



National Qualifications 2014 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

There was agreement with the centres' application of national standards at all three levels sampled. There were some instances of good interlocutor skills and well-prepared candidates, but this was not universal.

The centres sampled applied national standards correctly and no centre was deemed to be Not Accepted. There were no unacceptable recordings. The 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 met the recommendations as outlined in the document *National Qualifications Assessment of Speaking in Modern Languages* and had correctly applied the categories, criteria and pegged marks therein.

Evidence Requirements

Most centres had complied with the Evidence Requirements and instructions contained in the document *Instructions for Modern Languages Departments on the Conduct of the Recorded Speaking Assessment*. Some centres, however, failed to complete or include the Candidate Sample Form with the breakdown of marks at Intermediate 2 and Higher. Some centres had omitted to include the NAB used at Intermediate 1.

All candidates' performances were well recorded in quiet environments. All CDs had been properly formatted to play on any machine.

Administration of assessments

The centres sampled administered the assessments in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations.

It was pleasing to note that some candidates were using a wide variety of vocabulary and language structures and a few examples of candidates who were able to take the initiative in a variety of different topic areas.

Areas of good practice

There were some examples of well prepared candidates who were able to sustain a wide-ranging conversation. There was also some evidence of good interlocutor skills and this, invariably, led to a much more natural conversation.

Specific areas for improvement

There was some evidence of poorer interlocutor skills in a few instances. Some interlocutors occasionally seemed unwilling to go beyond the minimum required to elicit responses from the candidate.

There were also some instances where the 'discussion' was effectively no more than a repetition of the presentation, with little attempt being made by the interlocutor to stretch the candidate's ability, thus limiting the possibility of their attaining a grade any higher than Satisfactory in this element of the assessment.

There was also evidence of interlocutors who used the same set of questions without variation with all the candidates.

The best performances at Intermediate 2 and Higher were those that involved the candidate in a real and spontaneous conversation and in which the interlocutor reacted to the candidates' responses.