

Specification

GCE Italian

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Italian
(8IN01)

First examination 2014

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Italian (9IN01)

First examination 2014

Issue 3

About this specification

Edexcel GCE in Italian is designed for use in schools and colleges. It is part of a suite of GCE qualifications offered by Edexcel.

Key features of the specification

- Offers students and teachers a clear learning focus and control of assessment.
- Four units of assessment.
- The Advanced Subsidiary level provides a logical progression from GCSE with:
 - ◆ discrete skills-specific testing
 - ◆ a focus on language.
- The A2 level offers a realistic progression from Advanced Subsidiary that:
 - ◆ rewards advanced research/reading skills
 - ◆ features integrated skills assessment
 - ◆ acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of Italian-language culture
 - ◆ facilitates literary study.

With minimal prescription and maximum choice, this specification aims to engage students so that they enjoy Advanced level Italian language learning and achieve their full potential.

Why choose this specification?

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Italian qualification rewards advanced-level Italian language skills and knowledge through student-focused assessment. With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it will prepare students to become well-informed and effective communicators.

Supporting you

Edexcel aims to provide the most comprehensive support for our qualifications. For more information on our wide range of support and services for this GCE in Italian qualification, visit our GCE website: www.edexcel.com/gce2008.

Specification updates

This specification is Issue 3 and is valid for examination from Summer 2014. If there are any significant changes to the specification Edexcel will write to centres to let them know. Changes will also be posted on our website.

For more information please visit www.edexcel.com or www.edexcel.com/gce2008.

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A Specification at a glance

AS Unit 1: Spoken Expression and Response in Italian

*Unit code 6IN01

- Externally assessed
- Availability: April/May

**30%
of the
total AS
marks**

**15% of
the total
GCE
marks**

Content summary:

This unit rewards students for their ability to converse in Italian on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance. Students will need to demonstrate that they can engage in a discussion in Italian that relates to a chosen general topic area and allied subtopics.

Students will be expected to give relevant and appropriate information, convey opinions, interact and respond to a range of questions. They must choose **one** of the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment.

Assessment:

8-10 minute assessment in **two** sections.

Section A requires students to respond to four Edexcel-set questions on a stimulus related to the student's chosen general topic area.

Section B requires the teacher to engage the student in a discussion that, although still relating to the same general topic area and its linked subtopics, moves away from the main focus of the stimulus.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

AS Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response in Italian

*Unit code 6IN02

- Externally assessed
- Availability: June

70%
of the
total AS
marks

35% of
the total
GCE
marks

Content summary:

This unit requires students to understand and convey their understanding of Italian-language texts and recordings. In addition, students will need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Italian language in continuous writing. Students will be expected to recognise and use the Italian language in a variety of contexts and in relation to a prescribed range of general topic areas.

The unit draws upon **four** general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment.

Assessment:

2 hour 30 minute paper in **three** sections.

Section A requires students to listen to a range of authentic recorded Italian-language material and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to a range of Italian-language questions.

Section B requires students to read authentic Italian-language printed materials and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of mainly Italian-language test types.

Section C requires students to write 200-220 words in the form of a letter, report or article in Italian based on a short printed Italian-language stimulus.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

A2 Unit 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in Italian

*Unit code 6IN03

- Externally assessed
- Availability: April/May

35%
of the
total A2
marks

17.5%
of the
total GCE
marks

Content summary:

This unit requires students to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Italian-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on any issue of their choice. They will be expected to interact effectively with the teacher, defend their views and sustain discussion as the teacher moves the conversation away from their chosen issue.

They will be expected to use the language of debate and argument to discuss the issue and will also be assessed for understanding as well as communication and quality of spoken language.

Assessment:

11-13 minute assessment

Students first outline their chosen issue for about **one** minute, adopting a definite stance towards the issue. They should then defend and justify their opinions for up to **four** minutes. The teacher will then initiate a spontaneous discussion in which a minimum of two further unpredictable areas of discussion will be covered.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

A2 Unit 4: Research, Understanding and Written Response in Italian *Unit code 6IN04

- Externally assessed
- Availability: June

65%
of the
total A2
marks

32.5%
of the
total GCE
marks

Content summary:

This unit requires students to demonstrate skills in advanced-level Italian writing (discursive or creative essay) and translation from English into Italian. The unit also requires students to demonstrate evidence of independent, advanced-level Italian-language reading and research of a chosen text, play, film or topic area that links to the culture and/or society of an Italian-speaking country, countries or community. The content of this unit will be linked to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts.

Assessment:

2 hour 30 minute paper in **three** sections.

Section A: A short written translation exercise to test students' ability to transfer meaning from English into Italian effectively.

Section B: An Italian-language essay in response to one from a choice of seven questions, linked to the prescribed general topic areas, that invite either discursive or creative writing.

Section C: A research-based essay in Italian (240-270 words) to reward students for Italian-language research skills linked to an area of interest to the student that relates to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country, countries or community. They have freedom to determine the content of their research (potentially in negotiation with their teacher) but it must relate to the four research-based essay topic areas for this unit.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Students are not permitted to take any books, dictionaries or texts into the examination room.

*See *Appendix 3* for description of this code and all other codes relevant to this qualification.

B Specification overview

Summary of assessment requirements

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 1: Spoken Expression and Response in Italian	AS	<p>8–10 minute assessment</p> <p>The assessment for this unit has two sections that total 50 marks.</p> <p>Section A</p> <p>This requires students to respond to four Edexcel-set questions on a stimulus related to the student's chosen general topic area. The teacher will first ask two questions about the general content of the stimulus and will then follow on with two other questions that invite students to express their opinions on, or give reactions to, the stimulus.</p> <p>Section B</p> <p>The second part requires the teacher to engage the student in a discussion that, although still relating to the same general topic area and its linked subtopics, moves away from the main focus of the stimulus.</p> <p>The test time should be divided equally, where appropriate, between Sections A and B. (Some students may need less than four minutes to respond fully to the stimulus-related questions.) Progression from Sections A to B should occur without any break in recording.</p> <p>Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.</p> <p>All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.</p>	50 marks

B Specification overview

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 2: Understanding and Written Response in Italian	AS	<p>2 hour 30 minute paper</p> <p>The paper set for this unit has three sections.</p> <p>Section A (20 marks)</p> <p>Students will be required to listen to a range of authentic recorded Italian-language material and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to a range of Italian-language questions. Students will need to show understanding of both the general sense and specific details conveyed. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses and short answers in Italian.</p> <p>Students will have individual control of the recording and may stop, revisit and replay sections of the recording as required within the time allocated for this section (45 minutes maximum). They must make notes and answer questions within the first 45 minutes of this unit assessment and can move on to another section as soon as they are ready.</p> <p>Section B (20 marks)</p> <p>Students will be required to read authentic Italian-language printed materials and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of mainly Italian-language test types. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses, Italian-language answers and English answers that require a transfer of meaning from Italian.</p> <p>Section C (30 marks)</p> <p>Students will be required to write 200-220 words in the form of a letter, report or article in Italian based on a short printed Italian-language stimulus. Students must respond to four-six linked bullet points and demonstrate their ability to communicate accurately in Italian using correct grammar and syntax as detailed in <i>Appendix 4: Grammar lists</i>.</p> <p>Students will have individual control over the pace of this examination, including the listening element. However, for practical reasons, they must start the listening section first (Section A) and must complete this within the first 45 minutes.</p> <p>A CD recording will be provided for each student with the examination paper. Student access to equipment that permits individual listening (eg portable CD player with headphones) is required.</p> <p>All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.</p> <p>Students must not have access to a dictionary or other reference materials during this examination.</p>	70 marks

