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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

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

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Introduction

GCSE Italian paper 1IN0 3H is assessed by means of a sixty 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 candidates at this level achieved a good measure of success on questions with English prompts, which required the recall of familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the specification and most candidates were able to gain some marks on the new translation into English task. However, some candidates were less successful on questions which required processing or interpreting meaning. The literary texts and questions with rubrics in Italian proved accessible to those achieving higher scores on the paper.

Question 1

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 2 points and many scored all 3 points. Part (c) was the most challenging, as some candidates were not specific enough, writing generic answers such as 'unhealthy food'.

Question 2

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 accessible for most candidates and most scored at least 3 points from the 4 available. In part (a), most candidates were able to identify the time, although a small number wrote 'a quarter past eight' instead of 'a quarter to eight'. The majority of candidates answered part (b) correctly, but in part (c), some candidates answered, 'in the mountains' or 'at the campsite', as they appeared not to know the meaning of *campagna*. In (d), most candidates answered correctly by communicating the idea that Italians preferred to go to the beach at that time.

Question 3

This question required candidates to read the opinions of three people about holiday activities and answer questions in English. Most candidates were able to score at least 4 of the 5 points here. The most challenging part proved to be part (d), with many candidates incorrectly writing 'going to the park' instead of 'having a dinner/evening meal' and in part (e), some candidates answered 'books about nature' instead of 'books you have not had time to read'.

Question 4

Here, candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Volevo i pantaloni* by Lara Cardella, and select an answer from the four options available. The majority of candidates were able to score most points on this question. The most challenging parts were parts (iii) and (v). In part (iii), less successful candidates did not choose A, presumably as they did not know the verb *truccarsi*. Part (v) was difficult for some students, as they had to process the information in the text to work out the answer, linking *con la camicia lunga e tutta bianca di mio padre, come nuova* to the fact that Annetta's shirt was borrowed (B). Many candidates recognised the word *nuova* and incorrectly chose A (brand new) as a result.

Question 5

In this question, candidates were required to read a passage outlining the views of four people on the Umbria Jazz Festival. They then had to complete statements with the correct names from the list of four, as well as answer two questions in English on the text. Most candidates were able to successfully identify the correct names, and the majority of candidates scored at least 4 of the 6 available points. In part (e), while most candidates correctly answered that there are too many tourists, some provided answers that were not specific enough, such as 'too many people'. Part (f) was the most problematic, again because candidates were not specific enough, e.g. some wrote 'all concerts are free', 'the festival is free', or simply 'free tickets', but they missed the point that many concerts are free (but not all). Candidates are reminded of the need to read the text very carefully and consider the wording of their answers to open response questions.

Question 6

Here candidates were required to read a passage about the Human Chess Game in Marostica. They then had to choose 3 correct statements from a choice of 7 and then answer 2 questions about the text in English. In part (i), most candidates were able to correctly identify two of the three correct statements, with many wrongly choosing A as an answer, drawing incorrectly on *volevano fare un duello* in the text. In part (ii), many candidates failed to give the correct answer, with many stating that the event takes place every year, as opposed to every two years. In part (iii), most candidates knew 'fireworks' although some candidates struggled with the vocabulary in English and wrote answers such as 'artificial fires'.

Question 7

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 4 or 5 points. 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 8

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 4 points, as they were able to identify key vocabulary items from the text and the questions. 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 9

This question required candidates to read a passage in Italian about studying and working and answer questions in Italian, which most candidates did very successfully, showing good understanding both of the text and the questions. Most candidates scored at least 3 points from the 5 available. Almost all candidates answered part (a) correctly, although some omitted *pagare* and this was key to giving the correct answer. In part (b), some candidates answered *grazie ad Internet puoi studiare e lavorare da casa*, but this was incorrect, suggesting that they did not fully understand the question. Parts (c), (d) and (e) were answered correctly by most candidates.

Question 10

This question required candidates to translate a passage about the use of water into English. This was very well attempted by the majority of candidates, with varying degrees of success. Most translated the first line of the translation well, writing that it hadn't rained enough recently in some regions of Italy. Most understood the quantity of 200 litres of water and were successful in translating the final part of the task, which stated we should be more responsible and have a shower and not a bath.

Most errors were made with the phrase *uno dei problemi ambientali piu' seri*, with many candidates writing 'more' instead of 'most' and some candidates left out 'environmental' in their answer. Some were not able to translate the *uno dei* here. Another recurring mistake was with the phrase *in media*. Many translated this as 'approximately', 'nearly', or 'medium'. Some candidates were not accurate with the two conditionals towards the end of the translation: *dovremmo* as 'we should' and *potremmo* as 'we could'.

It was encouraging to see that most candidates were able to identify and translate verbs using the correct tense. In addition, practically all of the cohort attempted the translation in its entirety, with very few blank responses. The majority of candidates scored 5 or more points from the 7 available, with a significant number scoring 6 or 7.

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 and the language in which the questions are to be answered.
- 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. They should also check that they have not missed out any questions by accident.
- Candidates should check how many marks are available for each question and give the correct amount of information in their response.
- Candidates must remember to be careful with handwriting and to present their work neatly.