

ITALIAN	AM 20
<i>SYLLABUS</i>	

**Italian AM 20
Syllabus**

(Available in September)
Paper 1 (Oral/Aural: 1hr 45mins) + Paper II (2 hrs) +
Paper III (2½ hrs) + Paper IV (3 hrs)

1. AIMS

The aims of a course in Italian leading to the Advanced level examination are to:

- develop candidates' ability to understand the spoken and written forms from different registers and language varieties;
- develop candidates' ability to understand a wide range of texts;
- develop candidates' ability for extended listening, speaking, reading and writing;
- develop candidates' ability to communicate confidently, clearly, effectively and appropriately both orally and in writing;
- develop candidates' insights through regular contact with Italian newspapers, TV/radio news bulletins, websites, literary works, etc;
- provide a suitable foundation for further study and/or practical use of Italian;
- provide a sufficient basis for further study at degree level or equivalent.

2. SUBJECT CONTENT

In order to study the subject at Advanced level, candidates should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills equivalent to those specified for SEC and/or Intermediate.

Advanced specifications should require candidates to:

- understand and study in greater depth aspects of the contemporary society, literature (prescribed texts) and heritage of Italy, demonstrating a high level of critical awareness;
- use the target language to analyze, hypothesize, evaluate, argue a case, justify, persuade, rebut, develop arguments and present viewpoints, in speech and writing;
- demonstrate an ability to think critically, to understand the relationships between different uses of the language and to perceive their field of study in a broader context;
- understand and apply grammar rules and structures;
- use a considerable range of vocabulary in order to express specific notions in various thematic areas while showing understanding of connotations, shades of meaning, implications, inferences and overtones in speech and writing;
- show knowledge of meta-language.

3. ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

3.1

- understand and respond, in speech and writing, to spoken language;
- understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language;
- show knowledge of grammar rules and structures and the ability to apply them communicatively;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various aspects of Italian society.

3.2

Language Skills

3.2.1 Listening

Candidates should be required to:

- understand complex utterances, such as those normally used on Italian media and/or in spontaneous speech;
- understand speech at normal conversational speed;
- understand texts relevant to communicative situations/topics.

3.2.2. Speaking

Candidates should be required to:

- show that they have developed communication and discourse strategies (making oneself understood, asking questions, seeking clarification, speaking about oneself, expressing views and opinions, describing, narrating events/experiences, etc.) ;
- show limited hesitation in their speech while producing communicatively relevant utterances with appropriate intonation and pauses;
- demonstrate that they can speak autonomously and take initiative.

3.2.3 Reading

Candidates should be required to:

- deal with inferences, euphemisms, irony and metaphors;
- understand texts of different genres, intended for Italian native speakers;
- comment on such texts and express their views and opinions on them.

3.2.4. Writing

Candidates should be required to:

- show an ability to deal with private and public correspondence;
- use Italian accurately and appropriately;
- show a sense of audience and style using a wide range of cohesive/anaphoric devices and coherence in writing.

- Show knowledge and understanding of the prescribed textbooks, and an ability to comment on these texts in writing.
- write in correct standard Italian, showing knowledge of orthographic and grammatical rules and structures.

4. SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT (100 marks)

WEIGHTINGS	READING	WRITING	LISTENING	SPEAKING	CONTENT
<i>PAPER I (Aural/oral) Listening/Dictation/Topic Presentation and Discussion</i>		5	5	10	
<i>PAPER II (Writing) Essay/exercises</i>		30			
<i>PAPER III (Reading) Comprehension and Précis</i>	20				
<i>PAPER IV (Literary Topics)</i>					30
TOTAL	20	35	5	10	30

The examination will consist of three written papers and an aural/oral test:

Paper 1 (20%)

Part i: (10%) 1.5 hrs

Aural

- **Dictation:** 5 marks (5%) – approximately 30 minutes
A text of approximately 150-200 words will be read three times. Candidates will be allowed to write during the second reading which will be read at a slower pace. The text will be read out for a third time at the end of the exercise in order to allow candidates to check their work. Names of persons and places will be given to candidates.
- **Listening Comprehension:** 5 marks (5%) – approximately 1 hour
A text of approximately 450-500 words will be read three times. Candidates can take notes during the listening phase, as from the first reading. Candidates will then have to answer to a set of questions on the text. One of the questions will test the ability of the candidates to summarise a part of the text.