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 3: Understanding and Spoken Response in Italian	A2	<p>11–13 minute assessment</p> <p>Students will first need to outline their chosen issue for about one minute, adopting a definite stance towards the issue. They should then defend and justify their opinions for up to four minutes. The teacher will then initiate a spontaneous discussion in which a minimum of two further unpredictable areas of discussion will be covered. These issues may or may not relate to the chosen issue but will not require specialised factual knowledge or relate to Italian-language culture. This unit therefore assesses advanced-level understanding as well as speaking skills.</p> <p>Students will be required to take into the examination a brief written statement on an <i>Oral chosen issue form</i> and may refer to this in the test. More details are available in the <i>GCE oral training guide</i>, available on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com). The chosen issue does not have to relate to any of the general topic areas for this specification.</p> <p>Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.</p> <p>All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.</p>	50 marks

B Specification overview

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 4: Research, Understanding and Written Response in Italian	A2	<p>2 hour 30 minute paper</p> <p>The paper set for this unit has three sections.</p> <p>Section A (10 marks)</p> <p>A short written translation exercise to test students' ability to transfer meaning from English into Italian effectively. The English language stimulus will be about 80 words long.</p> <p>Section B (45 marks)</p> <p>An Italian-language essay in response to one from a choice of seven questions that invite either discursive or creative writing. The discursive essay requires students to write 240-270 words in Italian to reveal their ability to organise arguments and ideas and give a structured consideration of a general issue. The creative essay requires a different type of response (also of 240-270 words) based on an imaginative Italian-language text or a combination of text and visual(s). Both discursive and creative questions will link to the prescribed seven topic areas.</p> <p>Section C (45 marks)</p> <p>A research-based essay in Italian (240-270 words) rewards students for Italian-language research skills linked to an area of interest to the student. This must relate to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country, countries or community. Students will need to draw on their knowledge and understanding of this. They will have freedom to determine the content of their research (potentially in negotiation with their teacher) but it must relate to one of the following areas of research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Geographical area b Historical study c Aspects of modern society d Literature and the arts (eg text, play or film). <p>A question will be set for each of these four areas of research.</p> <p>All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.</p> <p>Students are not permitted to take any books, dictionaries or texts into the examination room.</p>	100 marks

Assessment objectives and weightings

		% in AS	% in A2	% in GCE
AO1	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language.	40%	25%	32.5%
AO2	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language.	35%	50%	42.5%
AO3	Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.	25%	25%	25%
TOTAL		100%	100%	100%

Relationship of assessment objectives to units

Unit number	Assessment objective			
	AO1	AO2	AO3	Total for AO1, AO2 and AO3
Unit 1	10%	—	5%	15%
Unit 2	10%	17.5%	7.5%	35%
Unit 3	12.5%	2.5%	2.5%	17.5%
Unit 4	—	22.5%	10%	32.5%
Total for Advanced GCE	32.5%	42.5%	25%	100%

Qualification summary

Subject criteria

The General Certificate of Education is part of the Level 3 provision. This specification is based on the Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced GCE subject criteria for modern foreign languages, which are prescribed by the regulatory authorities and are mandatory for all awarding bodies.

The Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Italian have been designed in response to the subject criteria which are intended to:

- help ensure consistent and comparable standards in the same subject across the awarding bodies
- define the relationship between the Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE level specifications, with the Advanced Subsidiary as a subset of the Advanced GCE level
- ensure that the rigour of the Advanced GCE is maintained
- help higher education institutions and employers know what has been studied and assessed.

Aims

The Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Italian aims to encourage students to:

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning
- develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres
- communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes
- develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken
- consider their study of the language in a broader context.

The Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Italian enables students to:

- derive enjoyment and benefit from language learning
- acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and/or employment
- communicate with speakers of the language
- take their place in a multilingual global society.

AS/A2 knowledge and understanding

The Advanced Subsidiary specification requires students to:

- listen and respond to a variety of spoken* Italian-language sources, including authentic sources
- read and respond to a variety of Italian-language written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres
- adapt their spoken and written Italian language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- use the Italian language accurately to express facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in both speech and writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures of the Italian language as detailed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*
- transfer meaning from Italian into English and/or vice versa.

In addition, the Advanced GCE specification requires students to:

- use the Italian language in speech and in writing to present viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures in Italian as detailed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the Italian-language countries or communities
- transfer meaning from English into Italian and/or vice versa. If one skill is not assessed at Advanced Subsidiary level it must be assessed at A2 level.

*Spoken and written sources must include material that relates to the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities where the language is spoken.

AS/A2 skills

The knowledge and understanding requirements of this Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE specification are inextricably linked to the four language skills of **speaking, listening, reading** and **writing** in Italian, in line with the requirements of the subject criteria.

C GCE Italian unit content

Unit 1 Spoken Expression and Response in Italian 19

Unit 2 Understanding and Written Response in Italian 27

Unit 3 Understanding and Spoken Response in Italian 33

Unit 4 Research, Understanding and Written Response in Italian 39

Course structure

- Edexcel's GCE in Italian comprises four units and contains an Advanced Subsidiary subset of two AS units.
- The Advanced Subsidiary GCE is the first half of the GCE course and consists of Units 1 and 2. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification or contribute 50 per cent of the total Advanced GCE marks.
- The full Advanced GCE award consists of the two AS units (Units 1 and 2), plus two A2 units (Units 3 and 4) which make up the other 50 per cent of the Advanced GCE. Students wishing to take the full Advanced GCE must, therefore, complete all four units.
- The structure of this qualification allows teachers to construct a course of study which can be taught and assessed either as:
 - ◆ distinct modules of teaching and learning with related units of assessment taken at appropriate stages during the course; or
 - ◆ a linear course which is assessed in its entirety at the end.

1.1 Unit description

This unit rewards students for their ability to converse in Italian on a general topic area that they have chosen in advance. Students will need to demonstrate that they can engage in a discussion in Italian that relates to a chosen general topic area and allied subtopics. The first part of the assessment will focus on an Edexcel-provided stimulus that links to the chosen general topic area but the conversation will then move away from the stimulus to consider other aspects of the chosen topic area.

Students will be expected to give relevant and appropriate information, convey opinions, interact and respond to a range of questions. They must choose **one** of the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment.

1.2 Assessment information

Format

The assessment for this unit has **two** sections that total **50 marks**.

Section A

This requires students to respond to four Edexcel-set questions on a stimulus related to the student's chosen general topic area. The teacher will first ask two questions about the general content of the stimulus and will follow these with two other questions that invite students to express their opinions on, or give reactions to, the stimulus.

Section B

The second part requires the teacher to engage the student in a discussion that, although still relating to the same general topic area and its linked subtopics, moves away from the main focus of the stimulus.

The test time should be divided equally, where appropriate, between Sections A and B. (Some students may need fewer than four minutes to respond fully to the stimulus-related questions.) Progression from Sections A to B should occur without any break in recording.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Preparation

Students are able to undertake focused preparation for this unit as they can select their preferred general topic area in advance. They should become familiar with the full range of prescribed linked subtopics and, through regular classroom practice, often participate in formatively-assessed discussions. More information and advice on preparing for this unit is given in the *GCE oral training guide*, available on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com).

In addition, students will have a 15-minute preparation period when they receive the stimulus immediately prior to the test. They should spend this time studying the stimulus with a view to answering four related questions and considering further discussion points that might follow on. Students will not be allowed access to a dictionary or any other resources at this time. However, it will be possible for students to make notes (no more than one side of A4) which they can refer to during the examination. They must **not** write on the stimulus.

Stimulus

Different sets of stimuli will be produced for each of the above topic areas and will be issued on a random-allocation basis as prescribed in the *Oral handbook for GCE*. Stimuli will be written in Italian (approximately 70-90 words) at an accessible level for Advanced Subsidiary students and may be supported by a visual. These will be issued to students on the day of their assessment.

Time allocation

The assessment time should, as far as possible, be divided equally between the two sections. Although assessment is qualitative rather than quantitative, the test should take no less than eight minutes and no more than 10 minutes.

