

Italian

Course Code: ITN315114

In 2016 there were 28 candidates who sat the ITN315114 (Italian) written exam.

Oral exam

The Oral exam consisted of a 12 minute interview, as per past years. Students were asked general questions from the Themes and Topics: 1 – The Individual, as outlined in the Course Content.

Overall, the students appeared to be well-prepared and the standard particularly high, with the majority making a conscious effort to respond with more than a one-word answer.

After the initial question in the present tense, examiners then proceeded to ask students questions using more sophisticated structures and tenses. An example of each is below:

- Agreement of adjectives: eg. descrivi la tua casa/ la macchina di tuo padre
- Perfect tense: eg che cosa hai fatto il weekend scorso / ieri sera?
- Imperfect: eg che cosa facevi durante le vacanze quando eri bambino/a?
- Future: eg che cosa farai l'anno prossimo / dopo che avrai finito gli studi?
- Reflexives: (in present or past) eg descrivi una domenica tipica per te. Che cosa hai fatto stamattina prima di venire qui?
- Conditional: eg che cosa faresti con 10 mila dollari? Che cosa non avresti mai nella tua vita?
- Da quanto tempo: eg ...hai la patente / studi l'italiano?

The most common mistake came with the recognition of, and use of compound tenses. It also appeared that only a few were able to use pronouns in their responses.

In addition, the examiners advise future students to listen very carefully to the question so that their response is in keeping with the tense required, and that it actually makes sense. Whilst it is commendable that candidates learn certain structures by heart, it is surprising how many think they would be able to buy a house with \$5,000.

Written exam

Listening and Responding

Some of the difficulties facing the students with the Listening this year were that they found the reading of the passages a little too fast and some of the vocabulary is actually not current today. For example, „credenza“ was not found in some dictionaries, therefore the examiners accepted „credenza“ as an answer if that was given.

The last passage, in particular, had many numbers and a considerable amount of information to squeeze into small boxes. The passage that seemed to catch most students out with words like „scotta“ was the third one, which was set in a restaurant.

Spoken text I – Question I

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| a. | To let her know about/ the most /important /furniture /they have bought /for the new apartment. | 3 |
| b. | Fashion /is her passion/ has many/ clothes (dresses) | 2 |
| c. | i. Leather/black | 1 |
| ii. | On sale (cheap ½)/not enough money /to buy one they like | 3 |
| d. | Yellow/ will go well /with the black | 2 |
| e. | 12 | 1 |

f. She likes to cook/ wants to have/many parties	2
g. Bed/bookshelf	(1/2 mark each)
h. Dishwasher/lovely/sideboard	1
(examiners accepted either answer or "credenza" for the 1 mark	Total /16

Spoken text 2 – Question 2

a. Very/stressful / dangerous	2
b. About /4 thousand	2
c. Maintain/ control / in traffic	3
d. Milan / Rome	1
e. Teachers who are /professional / psychologists	3
f. Respecting /traffic rules/self control/whilst driving	2
	Total / 13

Spoken text 3 – Question 3

a.i) Steak is rare/wanted it well done (examiners changed this to 1 mark and accepted either answer)	1
.ii) Change it/ immediately	1
b) Knife(1)/ Doesn't cut(1/2)/ too well (1/2)	2
c). Overcooked (not al dente) (not cooked properly)	1
3b. let the kitchen know	1
4. Examiners accepted any of the following chips/ wanted mixed salad/ salmon	1
5. Bill/ in a hurry	2
	Total / 9

Spoken text 4 – Question 4

a. Evening or after work	1
b. 5.30p.m/7.30p.m	2
c. School/2 years	2
d. Work	1
e. To work out/ his level (knowledge)	1
f. On their web site	1
g. 8 weeks / \$225/ 10 weeks / \$275 / 2 hrs (1/2 mark for any 4 of these 5)	2
	Total / 10

Spoken text 5 – Question 5

a i) receiver	
ii) public / private / agencies(any 2 of the 3 ½ mark each)	
iii) 1986	4
b) 114	
ii) children / adolescents	
iii) 1987	4
c) 0637518282	
ii) women	2
	Total /10

Overall Total for Listening / 58

Reading and Responding

Students found the first passage difficult as it was very detailed. It appears that, in an attempt to make the exam more challenging, it is leading student to make assumptions about things that are not existent. The type 3 question should be given as a multi-choice.

Question 6

a. Go slower/keep /a safe/ distance	2
b. Speed cameras / a stiff fine	2

c.	He is learning/ Italian	1
d.	Straight /ahead/ about /20 k/ turn/ after/ Nutella /billboard /1 st to/ the right	5
e.	i)Not careful /with overtaking /taking wide /curves	2
	ii Streets(lanes) /are narrow /nearly /ran/over /a farmer	3
f.	Sick of his comments/ his advice (telling her what to do) or seems they are going the wrong way (either answer)	1
g.	for taking the wrong turn at the roundabout or for breaking suddenly	3
h.	they are still /on their honeymoon	3
j.	People in Europe/ always speak more/ than one language	3
k.	All tourists in Italy get lost	1
l.	Good luck	1
	Total /	27

Question 7

a.	uninhabited	1
b.	some cats	1
c.	landslides/ council order to leave	2
d.	personal or family disagreements	1
e.	Mayor/ doctor/ bricklayer/guide/ guardian (1/2 for any 4)	2
f.	Shops owners/ give him/bread/ of the day/ before/food/ just /out of date	4
g.	Takes care of/ an olive grove/acts as a guide /for tourists	2
h.	Visit him/send letters/ postcards / from around the world (any 3)	3
i.	Because he is free/ in spirit/ and can do what he likes	3

To earn the full 3 marks in the last question, the candidate must link the name "Libero" with the meaning of freedom.
Total / 19

Question 8

a.	Centro /della vita /della comunità or un punto di incontro	3
b.	Incontri d'affari/d'amore/commercio/fiere/mercati/manifestazioni/celebrazioni popolari/esecuzioni	4
c.	esecuzioni/ capitali	1
d.	Chiaccherare/ ammirare /vetrine/ /farsi vedere	4
e.	(ii) la domenica mattina e prima e anche dopo cena	1
f.	(iii) forse prendere un caffè o un gelato	1
g.	(iii) una tradizione da mantenere	2
	Total /	16

Overall Total for Reading /62

Writing in Italian

Disappointingly several candidates did not write approximately 250 words and were therefore marked down.