



## ***JUNIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS***

**1999**

**ITALIAN**

### ***HIGHER LEVEL CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT ORDINARY LEVEL CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT***

#### ***HIGHER LEVEL***

**Total Number of Scripts: 140**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Number</b>	26	46	34	22	12
<b>%</b>	18.6	32.9	24.3	15.7	8.5

#### **General Comments**

There was a low failure rate at this level with only 12 out of 140 not achieving the pass mark on the written paper. There were 26 candidates who achieved an A grade. Out of these 26 very good scripts, 13 were in single centres. This may indicate that the influence of native speakers is coming through.

#### **Performance of Candidates**

##### **Higher Level**

<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>N/G</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>%</b>	18.0	36.0	46.0	45.0	13.0	2.0	-	160

<b>1998</b>	<b>%</b>	24.4	25.6	17.8	23.3	6.7	2.2	-	90
<b>1999</b>	<b>%</b>	18.6	32.9	24.3	15.7	8.5	-	-	140

### Listening Comprehension

#### A. (Page 2)

- 2.(a) “Double room with a shower”, very poor response to “room”, many knew “shower”.
- 2.(b) Dates were often confused; very few candidates got the 27.
- 5. Very few candidates answered everything correctly, some said as little as “he was simply late for the bus”.
- 6.(a) Simply not known, although it appeared easy.

#### B. (Page 3)

- (i) 1. “Grandfather” often confused with “grandmother”
- 4. Very little information was retrieved as there seemed to be too much in the text for the student to be able to handle.
- (ii) 4. “It was full”, not known.
- 5.(a) Numbers were inaccurate.

### Part II: Reading Comprehension

- A. 1. Very poor attempt made here; most said something about fire.
- 6. Did not know “a year and a half”.
- 7. Most opted for a first visit to Rome; again even the better candidates did not manage the details that were required.
- B. 2. Bakery not known.
- C. 1.(b) Most said “nuoto”.
- 2.(b), (d), (e) not known.
- 3. Candidates did very well here.
- 4. Again, well answered.
- 5. Date of birth/Place of birth not known.
- 6. Numbers 116 and 114 were mixed up.

### **Part III: Written Expression**

- A.** The ending to the letter was often inaccurate. Very few expressions, if any, at all. Large chunks of material, clearly learned off, were often included. The inclusion of three specific topics (school, hobbies, being happy) made it easy to recognise those candidates who had no real grammatical awareness. The candidates, few as they were, who used expressions often, used all three of the following:
- non sono nella pella
  - sono in settimo cielo
  - un mucchio di cose da fare.
- B.** This question really enabled the good candidates to demonstrate their competence.
- C.**
- 1.** Generally a very low standard of answering in this section. There was a better attempt at (a) than (b). In (b) there was a failure to distinguish the correct person to be associated with the verb, often candidates used the first person. Quite often, the accents were completely forgotten.
  - 2.** There was some confusion around 1, 2, 5 and 6.

## ORDINARY LEVEL

**Total Number of Scripts: 107**

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F
Number	3	11	36	46	10	1
%	2.8	10.3	33.6	43.0	9.3	1.0

### General Comments:

Only 11 candidates failed to reach a pass mark. There were only 3 candidates who achieved an A grade. There is a recurrent tendency of students not to answer in English but simply to transcribe parts of the paper in Italian (Pages 8, 9, 10, 11 on the Ordinary Level paper). This applies equally to the Higher Level paper.

### Performance of Candidates

#### Ordinary Level

Year	%	A	B	C	D	E	F	N/G	Total
1997	%	1.9	20.8	40.6	25.5	9.4	1.9	-	106
1998	%	3.3	18.3	40.0	35.0	1.7	1.7	-	60
1999	%	2.8	10.3	33.6	43.0	9.3	1.0	-	107

### Listening Comprehension

#### A. Page 2

1.(a), 2.(a), 3.(a) were badly answered.

This may be because numbers were involved and Ordinary level candidates find numbers difficult.

#### B. (i)4. Surprisingly this was badly answered.

(ii)5.(a) and (b) Poor answers featured again with numbers causing problems for candidates.

## Reading Comprehension

- A.**
- 1.(iii) Not known.
  - 2.(a), (b), (c) These three were confused.
  - 3.(a) Very few candidates got both dates and months right.
  - 3.(c) Many marked “false”.
  - 3.(d) Here, candidates did manage the numbers as they appeared as figures in the text.
  - 4.(b), (c) Very confusing answers were given for both of these. Some candidates managed “ham”. In the case of question (c) many wrote “water and ice cream”, and simply could not manage anything else. This should have been answered better as food must be such a major part of language teaching in Italian.
- B.**
- 1.(a) “Beach” not known.
  - 1.(d) Many took “Aran” to be a boys name.
  2. “via”/”città”/date of birth not known; “cantante preferito” was known by only one or two candidates. Often a list of sports/activities was put in here.

## Written Expression

- A.**
1. The letter was very poor with little knowledge of sentence structure shown.
  2. Some had the phrase “mi diverto” which earned them marks; otherwise, the standard was very low here.
- B.**
- 1.(e), (f) were often confused. Candidates often matched “Il sabato sera lavoro” *with* “per comprare vestiti” and “Qualche volta vado in centro” *with* “alle dieci”.
  2. Very few candidates managed to get any marks here. Due to an error in part (d) the marking scheme was adjusted to exclude this question.