1.3 Content

Focus

Although this unit relates to a chosen general topic area, it is essentially designed to assess manipulation and understanding of the Italian spoken language. The general topic areas should be considered as different contexts in which students can develop, use and understand spoken Italian language. *Detailed, specialist* Italian vocabulary or *detailed and specialist* knowledge of the chosen general topic area are **not** required.

Similarly, knowledge of the chosen general topic area in relation to Italy and other parts of the Italian-speaking world will **not** be assessed, although students are free to demonstrate this.

General topic areas

Students will choose from **one** of the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment.

It is important that students choose a general topic area that appeals to them and that they are familiar with.

Linked subtopics

To inform teaching and learning, the following definitive list of linked subtopics has been produced for this unit.

Youth culture and concerns

- Music and fashion
- Technology (eg MP3/blogs/mobile phones/internet/games)
- Relationships (family/friendships and peer pressure)
- Drink, drugs, sex

Lifestyle: health and fitness

- Sport and exercise
- Food and diet
- Health issues (eg smoking, skin cancer, health services)

The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world

- Tourist information, travel and transport
- Weather (eg natural disasters, climate change)
- Pollution and recycling

Education and employment

- Education (schooling and higher education)
- Education policy and student issues
- The world of work (eg the changing work scene, job opportunities and unemployment)

What students need to learn

Students need to develop language skills that enable them to communicate effectively and confidently on different issues and concerns. They need to give facts, opinions and respond appropriately to unrehearsed and unpredictable questions and statements. They should be used to giving considered and informed responses to open questions.

Students will be assessed on their ability to use language interactively and on the accuracy, range and suitability of the language used.

A maximum of 50 marks will be awarded positively by Edexcel using the assessment criteria grids in Section 1.4.

The assessment criteria reward students for:

- **quality of language** (grammar and structures as listed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*, pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, idiom, range and ability to move away from predictable areas) which has **two** assessment criteria grids:
 - ◆ accuracy AO3 (8 marks)
 - ◆ range of lexis AO3 (8 marks)
- **response** (development) — AO1 (20 marks)
- **understanding** (relevance, opinion) which has **two** assessment criteria grids:
 - ◆ stimulus-specific AO1 (4 marks)
 - ◆ general topic area AO1 (10 marks).

1.4 Assessment criteria

Mark	Quality of language (Accuracy) (A03)
0	No rewardable language.
1	Isolated examples of correct language; pronunciation and intonation often impede communication.
2–3	Many basic errors, impeding communication at times; pronunciation and intonation erratic, not always comprehensible.
4–5	Accuracy variable but errors rarely impede communication; pronunciation and intonation inconsistent but comprehensible.
6–7	Generally accurate but some errors in more complex language; pronunciation and intonation generally good.
8	Highly accurate with perhaps some very minor errors; pronunciation and intonation authentic.

Mark	Quality of language (Range of Lexis) (A03)
0	No rewardable language.
1	Very basic lexis; minimal command of structure.
2–3	Lexis restricted; operates generally in simple sentences.
4–5	Adequate range of lexis; limited range of structures.
6–7	Good range of lexis with some examples of more complex structures.
8	Wide range of lexis and good variety of structures with only occasional limitation.

Mark	Response (A01)
0	No rewardable language.
1–4	Little spontaneity; cannot develop responses; very reliant on examiner's language.
5–8	Few examples of spontaneous discourse; limited development of responses; often fails to respond appropriately to questions; needs prompting.
9–12	Some examples of fluent discourse but not always spontaneous or well developed; some hesitation in more complex areas; difficulty with some questions.
13–16	Frequent examples of spontaneous discourse ably developed; responds usually without undue hesitation; deals adequately with most questions.
17–20	High incidence of spontaneous, fluent discourse; able to respond readily to all questions; develops and sustains discourse well.

Mark	Understanding (Stimulus specific) (AO1)
0	No understanding of stimulus.
1	Limited answers to prescribed questions, demonstrating poor understanding of stimulus.
2	Satisfactory answers to prescribed questions, demonstrating adequate understanding of stimulus.
3	Detailed answers to prescribed questions, demonstrating good understanding of stimulus.
4	Full and detailed answers to prescribed questions, demonstrating excellent understanding of stimulus.

Mark	Understanding (General topic area) (AO1)
0	No rewardable language.
1–2	Hardly any relevant ideas and opinions, demonstrating poor understanding of general topic area.
3–4	Few relevant ideas and opinions, demonstrating limited understanding of general topic area.
5–6	Some relevant ideas and opinions, demonstrating satisfactory understanding of general topic area.
7–8	Many relevant ideas and opinions, demonstrating good understanding of general topic area.
9–10	Wealth of relevant ideas and opinions, demonstrating excellent understanding of general topic area.

2.1 Unit description

This unit requires students to understand and convey their understanding of Italian-language texts and recordings. In addition, students will need to produce an essay to demonstrate an ability to manipulate the Italian language in continuous writing. Students will be expected to recognise and use the Italian language in a variety of contexts and in relation to a prescribed range of general topic areas.

The unit draws upon **four** general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment.

2.2 Assessment information

Format

The paper set for this unit has **three** sections.

Section A (20 marks)

Students will be required to listen to a range of authentic recorded Italian-language material and to retrieve and convey information given in the recording by responding to a range of Italian-language questions. Students will need to show understanding of both the general sense and specific details conveyed. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses and short answers in Italian.

Students will have individual control of the recording and may stop, revisit and replay sections of the recording as required within the time allocated for this section (45 minutes maximum). They must make notes and answer questions **within the first 45 minutes** of this unit assessment and can move on to another section as soon as they are ready.

Section B (20 marks)

Students will be required to read authentic Italian-language printed materials and to retrieve and convey information by responding to a range of mainly Italian-language test types. The questions will elicit non-verbal responses, Italian-language answers and English answers that require a transfer of meaning from Italian.

Questions are linked to a range of reading comprehension exercises including some that require responses in English to test the student's ability to transfer meaning from Italian into English.

Section C (30 marks)

Students will be required to write 200-220 words in the form of a letter, report or article in Italian based on a short printed Italian-language stimulus. Students must respond to four-six linked bullet points and demonstrate their ability to communicate accurately in Italian using correct grammar and syntax as detailed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*.

Students will have individual control over the pace of this examination, including the listening element. However, for practical reasons, they must start the listening section first and must complete this within the first 45 minutes.

A CD recording will be provided for each student with the examination paper. Student access to equipment that permits individual listening (eg portable CD player with headphones) is required.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Students must not have access to a dictionary or other reference materials during this examination.

Preparation Students can prepare for the assessments in this unit by regularly consulting a wide variety of Italian-language reading and listening materials (textbooks, magazines, the internet, podcasts etc). As part of their AS studies, students should undertake regular listening, reading and writing activities.

Time allocation Students will have individual control over the pace of assessment in this unit. They **must** undertake the listening element of this unit within the first 45 minutes of the examination but may then answer the remaining questions in any order of their choice.

The duration of this examination will be 2 hours and 30 minutes.

2.3 Content

Focus This unit will feature questions drawn from a variety of sources but which all relate to the general topic areas below. However, these should be considered as different contexts in which students can write and understand the Italian language. *Detailed, specialist* Italian vocabulary or *detailed and specialist* knowledge of the chosen general topic area are **not** required.

Similarly, knowledge of the chosen general topic area in relation to Italy and other parts of the Italian-speaking world will **not** be assessed.

General topic areas

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment

Linked subtopics

To inform teaching and learning, the following definitive list of linked subtopics has been produced for this unit.

Youth culture and concerns

- Music and fashion
- Technology (eg MP3/blogs/mobile phones/internet/games)
- Relationships (family/friendships and peer pressure)
- Drink, drugs, sex

Lifestyle: health and fitness

- Sport and exercise
- Food and diet
- Health issues (eg smoking, skin cancer, health services)

The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world

- Tourist information, travel and transport
- Weather (eg natural disasters, climate change)
- Pollution and recycling

Education and employment

- Education (schooling and higher education)
- Education policy and student issues
- The world of work (eg the changing work scene, job opportunities and unemployment)

Listening element

Recordings will relate to Italian-speaking countries or communities and exploit contemporary sources. These may include telephone messages, announcements, advertisements, interviews, radio talks, reviews, conversations, discussions, broadcasts and the internet. The listening material will not total more than 450-600 words and the recording will have a duration of approximately five minutes.

