



2011

Languages: Italian GA 3: Examination

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Successful completion of this examination task required students to be familiar with the requirements of Units 3 and 4 as per the *VCE Italian Study Design*. Competency in the grammatical requirements of the course as stipulated on pages 14–16 of the *VCE Italian Study Design* under the grammar subheading was essential to successfully completing this examination. Students who were aiming for high scores needed to be prepared to demonstrate their understanding of more complex grammatical features rather than limiting themselves to basic tenses and grammatical structures.

In preparation for this examination, students are encouraged to expose themselves to a wide variety of authentic texts in order to improve the quality of their work.

At the beginning of the examination, it was imperative that students made effective use of the 15-minute reading time to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the examination. During the examination, students needed to make effective use of their bilingual dictionary as necessary.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Note: Student responses reproduced herein have not been corrected for grammar, spelling or factual information.

Although the answers provided in this report are in point form, students needed to answer in full sentences when responding in Italian.

Section 1 – Listening and responding

The key to successfully completing this section of the examination was for students to fine tune their listening and note-taking skills. This enabled them to take effective notes when they were listening to each text. Many students had trouble identifying the key points presented during the listening task.

When completing the examination, students needed to read and understand the question being asked in order to provide relevant and comprehensive answers in the appropriate language.

Part A – Answer in English

Question 1a.

School musical (Pinocchio)

Question 1b.

Name	Character	Attribute
• Cinzia	• Fairy	• good singer
• Luca	• Geppetto	• sings well/has Tuscan accent
• Edoardo	• Pinocchio	• small/lively/sporty/agile/talented
• Piero	• cricket	• small

Question 1c.

Melissa makes fun of Edoardo.

Question 1d.

The problem was that there were four females and only one male, and the solution was to change some of the male parts to female roles.

Question 2a.

Near the polytechnic (his place of work) or in a central location

Question 2b.

- park
- shops/metro train/bar/restaurant



- 700 Euro per month

Question 2c.

The agent was surprised because as the client suffers vertigo he does not want an apartment on the upper levels and yet he works in the field of astrophysics.

Part B – Answer in Italian

Question 3a.

The interview takes place in front of the *Liceo Classico*.

The following is an example of a well-written answer.

L'intervista ha luogo a Teramo davanti al Liceo Classico.

Question 3b.

Isabella does not understand fashion and she cannot comprehend how one becomes a slave to fashion.

The following is an example of a well-written answer.

Isabella dice di non intendersi della moda e di non capire come le persone possano diventare schiavi di essa, sopportando a volte anche sofferenze fisiche. A lei bastano qualche maglietta e qualche paio di jeans.

Question 3c.

The male speaker does not think Isabella dresses well (she wears sloppy jumpers and runners) and Isabella does not follow fashion.

The following is an example of a well-written answer.

Al ragazzo non piace come Isabella si veste- trova le scarpe di ginnastica e le magliette che porta Isabella fuori moda e dice che a lui piacerebbe se Isabella si vestisse più alla moda.

Question 3d.

The male speaker likes clothes with feather trims and ankle boots, fashion of the 80s and thin ties, vests and braces.

The following is an example of a well-written answer.

Il ragazzo apprezza l'eleganza degli anni 80 che domina la moda di quest'anno: alcuni stilisti hanno riproposto le cravatte sottili, il gilet, le bretelle e vestiti coperti di piume e ankle boots per la moda femminile.

Question 3e.

Oscar Wilde said fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we are forced to change it every six months.

The following is an example of a well-written answer.

Oscar Wilde disse che la moda è una forma di bruttezza così intollerabile che siamo costretti a cambiarla ogni sei mesi.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Question 4a.

The significance of the title of the text is that it is a treasure of medieval architecture.

Question 4b.

- It may have been a fortress – NO
- It may have been a centre for research – YES
- The coronation of Federico II may have taken place there – NO

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Question 4c.

- beauty
- position
- historic building
- mysterious monument
- heritage listed building

Question 4d.

