



# **National Qualifications 2015 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 2)

Italian (Higher)

## General comments

Verifiers were in agreement with the vast majority of centres' application of national standards at both levels sampled. There were many instances of very good interlocutor skills and well prepared candidates.

All centres sampled applied national standards correctly and no centre was deemed to be Not Accepted.

There were no unacceptable recordings this year and all centres had produced excellent documentation.

All centres had presented well-recorded materials for verification and had ensured a quiet environment for conducting the speaking tests.

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

All centres had fully met the recommendations as given 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*. There was clear understanding of the evidence requirements for the speaking test.

As previously mentioned, all candidates' recordings were well recorded in quiet environments.

## Administration of assessments

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

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

## **Areas of good practice**

There were many instances 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, eg correctly using the subjunctive and different tenses. Many candidates were able to take the initiative in a variety of different topic areas. Verifiers also mentioned the confidence of many candidates during the assessments which reflected, no doubt, the amount of preparation which had gone into the administration of the test.

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 the minimal response required

There were some very good interlocutor skills on display with a wide range of topics covered. There were many examples of interlocutors using open-ended questions which allowed the candidates to show greater spontaneity. Many candidates were able to ask for repetition or clarification in the target language.

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

## **Specific areas for improvement**

- ◆ In line with the *Instructions to Modern Languages Departments on the Conduct of the Recorded Speaking Assessment*, the recorder must be run continuously throughout the assessment for each candidate, even in the event of an unavoidable temporary interruption.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that at Higher level the discussion should normally last 4 ½ to 6 minutes. There is no benefit to the candidate to prolong this nor is an extremely short conversation likely to provide high marks.