Reading element

Printed materials may relate to both the contemporary society and cultural heritage of Italian-speaking countries or communities. Sources used will be contemporary, such as magazines, newspapers, the internet, reports and books. It is anticipated that the printed materials will total 550-700 words.

What students need to learn

Students need to develop language skills that enable them to communicate effectively, accurately and confidently in Italian-language writing, to transfer meaning from Italian into English, and to understand spoken and written Italian.

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the grammar and structures as prescribed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*.

Students will be assessed for the following.

Section A (20 marks)

Listening — AO1 via assessment-specific mark scheme.

Section B (20 marks)

Reading and transfer of meaning — AO2 via assessment-specific mark scheme.

Section C (30 marks)

A maximum of 30 marks will be awarded positively using the assessment criteria grids in Section 2.4 for the written response to a stimulus exercise.

The assessment criteria reward students for:

- **content and response** — AO2 (15 marks)
- **quality of language** — AO3 (15 marks).

2.4 Assessment criteria

Section C

Mark	Content and response (A02)
0	No rewardable material.
1–3	Task mostly misunderstood and answer barely relevant.
4–6	Task not fully grasped or developed; much irrelevance and/or repetition.
7–9	Task understood and some points developed satisfactorily; some omission and/or irrelevance.
10–12	Task understood and developed successfully.
13–15	Task fully grasped; answer wholly relevant, convincing and well developed.

Mark	Quality of language (A03)
0	No rewardable language.
1–3	Limited communication; highly inaccurate; language very basic with much repetition.
4–6	Some communication; language often inaccurate; limited variety of lexis and structures.
7–9	Satisfactory communication; basic language generally satisfactory; some attempt at variety of lexis and structures.
10–12	Good communication; good level of accuracy; generally successful use of a variety of lexis and structures.
13–15	Excellent communication; high level of accuracy; language almost always fluent, varied and appropriate.

3.1 Unit description

This unit requires students to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Italian-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on **any** issue of their choice. They will be expected to interact effectively with the teacher, defend their views and sustain discussion as the teacher moves the conversation away from their chosen issue.

They will be expected to use the language of debate and argument to discuss the issue and will also be assessed for understanding as well as communication and quality of spoken language.

3.2 Assessment information

Format

This section attracts a maximum of **50 marks**.

Students will first need to outline their chosen issue for about **one** minute, adopting a definite stance towards the issue. They should then defend and justify their opinions for up to **four** minutes.

The teacher will then initiate a spontaneous discussion in which a minimum of two further unpredictable areas of discussion will be covered. These issues may or may not relate to the chosen issue but will not require specialised factual knowledge or relate to Italian-language culture. This unit therefore assesses advanced-level understanding as well as speaking skills.

Students will be required to take into the examination a brief written statement on an *Oral chosen issue form* and may refer to this in the test. More details are available in the *GCE oral training guide*. For more information on this please visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com). The chosen issue does not have to relate to any of the general topic areas for this specification.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Preparation

To prepare for this assessment, students should undertake research into their chosen issue. Students have a completely free choice of issue; it does not need to relate to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country or community nor to any of the Edexcel general topic areas.

In order to prepare for this unit, it is expected that students will refer to and study a range of different written and spoken Italian language materials (recordings, press articles etc).

A statement of the chosen issue must be provided to the teacher in advance of the examination and this must accompany the recording when submitted to Edexcel. Students will be required to complete an *Oral chosen issue form* to facilitate this, available on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com).

Time allocation

This is a qualitative assessment activity but should take no less than 11 minutes and no more than 13 minutes.

3.3 Content

Each student decides on the issue that they wish to present and defend. The issue does **not** have to relate to the Edexcel general topic areas or refer to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country or community.

This task should appeal to those who like to express their ideas and points of view as well as those who enjoy undertaking research.

What students need to learn

Students need to develop language skills that enable them to communicate effectively, accurately and confidently in spoken Italian. They must ensure that they apply their listening skills in this task to permit natural and logical interaction.

A maximum of 50 marks will be awarded positively using the assessment criteria grids in Section 3.4.

The assessment criteria reward students for:

- **response** (initiative, development and abstract language) — AO1 (20 marks)
- **quality of language** (pronunciation, intonation, vocabulary, idiom, range of lexis, application of grammar and structures as listed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*) — AO3 (7 marks)
- **reading and research** (knowledge of issue and other topics) — AO2 (7 marks)
- **comprehension and development** (understanding and ability to deal with questioning) — AO1 (16 marks).

3.4 Assessment criteria

Mark	Response (A01)
0	No rewardable material.
1–4	Minimal incidence of spontaneous discourse; very limited range of structures; no use of abstract language.
5–8	Limited incidence of spontaneous discourse; limited range of lexis and structures; very little evidence of abstract language.
9–12	Satisfactory incidence of spontaneous discourse; range of lexis and structures adequate with some ability to handle language of abstract concepts.
13–16	Frequent examples of spontaneous discourse; good range of lexis and structures; good use of abstract concepts.
17–20	Very high incidence of spontaneous discourse; impressive range of lexis and structures.

Mark	Quality of language (A03)
0	No rewardable material.
1–2	Very flawed language, often impeding comprehension; pronunciation and intonation very inauthentic.
3	Basic errors, impeding comprehension at times; pronunciation and intonation erratic.
4	Accuracy variable with some basic errors; pronunciation and intonation generally good with some lapses.
5	Good level of accuracy with occasional, usually minor, errors; good pronunciation and intonation.
6–7	Highly accurate; excellent pronunciation and intonation.

Mark	Reading and research (A02)
0	No rewardable material.
1	Scant evidence of any reading and research into the chosen issue and other topics discussed; very superficial.
2–3	Little evidence of reading and research into the chosen issue and other topics discussed; obvious gaps and very little detail.
4	Adequate evidence of reading and research into the chosen issue and other topics discussed but overall lacks breadth and detail; somewhat inconsistent.
5–6	Good to very good evidence of wide reading and research into the chosen issue and other topics discussed with occasional gaps; some pertinent detail at times.
7	Excellent evidence of in-depth and very wide reading and research into the chosen issue and other topics discussed; excellent detail.

Mark	Comprehension and development (AO1)
0	No rewardable material.
1-4	Minimal comprehension; many basic question forms unknown; minimal development.
5-7	Limited comprehension; basic question forms generally known but little beyond; limited development of responses.
8-10	Adequate level of comprehension; responds appropriately to basic question forms but experiences problems with more complex question forms and structures; adequate development.
11-13	Copes with a variety or wide variety of question forms although more complex forms pose problems at times; generally good to very good development of responses.
14-16	Excellent level of comprehension; responds at a consistently high level to a wide range of complex and challenging question forms; excellent development.

4.1 Unit description

This unit requires students to demonstrate skills in advanced-level Italian writing (discursive or creative essay) and translation from English into Italian. The unit also requires students to demonstrate evidence of independent, advanced-level Italian-language reading and research of a chosen text, play, film or topic area that links to the culture and/or society of an Italian-speaking country, countries or community. The content of this unit will be linked to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts.

4.2 Assessment information

Format

The paper set for this unit has **three** sections.

Section A (10 marks)

A short written translation exercise to test students' ability to transfer meaning from English into Italian effectively. The English language stimulus will be about 80 words long.

Section B (45 marks)

An Italian-language essay in response to one from a choice of seven questions that invite either discursive or creative writing.

The discursive essay requires students to write 240-270 words in Italian to reveal their ability to organise arguments and ideas and give a structured consideration of a general issue. The creative essay requires a different type of response (also of 240-270 words) based on an imaginative Italian-language text or a combination of text and visual(s). Both discursive and creative questions will link to the prescribed seven topic areas.

