

# ITALIAN

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**Paper 1346/01**  
**Speaking**

## **Key Message**

In addition to linguistic ability, this exam also rewards the ability to handle knowledge and to express opinion. Therefore, a well-researched topic and the ability to take part in a spontaneous discussion can compensate for some of the language weaknesses.

## **Key Message**

### **Factual knowledge and opinion**

Most candidates chose their topics wisely, making sure that there was scope for analysis, evaluation and opinion. They were thus able to demonstrate their full potential. Candidates should be advised not to prepare topics with mainly factual information. They should also make sure that their topic fully meets the requirement of being related to the history, current affairs or culture of an area of the world where Italian is spoken. Topics which are only partially relevant will inevitably reduce the mark for knowledge and opinion.

Most candidates chose a literary text or film. Such topics offer enough scope for evaluation and opinions pertaining to character, plot, style, or message for example. All candidates showed genuine interest in their topic and pleasure in discussing it.

Presentations were generally well timed and well structured, leading to discussion naturally. Candidates responded well to questions and were able to adapt their prepared material to suit the discussion, resulting in a spontaneous and fluent dialogue. Most candidates were able to present a good range of pertinent information, had the ability to analyse material and express their opinions in a naturally flowing conversation with the Examiner.

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

Most candidates displayed a very good range of vocabulary and structures. Candidates were generally accurate and were ready to correct themselves when they realised a mistake has occurred. 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**

Pronunciation and intonation were generally good. Misplaced stress and mispronunciation of double consonant or vowel sounds were the most common mistakes.

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Paper 1346/02  
Reading, Listening and Writing

## Key Messages

The requirements for doing well in this paper are:

- an ability to listen/ read in a discerning fashion, i.e. in order to locate pertinent items of information;
- to pay close attention to the rubric of the paper e.g. to answer in the correct language;
- to transfer pertinent content to correct answer format i.e. manipulating the language where necessary to tailor the answer to the question.
- With regards to the writing section of the paper, candidates must use varied and accurate language, addressing all bullet points, in order to gain the highest marks.

## General Comments

Listening and reading sections: strong candidates answered directly and succinctly, targeting the required information and not including unnecessary additional material. Their answers displayed convincing understanding of the passages rather than merely an attempt at transcribing what had been heard/ read.

Writing section: high-performing candidates addressed all bullet points in a balanced fashion, and were able to produce solid, well-referenced arguments to support their discussion of the stimulus, i.e. providing sound (not rambling or overly anecdotal) examples.

## Comments on Specific Questions

### **PART I**

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

##### **Question 8**

In some cases not quite enough information was being given by candidates: e.g. for part **(b)**, *occhi aperti* was not sufficient for the mark.

##### **Question 14**

Some candidates struggled to hear *cerebrali* accurately and there were clear cases of mis-transcription.

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

##### **Question 22**

Strong candidates gained both marks for specifically referencing the scene in which Connery made her laugh.

### **PART II**

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

##### **Question 25**

Weaker answers to this question were rather non-specific, e.g. women who want to find work.

### Question 27

Candidates must be sure to respond to the whole question: here, a number overlooked the *Dato il suo titolo* part of the question and extrapolated incorrectly from the content of what Rosanna says, in particular the first part and simply wrote something along the lines of 'helping people to find work'.

### Testo di lettura 2

### Question 31

Strong candidates observed that it was necessary not only to note that editors had promised to maintain prices at a certain level but that they had also failed to do so / broken their promise.

### Question 34

Some struggled with the idea of *farsi passare*.

### Question 36

Very well responded to.

### PART III

A good number of answers on both **a)** and **b)**. The majority of candidates gave more or less equal weighting to the five bullet points in each essay question, maximising their opportunity for a high mark.

- (a)** Perhaps surprisingly, some candidates struggled to find disadvantages of marriage to discuss, other than divorce. Otherwise generally well responded to, with impassioned argument and good use of example.
- (b)** Some candidates seemed not to be completely familiar with what *servizio militare* entails, and risked diverging into discussion of the pros and cons of going to war. Otherwise some interesting points raised, and well-rounded essays produced.