

# ITALIAN

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| <p><b>Paper 1346/01</b><br/><b>Speaking</b></p> |
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## Key Message

A well researched topic and the ability to take part in a spontaneous discussion can compensate for some of the language weaknesses.

## General Comments

Like last year, candidates were well prepared for the speaking test, took interest in their chosen topics and therefore performed well.

## **Factual knowledge and opinion (14 marks)**

Most candidates chose their topics with inspiration, making sure that there was scope for analysis, evaluation and opinion and were able to demonstrate their full potential.

The choice of topics ranged from literary text or film, to historical events, artists and scientists, traditions, and current affairs. All topics offered enough scope for evaluation and opinions and there were no cases where the topic restricted the candidate by being too detailed / factual.

Presentations were generally well timed and well articulated, leading naturally to discussion. The ensuing discussions were spontaneous and elicited from candidates the ability to adapt their prepared material to respond to the Examiner's questions. Most candidates were able to present a good range of pertinent facts, had the ability to analyse them in an interesting way and to express their opinions in a naturally flowing conversation with the Examiner.

## **Language (range and accuracy) (10 marks)**

There was a good range of performances. Some candidates displayed a satisfactory range of vocabulary and structures; others were able to use complex structures and a good range of vocabulary. Most candidates were generally speaking able to control their accuracy and they were ready to correct themselves when they realised they had made a mistake. The most common mistakes concerned the use of prepositions, sometimes influenced by English and other times by their dominant foreign language, which may have also influenced vocabulary and structures at times. There were occasional instances of lack of control over agreements, gender and sometimes over verb endings.

## **Pronunciation and Intonation (6 marks)**

There were generally good or very good levels of pronunciation and intonation. The most common mistakes were misplaced stress and mispronunciation of double consonant or vowel sounds.

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| <p><b>Paper 1346/02</b><br/><b>Reading, Listening and Writing</b></p> |
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## Key messages

- In order to perform well in the Listening section of this paper, candidates were required to follow information sequentially, and be selective in using the material they had heard to answer the questions. Strong candidates gave succinct answers; candidates must be wary of transcribing long chunks of material 'around' the answer.
- To succeed in the Reading section, candidates needed to be able to target pieces of information as they arose in order in the text. Strong candidates were able to use a degree of inference where necessary. Careful reading of the text is crucial and candidates must take care not to seize on one piece of information with such conviction that they overlook the appropriate answer, or try and force an earlier piece of information in the text to answer a question that targets a later paragraph.
- The Writing element of the paper presents candidates with guidelines in the form of five bullet points, all of which were addressed more or less equally by strong candidates. The successful candidates showcased a wide variety of both vocabulary and phrasing; candidates must ensure that their style is not too chatty or anecdotal if they are to be convincing in this task.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Part 1**

#### **Brano d'ascolto 1**

Generally well done by all candidates.

#### **Brano d'ascolto 2**

Some candidates found this passage fairly challenging and had difficulty with understanding key vocabulary items such as *sporcano* and *all'antica*. Not all candidates understood the story of the young homeless person.

#### **Brano d'ascolto 3**

This question was done well on the whole, with most candidates understanding most of the key details. The part that had proved to be challenging was the director's description of the film he had written about how his parents met during the war.

### **Part 2**

#### **Testo di lettura 1**

This proved quite a demanding text for many candidates, with **Question 27** in particular presenting a challenge for a number of candidates.

## Testo di lettura 2

Candidates coped quite well with this text despite some high-level vocabulary.

## Testo di lettura 3

This was quite well done on the whole, with candidates showing a good understanding of the text. However, not many candidates answered **Question 41** correctly, possibly because of the challenge that interpreting *il Mal d'Africa* presented. Similarly, **Question 46** proved to be problematic for some candidates on account of misunderstanding the verb *curare*.

## Part 3

Virtually all the candidates chose **Question 50(b)** and wrote about the dangers of the Internet. It was pleasing to note that all candidates dealt with all the bullet points and used paragraphs appropriately. At the top end of the ability range, the essays offered a balanced and insightful view of this issue, whereas less successful candidates did not manage to make their points sufficiently clearly. There was some impressive language at the top end too: varied, fluent and accurate even in the higher registers.