Section C (45 marks)

A research-based essay in Italian (240-270 words) rewards students for Italian-language research skills linked to an area of interest to the student. **This must relate to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country, countries or community.** Students will need to draw on their knowledge and understanding of this. They will have freedom to determine the content of their research (potentially in negotiation with their teacher) but it must relate to one of the following areas of research:

- a Geographical area
- b Historical study
- c Aspects of modern society
- d Literature and the arts (eg text, play or film).

A question will be set for each of these four areas of research.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Students are not permitted to take any books, dictionaries or texts into the examination room.

Preparation

It is anticipated that students will acquire essay writing and translation skills through regular classroom practice.

For the research-based essay, students should choose a text, play, film or topic area that they find particularly stimulating and that links to in-depth Italian-language study undertaken prior to the examination. They are free to choose and may discuss potential areas of research with their teacher. The research must relate to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country, countries or community. More guidance is given in the *GCE research-based essay guide*. For more information on this please visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com).

Effective preparation for this unit must include study of different Italian-language spoken materials in addition to other printed and ICT-derived resources.

Time allocation

Students will be in control of the pace of assessment within the allocated time. They can answer questions in any order.

The duration of this examination will be 2 hours and 30 minutes.

4.3 Content**General topic areas**

The assessment materials used will draw upon the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Italian-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts.

Research-based essay

Edexcel recognises that it is logical, motivating and rewarding for advanced-level Italian-language students to acquire knowledge and develop understanding of different aspects of the culture and/or society of an Italian-speaking country or countries. This unit features a research-based essay directly linked to the culture and/or society of an Italian-language country, countries or community.

The research-based essay offers teachers a logical and smooth transition from either coursework or the 'topics and texts' option. It also encourages wide reading, creativity and personal initiative. Students have a choice of content and focus so that they are able to present and summarise their research from their own personal perspective. The essay must reflect their views and opinions and have an analytical or evaluative dimension commensurate with advanced-level study. The research-based essay should appeal to a variety of students — those interested in literature and the arts as well as those preferring non-literary areas of research.

The following outlines four possible areas of research that students can choose from and the required content.

Geographical area (eg region or city)

Students would be expected to undertake wide research, become aware of and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- key people, events and issues (eg demographic, environmental, economic, social, political) that have impacted or are having an impact on the area
- customs, traditions, beliefs and religions.

Historical study

Students would be expected to undertake wide research, consider and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- a specific period of history of particular relevance to the chosen country
- key people, events and issues from the above period.

Aspects of modern Italian-speaking society

Students would be expected to undertake wide research, consider and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- key current and recent (21st century/late 20th century) events and issues (eg social, cultural and political) and their impact on society.

Literature and the arts

Students would be expected to undertake in-depth study of a substantial Italian-language **text**, **play** or **film**. They would need to consider and demonstrate understanding of the following:

- different characters
- key themes/issues
- social and cultural setting
- styles/techniques employed.

In each of these four areas, students are expected to analyse the research that they have undertaken, give their opinions and justify them. This provides a logical link to the approach adopted in Unit 3.

During the research phase, students should refer to a variety of resources including textbooks, reference books, the internet, audio-visual media etc. Students will be expected to make appropriate references to specific Italian-language sources that they have consulted. More information and guidance is given in the *GCE research-based essay guide*.

What students need to learn

Students need to develop language skills that enable them to transfer meaning from English into Italian, communicate effectively, accurately and confidently in Italian-language writing, and demonstrate Italian-language research skills linked to a specific aspect of the society and/or the culture of an Italian-language country, countries or community.

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the grammar and structures as prescribed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*.

Section A (10 marks)

Up to 10 marks will be awarded for transferring meaning from an English language passage into Italian (AO3). This translation exercise exclusively assesses the accurate handling of grammar and structures (quality of language). An annual mark scheme will be produced that divides the passage into 'assessable elements'.

Section B (45 marks)

Up to 45 marks will be awarded for a discursive or creative essay in accordance with the assessment criteria grids in Section 4.4.

The assessment criteria reward students for:

- **range and application of language** (manipulation, range and appropriateness of lexis, grammar and structures as listed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*) — AO3 (10 marks)
- **accuracy of the target language** — AO3 (5 marks)
- **understanding and response** — AO2 (15 marks)
- **organisation and development** — AO2 (15 marks).

Section C (45 marks)

Up to 45 marks will be awarded for the research-based essay in accordance with the assessment criteria grids in Section 4.4.

The assessment criteria reward students for:

- **reading, research and understanding** — AO2 (30 marks)
- **organisation and development** — AO2 (9 marks)
- **quality of language** — AO3 (6 marks).

4.4 Assessment criteria

Section B

Mark	Range and application of language – Creative/discursive essay (A03)
0	No rewardable range and application of language.
1–2	Inadequate range of lexis and structures; very limited ability to manipulate language.
3–4	Restricted range of lexis and structures; limited ability to manipulate language.
5–6	An adequate range of lexis and structures; successful manipulation of language/attempts to handle complex structures not always successful.
7–8	A wide range of appropriate lexis and structures; successful manipulation of language.
9–10	Rich and complex language; very successful manipulation of language.

Mark	Accuracy of the target language – Creative/discursive essay (A03)
0	Language so inaccurate that no reward is possible.
1	Accuracy only in the simplest form; a high incidence of basic error.
2	Communication impaired at times by basic errors, eg agreements, verb forms; some familiar language is accurate.
3	A number of major errors made, without impairing communication significantly; familiar forms and structures usually accurate.
4	Few errors, mostly of a minor nature.
5	High degree of accuracy with minimal and minor errors.

Mark	Understanding and response – Creative essay (A02)
0	No rewardable understanding or response.
1–3	Largely irrelevant; minimal use of stimulus.
4–6	Some relevant points made; unimaginative use of stimulus.
7–9	Satisfactory understanding of question and response to stimulus.
10–12	Good to very good understanding of question and response to stimulus.
13–15	Very good to excellent understanding of question and imaginative response to stimulus.

Mark	Understanding and response – Discursive essay (AO2)
0	No rewardable understanding or response.
1–3	Minimal understanding of question or relevant discussion.
4–6	Limited understanding of question.
7–9	Satisfactory understanding of question; some implications of questions addressed.
10–12	Good to very good understanding of question; main implications of question addressed.
13–15	Very good to excellent understanding of question; implications of question fully grasped.

Mark	Organisation and development – Creative/discursive essay (AO2)
0	No rewardable organisation and development.
1–3	Minimal organisation and development; answer largely disorganised.
4–6	Limited organisation and development; structure lacks coherence.
7–9	Organisation and development not always logical and clear.
10–12	Organisation and development logical and clear.
13–15	Extremely clear and effective organisation and development of ideas.

Section C

Mark	Reading, research and understanding (AO2)
0	No rewardable material presented.
1–6	Minimal understanding; almost no evidence of reading and research.
7–12	Limited understanding; little evidence of reading and research.
13–18	Adequate understanding; some evidence of reading and research.
19–24	Good to very good understanding; clear evidence of in-depth reading and research.
25–30	Very good to excellent understanding; clear evidence of extensive and in-depth reading and research.

Mark	Organisation and development (AO2)
0	No rewardable organisation and development.
1–2	Limited organisation and development; structure almost wholly lacking in coherence.
3–4	Some organisation and development; may be rambling and/or repetitive.
5–6	Adequate organisation and development of material; development patchy and/or ambiguous.
7–8	Good organisation and development; material well planned and sequenced with minor lapses.
9	Very good organisation and development; material very effectively marshalled and developed within a carefully planned framework.

