ITALIAN

| Paper 1346/01 |
| Speaking |

Key Message

A well-researched topic and the ability to take part in a spontaneous discussion is crucial to do well in the speaking exam.

General Comments

Factual knowledge and opinion

Most candidates chose to speak about a film or a literary text which gave plenty of scope for analysis, evaluation and opinion and allowed candidates to demonstrate their full potential.

All candidates showed genuine interest in their topic and pleasure in discussing it.

The fact that the exam is conducted by an external Examiner adds to the spontaneity of the discussion. Candidates have normally prepared their topic well, but they have to show the ability to handle their knowledge in a way to provide a coherent answer to the Examiner's largely unpredictable questions. In most instances the Examiner adopted the position of the "interested layman", which enabled candidates to feel confident with their "expert" knowledge and does not make them feel under pressure to produce any expected answers.

Presentations were generally well timed and well articulated, leading naturally to discussion.

Most candidates were able to present a good range of pertinent information, had the ability to analyse material in an interesting way and to express their opinions in a naturally flowing conversation with the Examiner.

Language (range and accuracy)

In terms of language, there was a wide range of competence. There were no serious instances of communication being impaired by errors and only a few candidates were using simple language. Others, on the other hand, were able to use complex structures and a good range of vocabulary. Accuracy was generally well controlled. The most common mistakes concerned the use of prepositions, sometimes influenced by English and other times by their dominant foreign language, which may have also influenced vocabulary and structures at times. There were occasional instances of lack of control over agreements, gender and sometimes over verb endings.

Pronunciation and Intonation

There were generally good or very good levels of pronunciation and intonation. The most common mistakes were misplaced stress and mispronunciation of double consonant or vowel sounds.

Conclusion

In general, candidates showed good understanding of what is required for this unit, were well prepared for it and performed confidently.

ITALIAN

Paper 1346/02
Reading, Listening and Writing

Key Messages

Necessary for doing well in this paper are:

- an ability to listen/read in a discerning fashion in order to locate pertinent items of information and to discard additional material;
- close attention to the rubric of the paper, e.g. to answer in the correct language, answer a yes/no question with one or the other before justifying;
- transferring pertinent content to correct answer format, i.e. manipulating the language where necessary to tailor the answer to the question.

With regards to the writing section of the paper, candidates must use varied and accurate language eloquently, and address all bullet points comprehensively, in order to gain the highest marks.

General Comments

Listening and reading sections: strong candidates answered fully yet concisely, targeting the required information without including unnecessary additional material. Strong answers displayed convincing understanding of the whole passage rather than merely an attempt at transcribing piecemeal what had been heard/read.

Writing section: high-performing candidates addressed all bullet points in a balanced and multi-faceted way, and were able to draw on specific parallels or examples to support their discussion of the stimulus, i.e. providing sound (not 'waffly' or overly anecdotal) substantiation.

Comments on Specific Questions

Part I

Brano d'ascolto 2

Question 7

The second of the two marks was sometimes lost by candidates who omitted to give both sides of the explanation.

Question 9

Some candidates answered without acknowledging the 'tra poco' element of the question.

Brano d'ascolto 3

Questions 17 and 21

Both these questions required careful listening and discerning application in order to identify the second of the two marks on offer. Weaker answers stopped short of the full explanation required.

CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Part II

Testo di lettura 1

Question 25

Weaker candidates missed the 'ordering' of countries and the indication in the question that only a single country name was required.

Question 28

Some candidates struggled with the concept of identifying/naming what kind of person would like the themed cruise proposed.

Testo di lettura 2

Question 33

Some candidates struggled to identify the need to acknowledge the magnitude of change/time frame in their answer. However this posed no problem for the stronger candidates.

Testo di lettura 3

Question 44

Some candidates struggled to explain the link with 'la crisi'.

Part III

The majority of candidates addressed each bullet point clearly and in sequence and gave more or less equal weighting to all five bullet points in each essay question, maximising their opportunity for a high mark.

(a) There were many strong answers, indicating good coverage of and familiarity with this topic. Weaker candidates addressed the first bullet point by essentially repeating it, agreeing the book was indeed useful but not explaining it why; there were several unfortunate instances of misunderstanding what 'sprecata' meant; and some candidates struggled to convincingly phrase the connection hinted at by the final point. Strong answers were able to consider more than one argument/example under each bullet point, and occasionally acknowledge the shortfalls/pros and cons of a proposed solution for example.

(b) Again, there were many strong answers to this question. Weaker candidates occasionally struggled when trying to distinguish arguments pertaining to football and those pertaining to 'il mondo dello spettacolo'. Answers to bullet point four were sometimes rather 'narrow' – referencing one job title rather than professions more widely and therefore not giving a substantial enough answer.