External Assessment Report 201 2   Intermediate 2 Italian

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Number of entries in 2012: 151
There were outstanding performances in each of the externally-assessed components and few weak performances.
Speaking = 25/30

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

Average Reading mark = 21/30

- Candidates overall found the reading paper accessible throughout the initial three texts and also the more involved longer Q4 text.
- Candidates did well in parts (b) and (d) of Question 1,all parts of Question 3 and Question 4 where candidates gave more than enough information to obtain two marks
- Some candidates had difficulty with key aspects such as numbers, time, days and weather.In Question 4 (c) (i) and (ii) 'quattro milioni' was mistakenly translated as 'a quarter of a million' and 'sessanta per cento' as 'seventy per cent'. In Question 4 (c) (i) failure to recognise the present tense, or lack of precision with English expression, caused some candidates to lose a point when 'partono in vacanza ogni anno' was translated as '**went** on holiday last year'. In Question 4 (h) (i) the full amount of detail required was not offered by some candidates
- 'False friends' can cause confusion, ('parenti' in Question 1 (a), which was answered as'parents' instead of 'relatives'
- Centres should continue to ensure that candidates are given a rigorous grounding in the prescribed Themes and Topics, and focus on key areas such as numbers, time, days and weather more appropriate at Intermediate 2 level.
- Candidates should be trained to give detailed answers in response to comprehension questions and to pay attention to tenses in the text

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

Average Listening mark = 13.1/20

- The listening paper was also handled satisfactorily Question 1 (b) Question 2 (c) Question 3 (d) were all well done.
- Time phrases in Questions 1 and 2(a) presented difficulties to some candidates. Items of weather caused difficulties in Question 2 (b) (i) 'nebbia' was mistaken for 'nevica' and in (ii) 'temporali' not recognised as weather by some candidates
- Centres should continue to ensure that candidates are given a rigorous grounding in the prescribed Themes and Topics, and focus on key areas such as numbers, time, days and weather more appropriate at Intermediate 2 level

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

Average Writing mark = 14.9/ 20

- There were many examples of responses where candidates had been well versed in the task by centres and equipped to adapt learned material flexibility.
- The optional points on work experience and previous links with Italy were well exploited by many candidates, allowing them to include impressive vocabulary specific to themselves.
- The final bullet point continues to show inaccuracies in spelling and expression. It was merely dealt with by a single short question on occasions, or was often the one omitted, leading to candidates losing marks. Candidates should refine the content of their responses
- It was pleasing to note an increased number of candidates making use of the the job specification.
- Candidates should be encouraged to give opinions and reasons and avoiding a mere repetition of a list of school subjects. In terms of accuracy, candidates should concentrate on agreements of both number and gender, first and third person verb endings (in the present tense in particular) and the formation of the tenses.