Mark	Quality of language (AO3)
0	No rewardable language.
1	Very basic level of communication; language often breaks down because of lack of linguistic knowledge and/or ability to use structures; very inaccurate.
2	Some communication achieved on a basic level but often lacks comprehensibility; limited linguistic range; basic sentence construction; register often inappropriate.
3–4	Satisfactory communication; inaccurate language occasionally impedes comprehensibility; fair range of appropriate lexis; structures often well handled.
5	Good communication; errors rarely impede comprehensibility; language mainly accurate and appropriate; good range of lexis and structures; good handling of complex structures and use of idioms.
6	Very good communication; language almost always fluent, varied and appropriate; wide range of lexis and structures; high level of accuracy.

D Assessment and additional information

Assessment information

Assessment requirements	For a summary of assessment requirements and assessment objectives, see <i>Section B, Specification overview</i> .
Entering students for the examinations for this qualification	Details of how to enter students for the examinations for this qualification can be found in Edexcel's Information Manual, copies of which are sent to all examinations officers. The information can also be found on Edexcel's website (www.edexcel.com).
Resitting of units	<p>There is no limit to the number of times that a student may retake a unit prior to claiming certification for the qualification. The best available result for each contributing unit will count towards the final grade.</p> <p>After certification all unit results may be reused to count towards a new award. Students may re-enter for certification only if they have retaken at least one unit.</p> <p>Results of units held in the Edexcel unit bank have a shelf life limited only by the shelf life of this specification.</p>
Awarding and reporting	<p>The grading, awarding and certification of this qualification will comply with the requirements of the current GCSE/GCE Code of Practice, which is published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). The AS qualification will be graded and certificated on a five-grade scale from A to E. The full GCE Advanced level will be graded on a six-point scale A* to E. Individual unit results will be reported.</p> <p>A pass in an Advanced Subsidiary subject is indicated by one of the five grades A, B, C, D, E of which grade A is the highest and grade E the lowest. A pass in an Advanced GCE subject is indicated by one of the six grades A*, A, B, C, D, E of which Grade A* is the highest and Grade E the lowest. To be awarded an A* students will need to achieve an A on the full GCE Advanced level qualification and an A* aggregate of the A2 units. Students whose level of achievement is below the minimum judged by Edexcel to be of sufficient standard to be recorded on a certificate will receive an unclassified U result.</p>
Performance descriptions	Performance descriptions give the minimum acceptable level for a grade. See <i>Appendix 1</i> for the performance descriptions for this subject.

Unit results

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade for each unit:

Unit 1

Unit grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 60	48	42	36	30	24

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a Grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–23.

Unit 2

Unit grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 140	112	98	84	70	56

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a Grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–55.

Unit 3

Unit grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 70	56	49	42	35	28

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a Grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–27.

Unit 4

Unit grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 130	104	91	78	65	52

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a Grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–51.

Qualification results

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Advanced Subsidiary Cash-in code 8IN01

Qualification grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 200	160	140	120	100	80

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a Grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–79.

Advanced GCE Cash-in code 9IN01

Qualification grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 400	320	280	240	200	160

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a Grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–159.

Language of assessment

Assessment of this specification will be available in Italian although some responses in English will be required. Assessment materials will be published in Italian.

Quality of written communication

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- write legibly, with accurate use of spelling, grammar and punctuation in order to make the meaning clear
- some questions at AS level will require English language responses. To ensure effective communication, it is important that students produce these responses legibly and pay attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assessment objectives and weighting

		% in AS	% in A2	% in GCE
AO1	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language.	40%	25%	32.5%
AO2	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language.	35%	50%	42.5%
AO3	Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.	25%	25%	25%
TOTAL		100%	100%	100%

Synoptic assessment

In synoptic assessment there should be a concentration on the quality of assessment to ensure that it encourages the development of the holistic understanding of the subject.

Synopticity requires students to connect knowledge, understanding and skills acquired in different parts of the Advanced GCE course.

Synoptic assessment in the context of Italian is naturally occurring and requires students to draw upon different skills within an assessment task. Unit 3, for example, tests both oral and listening skills and, implicitly, requires some reading as part of the student's preparation and research. Similarly, the research-based essay in Unit 4 requires students to engage in writing that links to other language skills. It is quite probable that students engage in research through reading as well as through other audio or audio-visual media and that they discuss their findings in Italian.

Knowledge of grammar structures is also not restricted to one skill area but is tested across skills and across all units.

Stretch and challenge

Students can be stretched and challenged in A2 units through the use of different assessment strategies. Some examples are given below.

Translation into Italian enables students to demonstrate an ability to manipulate complex language at an advanced level. They can draw on appropriate vocabulary and structures to produce a translation which is accurate and natural rather than pedestrian.

The choice of discursive or creative essay (extended writing) enables students to demonstrate that they can produce fluent and relevant language at an advanced level that shows knowledge and an ability to use a comprehensive range of vocabulary and structures. They can convey opinions and express themselves accurately.

Presenting and defending an oral issue requires students to use higher-level Italian-language skills since they need to use convincing and persuasive language and engage with the teacher. The most able students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and accurate use of a comprehensive range of vocabulary and structures.

Additional information**Malpractice and plagiarism**

For up-to-date advice on malpractice and plagiarism, please refer to the latest *Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Instructions for Conducting Coursework* document. This document is available on the JCQ website: www.jcq.org.uk.

For additional information on malpractice, please refer to the latest *Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Suspected Malpractice in Examinations And Assessments: Policies and Procedures* document, available on the JCQ website.

Access arrangements and special requirements

Edexcel's policy on access arrangements and special considerations for GCE, GCSE, and Entry Level is designed to ensure equal access to qualifications for all students (in compliance with the Equality Act 2010) without compromising the assessment of skills, knowledge, understanding or competence.

Please see the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) website (www.jcq.org.uk) for their policy on access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special considerations.

Please see our website (www.edexcel.com) for:

- the forms to submit for requests for access arrangements and special considerations
- dates to submit the forms.

Requests for access arrangements and special considerations must be addressed to:

Special Requirements
Edexcel
One90 High Holborn
London WC1V 7BH

Equality Act 2010

Please see our website (www.edexcel.com) for information on the Equality Act 2010.

Prior learning and progression

Prior learning

Students who would benefit most from studying a GCE in Italian are likely to have a Level 2 qualification, such as a GCSE in Italian at grades A*–C, or other relevant prior learning (eg Level 2 NVQ language units in Italian in all four language skills).

Progression

This qualification supports progression into further and higher education, training or employment. It provides a suitable foundation for specialist linguists wishing to study Italian at a higher level, those wishing to combine language study with other disciplines at higher level, and those considering other qualifications without a language focus.

Combinations of entry

There are no forbidden combinations.

Student recruitment

Edexcel's access policy concerning recruitment to our qualifications is that:

- they must be available to anyone who is capable of reaching the required standard
- they must be free from barriers that restrict access and progression
- equal opportunities exist for all students.

The wider curriculum

This qualification provides opportunities for developing an understanding of spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural issues, together with an awareness of citizenship, environmental issues, health and safety considerations, and European developments consistent with relevant international agreements appropriate as applied to Italian. *Appendix 2: Wider curriculum* maps the opportunities available.

Resources to support the specification

To support this qualification, Edexcel has published the following:

- *Getting Started* guide
- grammar book.

For more information on products and services for GCE in Italian, visit www.edexcel.com/gce2008-italian-resources.

Edexcel publications

You can order further copies of this specification and SAMs documents from:

Edexcel Publications
Adamsway
Mansfield
Notts NG18 4FN

Telephone: 01623 467467
Fax: 01623 450481
Email: publication.orders@edexcel.com
Website: www.edexcel.com

Additional resources endorsed by Edexcel

Edexcel also endorses additional materials written to support this qualification.

Any resources bearing the 'Endorsed by Edexcel' logo have been through a rigorous quality assurance process to ensure complete and accurate support for the specification. For up-to-date information about endorsed resources, please visit www.edexcel.com/endorsed

The resources listed on the Edexcel website are intended to be a guide for teachers and not a comprehensive list. Further suggestions can be found in *Appendix 5: Further resources and support*.

