



National Qualifications 2013 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

Verifiers were in agreement with the vast majority of centres' application of national standards at all three levels sampled. There were many instances of good interlocutor skills and well prepared candidates. All centres sampled applied national standards correctly and no centre was deemed to be Not Accepted. All centres had presented well-recorded materials for verification and had ensured a quiet environment for the conduct of the Speaking Tests.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All centres had fully met the recommendations as stipulated in the document *National Qualifications Assessment of Speaking in Modern Languages* and had correctly applied the categories, criteria and pegged marks therein.

Evidence Requirements

All centres had complied fully with the Evidence Requirements and instructions contained in the document *Instructions for Modern Languages Departments on the Conduct of the Recorded Speaking Assessment*.

As previously mentioned, all candidates' recordings were well recorded in quiet environments. All CDs had been properly formatted to play on any machine.

Administration of assessments

All centres administered the assessments in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations. There were many occasions of well prepared candidates who were able to sustain a wide-ranging conversation. It was pleasing to note that many candidates were using a wide variety of vocabulary and language structures and many examples of candidates who were able to take the initiative in a variety of different topic areas. Verifiers also mentioned the confidence exhibited by many candidates, which reflected no doubt the amount of preparation which had gone into the test.

Only on a few occasions was there evidence of tests being unnecessarily prolonged — this invariably is to the detriment of the candidate.

In centres where more than one interlocutor had been involved there was excellent concordance in the assessment judgements.

Areas of good practice

Candidates had been well prepared in all the centres sampled. Many candidates showed a great deal of confidence in their use of the language. Many candidates were able to express opinions and go beyond minimal responses.

There were some really good interlocutor skills on display with a noticeable increase in topic coverage and in the use of open-ended questions allowing candidates to show greater spontaneity.

Most interlocutors were sympathetic and encouraging and worked hard to put candidates at their ease.

Specific areas for improvement

Whilst many interlocutors used open-ended questions and brought out the very best in the candidates there were still a few instances of candidates repeating the presentation and failing to expand much beyond that. It was pleasing to note, however, that no candidate attempted the assessment through the use of 'mini-presentations' and that there did seem to be many instances of authentic conversations taking place.

Whilst the majority of the centres sampled adhered to the times recommended there were one or two instances of overly long performances in the discussion element. This was not to the benefit of the candidate. The recommended timings should be adhered to.