- The earlier name of Castel del Monte was Castello di Santa Maria del Monte.
- It was used as a Benedictine Abbey in the 12th century.

Question 4e.

The purpose is unknown; it could have been a centre of research for religious leaders.

Question 4f.

Five architectural features of the castle are:

- early gothic architecture of southern Italy
- has an octagonal plan
- there is an octagonal courtyard in the centre
- there are eight octagonal towers on the corners of the polygon
- its shape resembles Federico II's royal crown.

Question 4g.

The purpose of the text is to advertise the castle.

Question 4h.

The castle is still considered significant as it is on the World Heritage List.

Question 4i.

Federico II is described as a great leader and a humanist.

Part B – Answer in Italian

Question 5a.

The advice given was:

- learn English before you come
- do not assume they will speak current Italian
- do not be surprised if people use a modified Italian language
- seek advice/explanations from your teacher at school
- persevere because things get better.

Question 5b.

Either of:

- no – because he struggled to understand
- yes – because he learnt a lot/found it very interesting.

The following is an example of a well-written answer.

Sì, è stata un'esperienza positiva. Marcello infatti, oltre a comunicare più fluentemente in inglese, ha scoperto fenomeni interessanti, come la creazione di una 'terza lingua' da parte di un gruppo emigrato in Australia dall'Italia.

Section 3 – Writing in Italian

Criteria:

- relevance, depth and breadth of content
- appropriateness of structure and sequence
- accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar.



The 15 marks for this section were divided in the following way:

- five marks for content (depth and breadth)
- five marks for structure and sequence (correct text type, register and cohesive devices)
- five marks for the accuracy of the language, including range and sophistication of vocabulary and grammar and correct spelling.

This year the most popular writing task was Question 8, while the least popular question was Question 9.

In order to achieve very high marks for the first criterion, the writing needed to effectively cover the content of the task and the ideas had to be elaborated upon. In 2011, many students made an attempt at writing for the task; however, their responses often lacked the required depth and breadth. Only 10 per cent of students competently covered this aspect of the writing task. The majority of students lacked the ability to develop their responses with a range of ideas and this affected the overall quality of their writing. Some did not analyse the question correctly and wrote most of their response off topic.

The structure of the finished piece of writing must be appropriate to the text type, with effectively sequenced and linked sentences and paragraphs. When planning their response, students should have paid attention to the selection of appropriate grammatical structures and vocabulary (including some more complex tenses) and the purpose of the task. Students needed to ensure their spelling was accurate by making effective use of the dictionary.

It was disappointing to note that the majority of students scored poorly for the criterion relating to accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar. It is imperative that students have an understanding of the linguistic requirements of this examination and that they master the relevant grammatical structures as stipulated in the *VCE Italian Study Design*.

Below are some extracts from well-written tasks that highlight excellent use of language.

Benvenuti a tutti, oggi vi parlerò di un argomento che mi sta molto a cuore: lo sport. Proverò a mettere in luce i vantaggi di fare qualche sport.

In primo luogo, lo sport ci aiuta a tenersi in forma. Per me questo è stato molto importante perchè a dire la verità...

Una tenue luce è apparsa in lontananza, mi sono alzato dalla mia posizione vicino al fiume, velocemente ho corso verso uno degli alberi che si trovavano sul monte...

Chi è mai rimasto indeciso tra un appartamento al piano due e uno al piano nove? La scelta è semplice se siete tra quelli che soffrono di vertigini: piano due grazie. Se no, lasciate che vi racconti la mia esperienza come abitante di un appartamento al piano nove di un alto edificio nel cuore della città di Bologna.

Beh, innanzitutto, c'è una vista meravigliosa: la finestra della mia cucina dà sul centro storico della città...

...Per concludere quindi consiglio calorosamente a tutti un appartamento ai piani superiori: bella vista, luce, calore, protezione da eventuali ladri sono solo alcuni delle ragioni...