Please see www.edexcel.com/gce2008 for up-to-date information.

Edexcel support services

Edexcel support services

Edexcel has a wide range of support services to help you implement this qualification successfully.

ResultsPlus – ResultsPlus is an application launched by Edexcel to help subject teachers, senior management teams, and students by providing detailed analysis of examination performance. Reports that compare performance between subjects, classes, your centre and similar centres can be generated in 'one-click'. Skills maps that show performance according to the specification topic being tested are available for some subjects. For further information about which subjects will be analysed through ResultsPlus, and for information on how to access and use the service, please visit www.edexcel.com/resultsplus

Ask the Expert – to make it easier for our teachers to ask us subject specific questions we have provided the **Ask the Expert** Service. This easy-to-use web query form will allow you to ask any question about the delivery or teaching of Edexcel qualifications. You'll get a personal response, from one of our administrative or teaching experts, sent to the email address you provide. You can access this service at www.edexcel.com/ask

Support for Students

Learning flourishes when students take an active interest in their education; when they have all the information they need to make the right decisions about their futures. With the help of feedback from students and their teachers, we've developed a website for students that will help them:

- understand subject specifications
- access past papers and mark schemes
- learn about other students' experiences at university, on their travels and when entering the workplace.

We're committed to regularly updating and improving our online services for students. The most valuable service we can provide is helping schools and colleges unlock the potential of their learners. www.edexcel.com/students

Training

A programme of professional development and training courses, covering various aspects of the specification and examination, will be arranged by Edexcel each year on a regional basis. Full details can be obtained from:

Training from Edexcel
Edexcel
One90 High Holborn
London WC1V 7BH

Email: trainingbookings@pearson.com
Website: www.edexcel.com/training

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Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for Modern Foreign Languages

Assessment objectives	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
	<p>Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language.¹</p> <p>¹ Understand and respond in speech to spoken language may not apply to the specifications for certain languages, subject to an agreement with the regulatory authorities.</p>	<p>Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language.²</p> <p>² Understand and respond in speech to written language may not apply to the specifications for certain languages, subject to an agreement with the regulatory authorities.</p>	<p>Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.</p>
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show a clear understanding of spoken language b understand the main points and details, including points of view c are able to infer meaning with only a few omissions d are able to develop their ideas, and express points of view, with some appropriate justification e respond readily and fluently and take the initiative (<i>speaking</i>) f have generally accurate pronunciation and intonation (<i>speaking</i>) g are able to deal with unpredictable elements (<i>speaking</i>) h show the ability to organise and structure their response coherently (<i>writing</i>) i offer relevant information which addresses the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>). 	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show a clear understanding of a range of written texts b understand the main points and details, including points of view. c are able to infer meaning with only a few omissions d are able to develop their ideas, and express points of view, with some appropriate justification e respond readily and fluently and take the initiative (<i>speaking</i>) f have generally accurate pronunciation and intonation (<i>speaking</i>) g show the ability to organise and structure their response coherently (<i>writing</i>) h offer relevant information which addresses the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>). 	<p>In the context of grammar and syntax listed in the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a make effective use of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the task. b The deployment of grammar, syntax and morphology is generally accurate. c are able to manipulate language appropriately when required.

E/U boundary performance descriptions	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show some understanding of basic, often concrete, spoken language, while experiencing difficulties with more complex and abstract language b understand some of the main points and details, including basic points of view c have a limited ability to infer meaning where appropriate to the task d are able to convey some basic information when transferring meaning e may be hesitant in their response and their fluency is mostly confined to pre-learnt material. Their target language performance may be influenced by their first language (<i>speaking</i>) f may have some difficulty communicating factual information, narrating events and expressing basic points of view in response to the task set, and do not always address the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>) g show some ability to structure and organise their response where appropriate. 	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show some understanding of straightforward written texts, but experience difficulties with more complex and abstract language b understand some of the main points and details, including limited points of view c have a limited ability to infer meaning where appropriate to the task d are able to convey some basic information when transferring meaning e may be hesitant in their response and their fluency is mostly confined to pre-learnt material. Their target language performance may be influenced by their first language (<i>speaking</i>) f may have some difficulty communicating factual information, narrating events and expressing basic points of view in response to the task set, and do not always address the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>) g show some ability to structure and organise their response where appropriate. 	<p>In the context of grammar and syntax listed in the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a use a restricted range of vocabulary and structures b have language characterised by frequent errors in grammar, syntax and morphology c may be influenced by the first language. d demonstrate a very limited ability to manipulate language where required.

A2 performance descriptions for Modern Foreign Languages

Assessment objectives	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language.¹</p> <p>¹ Understand and respond in speech to spoken language may not apply to specifications for certain languages, subject to an agreement with the regulatory authorities</p> <p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show a clear understanding of spoken language b understand the main points and details, including points of view c demonstrate an ability to infer meaning d are able to transfer meaning with only minor omissions e are able to develop their ideas, and express and justify points of view effectively f respond readily and fluently and take the initiative (<i>speaking</i>) g have generally accurate pronunciation and intonation (<i>speaking</i>) h are able to deal appropriately with unpredictable elements (<i>speaking</i>) i show the ability to organise and structure their response coherently (<i>writing</i>) j offer relevant information which addresses the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>). 	<p>Understand and respond, in speech and writing to written language.²</p> <p>² Understand and respond in speech to written language may not apply to specifications for certain languages, subject to an agreement with the regulatory authorities</p> <p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show a clear understanding of a range of written texts b understand the main points and details, including points of view, and are able to infer meaning c demonstrate an ability to infer meaning d are able to transfer meaning with only minor omissions e are able to develop their ideas, and express and justify points of view effectively f respond readily and fluently and take the initiative (<i>speaking</i>) g have generally accurate pronunciation and intonation (<i>speaking</i>) h are able to deal appropriately with unpredictable elements (<i>speaking</i>) i show the ability to organise and structure their response coherently (<i>writing</i>). 	<p>Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.</p> <p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a make effective use of a wide range of vocabulary and a variety of complex structures as appropriate. b predominantly use grammar, syntax and morphology in an accurate way c are able to manipulate language accurately and appropriately where required.

E/U boundary performance descriptions	Assessment objective 1	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show some understanding of spoken usually concrete language, but may experience difficulty with more complex and abstract language b understand some of the main points and details, including basic points of view c demonstrate a limited ability to infer meaning, where appropriate, to the task d are able to convey the basic information when transferring meaning e may be hesitant in their response and their fluency is mostly confined to pre-learnt material. Their target language performance may be influenced by their first language (<i>speaking</i>) f may have some difficulty communicating factual information, narrative events and expressing basic points of view in response to the task set, and do not always address the requirements of the task appropriately (<i>writing</i>) g show some ability of structure and organise their response, where appropriate. 	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show some understanding of a range of written texts, usually straightforward, but may experience difficulty with more complex and abstract language b understand some of the main points and details, including basic points of view c demonstrate a limited ability to infer meaning, where appropriate, to the task d are able to convey the basic information when transferring meaning e may be hesitant in their response and their fluency is mostly confined to pre-learnt material. Their target language performance may be influenced by their first language (<i>speaking</i>) f may have some difficulty communicating factual information, narrative events and expressing basic points of view in response to the task set and do not always address the requirements of the task appropriately g show some ability of structure and organise their response, where appropriate. 	<p>In the context of grammar and syntax listed in the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a use a restricted range of vocabulary and structures. The deployment of grammar, syntax and morphology contains frequent error and may be influenced by their first language. b demonstrate a very limited ability to manipulate language correctly when required.

Signposting

Issue	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Spiritual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moral	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ethical	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cultural	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citizenship	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environmental	✓	✓	✓	✓
European initiatives	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health and safety	✓	✓	✓	✓

In addition to the acquisition of knowledge about language structures and the development of practical language skills, effective language learning involves a promotion of cultural understanding. This specification requires students to consider a range of topics, issues and different aspects of target-language culture and to give their views and express opinions on these. Consequently, the specification and linked classroom studies should give students many opportunities to relate their language study to all of the listed 'issues'.

