



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 Italian

Higher

Reading

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

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General marking principles for Higher Italian Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (a) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (b) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (c) Marks are available as follows:
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 18 marks in total) asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1-3 marks available for each question.
 - (ii) The penultimate question is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 2 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (2/1/0) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
 - (iii) The last question is the translation. For this question, candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation is divided into five sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (d) Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1.	(a)		70% weren't/aren't married (yet)	1	
	(b)		almost/nearly 1 in 4 women are unmarried/single - women decide to get married later	2	Always do it later on
	(c)		(the idea of) a traditional marriage/wedding will (no longer) exist/won't exist (any more)	1	(Don't accept the wrong tense of esisterà)
2.	(a)		- the desire for young people to build/have a (married) life together remains high/popular/strong/elevated - marriage is/continues to be an important (choice) Any 1 from 2	1	Would still like to get married
	(b)		- fewer/less people in Italy want to/are prepared/decide to get married in a church - this tendency/trend is (even) stronger in the north	2	
3.			- they don't want to make/take important decisions - almost/nearly 1 in 3 young people is unemployed - many/lots fear a life together won't last (because of lack of money) Any 2 from 3	2	

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
4.	(a)		- it forces/makes young people to take on/assume obligations/duties/responsibility - it requires/you need effort/dedication/allegiance/loyalty/commitment - it (terrifies/frightens) people because one must make/keep a promise before society and the law Any 2 from 3	2	
	(b)		modern couples don't want to be tied/bound forever/they prefer to live in the moment	1	
5.	(a)		- in the past marriage was a kind of 'social elevator/lift'/social climbing - women wanted to marry a man from a higher/superior/upper class Any 1 from 2	1	High class
	(b)		today women (no longer) need to marry/don't need to marry (anymore) to find a better life	1	Want
6.	(a)		- she made/pulled a face(s)/grimace/smirk (she was) like children/a child who taste(s) lemon for the first time	2	
	(b)		- she wants to enrol/register their daughter at nursery/pre-school/kindergarten - it's (more) difficult because they are not married - they don't have the correct/necessary documents Any 2 from 3	2	Write Asylum for asilo

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
7.			Negative about traditional marriage in Italy: • the title of the article is ‘marriage in Italy is in decline’ • numbers of people who married are down • people are getting married later in life • people are postponing age of marriage • cost of wedding is high • because of unemployment/the economic crisis people can’t afford it • it’s affecting people’s mental health/wellbeing • it pushes people to take on responsibility they do not want • reluctance to take on responsibility • people prefer to live in the moment/uncomplicated relationships • situation worse in Italy than in other European countries • transactional attitude to marriage - in the past, social ‘elevator’, nowadays, to get right documents • ‘official’ sources (research, experts, statistics) used to evidence negative view • the only example of ‘public opinion’ is someone who grimaced when marriage was mentioned and is now using it to get her daughter a place in nursery	2	Award 2 marks where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text. Award 1 mark where the candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification. Award 0 marks where the candidate simply provides information to be found in the text by simply re-stating answers to previous questions.

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
8.			Translate into English: <i>Invece di sposarsi . . . e senza complicazioni.</i> (lines 15-17)	10	The translation into English is allocated 10 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows: 2 marks - good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English. 1 mark - satisfactory The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English. 0 marks - unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 Invece di sposarsi, sia con una cerimonia civile che in chiesa,	Instead of getting married/marrying either/whether with a/by civil ceremony or in church,	Instead of marriage	No reference to sia . . . che
Unit 2 gli italiani preferiscono vivere insieme.	Italians prefer to live/living together.	The Italians	Don't accept wrong tense of preferiscono
Unit 3 Massimiliano Valeri dice che per loro quello che conta	Massimiliano Valeri says that for them what counts/matters	Omission of name and pronoun used instead (he)	Said
Unit 4 è un rapporto autentico, senza legami formali.	is an authentic/real/genuine relationship/connection, without formal ties/bonds.	Omission of formal	Do not accept relationship/connection for legami
Unit 5 Vogliono una relazione piena d'amore e senza complicazioni.	They want a relationship full of love and without complication(s).		Flooded Don't accept wrong tense of vogliono

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]