

ITALIAN

Exam board: Edexcel

Assessment methods: 100% exams, no coursework.

Length of exams: Paper 1 (Listening, reading and translation 40% of A level) 2 hours; Paper 2 (writing, 30% of A level) - 2 hours 40 minutes; Paper 3 (speaking, 30% of A level) - 21–23 minutes.

Breakdown of units

Paper 1 (listening, reading and translation):

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four themes which are based on the society and culture of the language being studied. It includes a listening assessment, a reading assessment and a translation section (from Italian into English). Total marks 80. No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2 (Written response to works and translation):

This paper includes a translation exercise (from English into Italian) and two essays on either two literary texts or one literary text and one film. The works must be taken from the list provided by the exam board. The literary texts listed include novels, a play and short stories. The six films are all feature length. Total marks 120.

No access to texts or films during the assessment. No access to a dictionary during the assessment. Students are advised to write approximately 300/ 350 words per essay.

Paper 3 (speaking): Students complete two speaking tasks:

Task 1 is a discussion on a theme from the list of themes provided by the exam board, featuring a stimulus statement and followed by a student-examiner debate/discussion on the theme.

Task 2 is a presentation and a discussion on an independent research project carried out by the student. The research may be based on one of the themes or on the student's own subject of interest related to Italian-speaking society and culture.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation). Students may take the assessment only once before certification. Total marks 72.

Main Themes

Theme 1 - Social Issues and trends: Changes in Italian society (family, education, work)

Theme 2 - Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture: Political and artistic culture in the Italian-speaking world (Music, Media and Cultural heritage)

Theme 3 - Social Issues and trends: Evolving Italian society (the positive impact of immigration, facing the challenges of migration, North/South Divide)

Theme 4 - Political and/or intellectual and/or artistic culture: Fascism and beyond (the rise of Mussolini, Fascism in World War Two, From dictatorship to democracy)

Overlap with other subjects

A number of the themes available across the three papers clearly link to other disciplines such as Geography, History, Sociology and Film/Media/Literature Studies.

Updated 19/6/20

