi, and select an answer from the four options available. The majority of candidates were able to score some points on this question. The most accessible parts were parts (i) and (iii), as candidates clearly recognised high-frequency vocabulary here. For part (ii), less successful candidates appeared not to understand *con ogni clima* and chose B instead of C, presumably as the word *notte* appeared in the text. In part (iv), many candidates did not understand *stazione della metropolitana* and they chose A (bus station) or B (train station) instead of D (underground station). Part (v) was the most challenging part as candidates had to infer meaning.

Question 5

In this question, candidates were required to read an article about breaktime at school 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), most candidates correctly answered that Italian students like to chat to their friends at breaktime but some made up answers that were not in the text, such as 'play football' or 'do extra study'. In part (b), many candidates lost marks as they answered that 'it gives students a break from studying'. In part (c), many students answered 'sugar' or 'sugary foods', but some were not precise enough, giving answers such as 'unhealthy food'.

Question 6

In this question, candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *L'amore a due passi* by Catena Fiorello, 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), many candidates were unable to recognise the time, with some answering 'a quarter past eight' or '8.04', confusing 'quarto' with 'quattro'. In part (b), some candidates answered that she wanted to visit the castle as she hadn't had time to see it, thereby focusing on the wrong part of the text for the correct answer. Part (c) was straightforward for many candidates who correctly answered 'countryside', although a significant proportion did not know the word *campagna* and incorrectly guessed answers such as 'the mountains' or 'at the campsite' instead. In (d), most candidates answered correctly. 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 a school trip 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. Some 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, *presto*, some opted for *tardi*, while a significant proportion chose a random word from the box. In part (b), many chose *brutta* instead of *grande*. Part (c) appeared to be the most accessible, with most candidates correctly choosing *caldo* as the answer. For part (d), many candidates opted for *lontano da* instead of *vicino a*. In part (e), many chose *spera di*, while the correct answer was *non vuole*, not responding to *ma in un altro posto* in the text.

Question 8

This question was a multiple choice exercise that required candidates to read an article about working abroad 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. In part (i), some candidates chose *ha studiato cinese*, presumably as *Cina* and *lingua* are mentioned in the text, or possibly because they did not know *all'estero* in the question. Part (iii) was the most challenging part, as some candidates struggled to distinguish between parts A (*dopo l'università*) and B (*mentre studiava all'università*). The most accessible part was part (v), as most candidates were able to link the text, *e adesso abito a Shanghai da cinque anni*, to the correct answer, D (*è rimasta in Cina*).

Question 9

This question required candidates to read information about Italian-speaking Switzerland and then choose the correct city 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. Most scored the points in parts (a) and (d), while parts (c) and (e) proved to be the most challenging. In part (c), some candidates chose *Locarno* instead of *Lugano*. In part (e), many candidates chose *Lugano* instead of *Locarno*. Here, it is possible that some candidates confused the names of the two cities, but the texts relating to the two cities are very different, so a careful reading of the information should eliminate any such confusion. Candidates are reminded to read the texts and questions carefully.

Question 10

Here, candidates were required to translate a passage of Italian into English, on the topic of music. 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.

Most candidates were able to successfully translate *Mi piace molto la musica*, although a few did not translate *molto*. Most were able to translate *Ascolto spesso la musica italiana*

a casa but many did not know *spesso*. Most candidates were able to correctly render *Il mio cantante preferito si chiama Marco Mengoni* and *L'anno scorso sono andato al suo concerto a Milano ed era fantastico* in English, although a few left out the *suo*. The final sentences also proved accessible, with most candidates being able to translate the idea of *Mi sono divertito molto*. Again, some left out the *molto*.

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, a small number struggled to render meaning and used incorrect time frames or made up random sentences that were not connected to the text. Although less commonplace than in previous series, there were still 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.