

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

11N0 Paper 3H

Higher tier: Reading and understanding in Italian

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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 school in the past 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 did not know the word *pagelle*.

Question 2

In the question candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *La babysitter* by Giulia Sara Miori and answer questions in English. This proved accessible for most candidates and most scored at least 3 points from the 4 available. Part (b) was the most challenging and some candidates gave answers that were not in the text, e.g. 'to check the pay' or 'to check the working hours'.

Question 3

This question required candidates to read holiday advice given by three different people and answer questions in English. Most candidates were able to score at least 4 of the 5 points here. Most candidates correctly identified Aurora and Arian respectively in answer to parts (a) and (b) and the majority answered parts (c) and (d) correctly. The most challenging part proved to be part (e) with many candidates incorrectly writing 'to take photos' or 'to put your photos on social media'. Candidates are reminded to read the text and the question very carefully to make sure they give the correct information in their answer.

Question 4

Here candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, *La bella estate* by Cesare Pavese 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 (i) and (ii). In part (i), less successful candidates did not choose C, presumably as they got confused with the distractors in the list of possible answers. In part (ii) it appeared that some candidates thought that *pulire* meant 'to polish' and they incorrectly chose A, even though the text also mentioned *lavare i piatti* and should have helped point them towards the correct answer, B.

Question 5

In this question, candidates were required to read a passage outlining the views of four people about the Internet. 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 most candidates scored at least 4 of the 6 available points for this question. In part (e), many candidates lost the mark as they wrote answers that were not specific enough, e.g. 'communicate with friends'. In order to get the mark here, it was necessary to convey the idea of communication in person or face-to-face, *non comunicano più di persona con gli amici*. Part (f) was accessible to most candidates.

Question 6

Here candidates were required to read a passage about MusArt, an Italian festival. 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. Some candidates wrongly chose C as an answer, drawing incorrectly on the word *piazza* in the text, without noticing that this was followed by *ci sono anche altri concerti più piccoli vicino all'università*. Again, candidates are reminded to read all the text carefully before deciding on an answer. In parts (ii) and (iii) most candidates provided the correct answer.

Question 7

This question was a multiple choice exercise that required candidates to read a review of a restaurant in San Marino and choose an answer from the four options available. Here candidates generally scored 4 or 5 points. Part (iv) was the most challenging part as some candidates struggled to distinguish between the wording of the text, *anche se c'era già tanta gente quando siamo arrivati* and answer D, *none c'era tanta gente* and incorrectly chose this option.

Question 8

This question required candidates to read information about Italian islands and then choose the correct island 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 (b) some candidates did not appear to recognise *alcune a pagamento ma altre libere* and answered 'San Pietro', presumably as it mentioned the word *spiagge* in the text. Candidates generally showed a good knowledge of key vocabulary in the other parts of the question and answered these correctly.

Question 9

This question required candidates to read a passage in Italian about school trips 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 both months in *il periodo tra aprile e maggio* and this was key to giving the correct answer. In part (c) some candidates did not understand *nell'Italia meridionale*, but most got the point as they wrote *a Campobasso* instead, which was perfectly acceptable. Parts (b) and (d) were answered correctly by most candidates. In part (e) some candidates lost the mark by not being specific enough in their answer, and quite a few simply wrote *era eccessiva* without explaining what this referred to, i.e. *la reazione degli studenti*.

Question 10

This question required candidates to translate a passage about Italians and culture into English. This was very well attempted by the majority of candidates, with varying degrees of success. Most translated the first two sentences of the translation well, but a significant number did not translate the word *spettacoli* properly, using words like 'events' or 'activities' instead of 'shows'. Most understood *Nel passato a molti giovani piaceva passare il tempo libero al cinema o in discoteca* and were successful in translating this but a few did not recognise the structure with *piacere* and missed this out.

Most errors were made with the phrase *Però, oggi non è più così*, with many candidates omitting the translation of *più* in their answer. In the final sentence, most candidates correctly translated the meaning, but some were not able to translate *eventi all'aperto* here.

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.