



GCSE

Italian

8633/LH Paper 1 Listening (Higher)

Report on the examination

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General Comments

Just over 2000 students sat the higher paper, about 500 fewer than the previous year. Overall, the paper was handled well by most students. The mean mark was 36 out of 50 (72%), which is 10% lower than the previous year. This decline can be partly attributed to an increase in the number of students answering Section B in English, resulting in the unnecessary loss of many marks. It was pleasing to see that most students understood a good deal of what they had heard and were able to respond effectively to the questions set.

Teachers should remind students to:

- answer Section B in Italian.
- read the question carefully, taking note of information in bold.
- ensure their responses answer the question.

Section A

Questions 1 – 4

Students performed very well on these crossover questions with more than 70% of students scoring full marks.

Questions 5 - 6

These grade 6 questions focused on directions and were handled very well, with over 90% of students responding successfully.

Question 7

No significant issues were reported with this grade 6–8 question on the news topic.

Questions 8 - 10

Targeted at grades 7/8, these questions required written responses. Q8 was handled well with almost 80% success rate. Q9.1, however, proved the most challenging question on the paper with only 27% managing to convey *il buco dell'ozono*. Q10 posed some difficulty for students, particularly in expressing the idea that *Al me l'ha spiegato*.

Questions 11 - 13

These grade 4/5 questions about Venice required a written response. In Q11, *dove abito da quindici giorni*, was problematic for some, although most realised that this meant she arrived 15 days ago. Q15 was another major challenge with students struggling to translate *i migliori locali notturni*.

Questions 14 - 17

This was a Positive, Negative, Positive and Negative type of question aimed at grades 8/9. Students generally coped extremely well, with over 70% scoring full marks on Q14, Q15 and Q17. However, Q16 proved to be the most challenging, as it required students to identify opinions specifically relating to *their holiday*. Many responses included both positive and negative views but neglected to align with the specific focus of the question.

Question 18

This two-mark question on relationships was aimed at grade 9 and consequently consisted of more extended texts. Q18.1 received the lowest score, with just 30% of students gaining 2 marks. Many struggled with the phrase *che debba avere sempre ragione lei*. However, it was pleasing to see that over 60% of students scored marks on 18.2 and 18.3 where answers had to be inferred from the narrative.

Question 19

Q19 was an advantage-disadvantage type of question in the context of environmental issues. Many students overlooked the emboldened word *for consumers* in the question and instead commented that organic food is good for the environment.

Question 20

This grade 6 question on a festival was very well handled by most students.

Questions 21 - 23

These questions on problems at school were well executed with an overall success rate of 86%.

Question 24

Students performed less well on this two-part level 7 question on free time. Many misunderstood the context, believing that a scene from *Harry Potter* was being filmed. They struggled to convey the intended meaning: that the setting merely resembled a scene from the film - *che sembra una scena del film di Harry Potter*.

Section B

Questions 25 - 27

These questions were well executed. The only real difficulty was in Q27.1 where students needed to make the connection between *cereali* and *prodotto alimentare*.

Question 28

A pleasing performance on this grade 6/7 question, where students showcased their ability to communicate effectively in written Italian. However, an increase in English responses compared to last year led to unnecessary mark deductions for many students.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.