



# **National Qualifications 2012 Internal Assessment Report Italian**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

# National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

Italian: Intermediate 1

Italian: Intermediate 2

Italian: Higher

## General Comments

Most centres have a very good understanding of the national standards and a very good understanding of the conduct of the test.

Most candidates had been entered at the appropriate level and the majority of the assessment judgements were in line with the Assessment Standards.

Most centres had a good familiarity with the course arrangements and other exemplification materials.

## Course arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Almost all centres are familiar with all of the above.

## Evidence requirements

Centres are clearly aware of the requirement to submit CDs or cassette recordings of the candidates' performances. More care should be taken in the submission of the accompanying documentation and centres are reminded that at Intermediate 1 they should include the NAB which they used.

## Administration of assessments

Most centres administered the tests in accordance with available guidelines and exemplification, using appropriate instruments of assessment at all three levels sampled.

There were problems, however, with some of the recording techniques used. One centre's tapes were almost inaudible and another centre submitted CDs that were blank — although this was swiftly rectified.

## Areas of good practice

There were several areas of good practice — and it was pleasing to see that the number of centres showing good practice was increasing.

Examples of good practice included:

- ◆ many instances of helpful and sympathetic interlocutor skills
- ◆ well-prepared candidates – speaking with confidence and prepared to go beyond minimum requirements to produce a really spontaneous conversation
- ◆ a wide variety of topics covered by the majority of centres
- ◆ much more use of open-ended questions by many interlocutors, who also gave candidates time to expand their answers

### **Specific areas for improvement**

Once again timing was an issue. There is no reason to prolong the test — in several instances candidates were disadvantaged by this. In one centre the length of the tests was extremely variable — overly long for some and very short for others.

While we noted many examples of excellent interlocutor skills, there were some centres where open questions were rare and we did come across examples of poor interlocutor skills where a series of mini-presentations took place with no sense of a real conversation.