Development suggestions

Issue	AS/A2 units	Opportunities for development or internal assessment
Spiritual	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 — A student may explore the spiritual dimension of an Italian-language novel or film in their chosen research-based essay.
Moral	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 — A student discussing an issue on 'peer pressures' may make reference to moral tensions that some young adults experience.
Ethical	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 — Students could be exposed to a reading passage that refers to 'fair trade' fashion.
Social	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 — In their chosen research-based essay, a student may refer to the social conditions associated with a particular period of Italian history.
Cultural	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 — Students could undertake a translation exercise linked to a particular aspect of the arts in an Italian-speaking country.
Citizenship	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 — A student might wish to link their 'chosen issue' to citizenship concerns for immigrant workers.
Environmental	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 — Students could, for example, be expected to refer to an oral stimulus on recycling.
European initiatives	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 — A student may wish to undertake research on the expansion of the European Union and its impact on an Italian-speaking country.
Health and safety	All units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 — A student might refer to health and safety concerns if referring to smoking or alcohol abuse in public places.

Type of code	Use of code	Code number
National classification codes	Every qualification is assigned to a national classification code indicating the subject area to which it belongs. Centres should be aware that students who enter for more than one GCE qualification with the same classification code will have only one grade (the highest) counted for the purpose of the school and college performance tables.	5690
National Qualifications Framework (NQF) codes	Each qualification title is allocated a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) code. The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) code is known as a Qualification Number (QN). This is the code that features in the DfE Section 96, and on the LARA as being eligible for 16-18 and 19+ funding, and is to be used for all qualification funding purposes. The QN is the number that will appear on the student's final certification documentation.	The QNs for the qualifications in this publication are: AS — 500/2623/9 Advanced GCE — 500/2545/4
Unit codes	Each unit is assigned a unit code. This unit code is used as an entry code to indicate that a student wishes to take the assessment for that unit. Centres will need to use the entry codes only when entering students for their examination.	Unit 1 — 6IN01 Unit 2 — 6IN02 Unit 3 — 6IN03 Unit 4 — 6IN04
Cash-in codes	The cash-in code is used as an entry code to aggregate the student's unit scores to obtain the overall grade for the qualification. Centres will need to use the entry codes only when entering students for their qualification.	AS — 8IN01 Advanced GCE — 9IN01
Entry codes	The entry codes are used to: 1 enter a student for the assessment of a unit 2 aggregate the student's unit scores to obtain the overall grade for the qualification.	Please refer to the Edexcel Information Manual available on the Edexcel website.

AS and A2 level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. In the examination they will be required to actively and accurately use grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from the following lists. The lists are divided into Advanced Subsidiary and A2 level. The examples in italics are indicative, not exclusive. For structures marked (R), receptive knowledge only is required.

Italian: Advanced Subsidiary Level

Nouns	gender
	singular and plural forms
Articles	definite, indefinite and partitive
	definite article + preposition (<i>al, sul, nel, dal, dell', etc</i>)
	other ways of expressing a partitive (<i>qualche, alcuni/e</i>)
Adjectives	agreement
	position
	apocoptation (<i>buon, bel, san</i>)
	comparative and superlative
	demonstrative (<i>questo/a, questi/e, quello/a, quelli/e</i>)
	indefinite (<i>alcuno, nessuno, ogni</i>)
	possessive (<i>il mio, la mia</i>)
	interrogative (<i>quale, quanto</i>)
Adverbs	comparative and superlative
	interrogative (<i>quando, come, poco</i>)
Quantifiers/ Intensifiers	(<i>molto, abbastanza, poco</i>)

Pronouns

subject
object
position and order of object pronouns
reflexive
relative (*che, cui, il quale, quello che, chi*)
disjunctive/emphatic
demonstrative (*questo, quello, quello di*)
indefinite (*qualcuno, ciascuno*)
possessive (*il mio, la mia*)
interrogative (*chi, di chi, che cosa, quale*)
use of (*ci, ne*)

Verb

regular and irregular forms of verbs, including reflexive verbs
modes of address (*tu, Lei*)
impersonal verbs
modal verbs
verbs followed by an infinitive (with or without a preposition)
dependent infinitives (*far vedere*)
perfect infinitive
negative forms
interrogative forms
impersonal constructions (*si dice, si crede*)

tenses:

- present
- perfect (including agreement of past participle)
- imperfect
- future
- conditional
- future perfect (R)
- conditional perfect
- pluperfect
- past definite (R)

passive voice:

- present and perfect tenses
- other tenses (R)
- alternative forms to the passive
- continuous tenses with *stare*
- imperfect
- gerund
- present and past participle

subjunctive mood:

- present
- perfect
- imperfect
- pluperfect

uses of subjunctive:

- as positive and negative imperative for *Lei* after verbs of wishing, request, opinion, emotion
- to express possibility/impossibility after impersonal expressions (*è importante/facile/necessario che*)
- in hypothetical clauses after *se*

Prepositions

Conjunctions

Number, quantity and time (including use of *da quanto tempo*)

Italian: A2 Level

Verbs

All grammar and structures listed for Advanced Subsidiary, plus:
future perfect tense
passive voice: all tenses
use of other verbs to express passive (*rimanere, venire, andare*)
use of *andare* + gerund
past anterior (*ebbi fatto*) (R)
subjunctive after conjunctions plus all other common uses

Prefixes and suffixes

the most common before/after nouns, adjectives and verbs

Indirect speech

all forms of indirect speech and rules governing its use

Please note that while resources are checked at the time of publication, materials may be withdrawn from circulation and website locations may change at any time.

Useful websites

General

www.edexcel.com/gce2008

www.beniculturali.it

Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali

www.google.it

Option to use the Italian version of google

www.iltrovatore.it

Italian search engine

www.italiansrus.com

Guide to Italian culture

www.it.wikipedia.org

Online encyclopedia in Italian

www.it.yahoo.com

Access to a wide range of sites and images

Festivals

www.carnevale.venezia.it

Venice carnival information

www.ibs.it

Site of the online bookshop, all titles printed in Italian. Offers price reductions

www.primitaly.it/carnevale/index.html

Carnival in Italian towns

Media

www.corriere.it

Newspaper online with current and past articles

www.gazzetta.it

Sports newspaper online

www.ilrestodelcarlino.quotidiano.net

Local newspapers, can be focused on different cities

www.radio.rai.it

Radio stations

www.rainews24.it

News and views

www.repubblica.it

la repubblica newspaper

Miscellaneous

www.legambiente.it	Organisation with links to the environment
www.leganord.org	Website of Lega Nord political party

Museums

www.activitaly.it/musei/index.htm	Museums of Rome, links available to individual museums
www.museionline.it	General website of all Italian museums
www.polomuseale.firenze.it/uffizi	State Museums of Florence website, links available to individual museums

Regions

www.regione.lazio.it	Insert any region instead of Lazio for information in Italian
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Tourism

www.enit.it	Italian government tourist board
www.italia.it	Website with tourist information

Other support

Grant and Cutler Ltd (at Foyles)
113–119 Charing Cross Road
London WC2H 0EB
Telephone: 020 7440 3248

European Schoolbooks Ltd
The Runnings
Cheltenham GL51 9PQ
Telephone: 01242 245252
Web: www.eurobooks.co.uk

Centre for Information on Language Teaching (CILT)
CFTB
60 Queens Road
Reading RG1 4BS
Telephone: 0118 902 1000

Italian Bookshop
5 Warwick Street
London W1B 5LU

Italian Cultural Institute
39 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8NX
Telephone: 020 7823 1887
Website: www.icilondon.esteri.it

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This specification is Issue 3. Key changes are sidelined. We will inform centres of any changes to this issue. The latest issue can be found on the Edexcel website: www.edexcel.com

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