External Assessment Report 201 2   Intermediate 1 Italian

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Number of entries in 2012: 73
The large majority of the candidates had been appropriately presented by their centres, had found the level of the exam suitable, and had risen to the challenge presented.
Average Speaking mark = 24.2/30

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

Average Reading mark = 21/35
- Candidates related well to the topical Olympic theme and gained marks in all questions, including in the formal text of the third question.
- High frequency vocabulary in the longer text for Question 4 (a) (i) ('migliori amici', 'piscina'(d)(i) 'funghi', (e) (i) il mese di gennaio, and (f) 'preferisco le machine italiane') was wellrecognised by many candidates.
- Sometimes the 'supported' question (for example True/False or tick the correct boxes) can be testing for candidates who may be tempted to tick a seemingly obvious box at first glanceand end up missing a mark. A number of candidates in Question 1 failing to distinguish between school subjects ('fisica' and'educazione fisica'), or to recognise 'vorrei' before 'palestra' leading candidates to believethe athlete already had his own gym.
- In Question 2 (b) (i) the cognate 'tatuaggi' was correctly recognised by many candidates while the high frequency 'pantaloni' was not by others.
- In Question 3 (d) (i) a mark was sometimes lost by failure to recognise 'accanto alla cucina', the answer erroneously being given as 'in the kitchen' instead of 'next to' or 'beside'.
- In Question 4 d) (ii) only the more able candidates recognised 'alcuni' and 'altri', whereas other candidates placed all 'funghi' in a single category.
- Centres should continue to ensure that candidates are given a rigorous grounding in the prescribed Themes and Topics and high frequency vocabulary.
- Centres should underline how it may not be enough just to recognise an item of vocabulary but also necessary to focus on how the sense of a phrase can change depending on the accompanying verb, eg the difference between 'ho la mia …' and 'vorrei la mia …', or 'vado alla partita' and 'vuoi andare alla partita?'
- Candidates should also be encouraged to take every care in supported questions

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

Average Listening mark = 10.6/20
- Candidates had been well prepared by centres with most candidates picking up full marks in Question 1and many also doing well in Questions 3, 6 and 8
- More candidates might have been expected to recognise 'gratuito', in Question 2 and 'festa' in Question 4, and many made mistakes in the time in Question 5
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- Candidates should also be encouraged to take every care in supported questions

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

Average Writing mark = 8.8 /15
- There was evidence of some candidates confusing, the first person singular ending and the third person singular verb endings, and misspelling 'Edinburgo' or 'kilometri'.
- There was also occasional omission of the reflexive pronoun 'si', and some candidates were unaware of the need to omit the article before single family members ('la mia madre' instead of 'mia madre' and 'il mio padre' instead of 'mio padre').
- More able candidates did not make full use of their undoubted language abilities in the first section, producing accurate but basic responses here.
- Mainly less able candidates lost marks by not including at least three verbs in each section to produce three 'sentences' or at least three separate sense units.
- Centres should ensure that all candidates build up an increasingly accurate and effective response during the course underpinned by understanding of key grammar points. Preparatory 'gap fill' exercises may help candidates to focus more clearly on some essential points and gradually perfect their performance in this component.
- Candidates should also be reminded to check that each section they complete has three verbs in it in order to avoid any penalty.
- It was noted that the most able candidates' very good content in the last three sections
- was not sometimes produced under the initial 'Famiglia' heading, and these candidates could gain advantage by being encouraged by centres to introduce more variety and complexity in this section.