

**Revised for 2010: November 2009**

FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES  
SUB-FACULTY OF ITALIAN  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS

The examiners will be working to the following conventions in the Preliminary examination in Italian:

**Paper I: Comprehension and Essay (3 hours)**

The general rubric reads:

“Candidates should allow approximately the same amount of time (one and a half hours) for each Section of this paper. In Section A (Comprehension) they should write their answers to Question 1 (Audio/Video Comprehension) and Question 2 (Reading Comprehension) in two separate answer books. A separate answer book should also be used for Section B (Guided Essay).”

*Section A: Comprehension*

Question 1 will consist of the playing of a brief extract (maximum length 4 minutes) of spoken Italian from recorded material. The extract will be played twice. During the first playing candidates will be allowed to take notes but will not be allowed to see the questions until the end of the first playing. They will then have five minutes to read the questions and make further notes before the passage is played a second time. After this there will then be approximately half an hour for candidates to reply to the questions. There will be a maximum of five questions (in Italian) on the extract: answers are to be written in Italian, in sentences, not one-word answers.

Question 2 will consist of a passage of contemporary Italian prose (maximum 450 words) on which candidates will be asked a maximum of five comprehension questions (in Italian): answers are to be written in Italian, in sentences, not one-word answers.

*Section B: Guided Essay*

The guided essay will consist of a short text in Italian (maximum 150 words) which will act as a stimulus for candidates to write an essay in Italian of around 400 words. The passage might be a newspaper/magazine article on a topic of current interest: candidates would be asked to write an essay or a letter to the editor either for or against the subject discussed. Alternatively the passage might be the opening paragraph of a short story, and candidates would be asked to develop or complete the narrative in around 400 words.

Equal weight is given to both Sections A and B in determining a candidate's mark.

**Paper IIA: Translation into Italian (1 ½ hours)**

EITHER: A short passage of contemporary English prose of 200/250 words will be set,

OR: Six sentences in English (out of a choice of twelve) to be translated into Italian.

### **Paper IIB: Translation from Italian (1 ½ hours)**

A passage of contemporary Italian prose of about 250 words is set.

Equal weight is given to both Sections A and B in determining a candidate's mark.

### **Paper III (3 hours)**

There will be four questions, all of which have to be answered.

Question 1: Candidates will be asked to write a commentary in English on ONE of the two sonnets printed.

Question 2: Candidates will be asked to write a commentary in English on ONE of the two sonnets printed.

Question 3: Candidates will be asked to write a commentary in English on ONE of the two passages from Ungaretti printed.

Question 4: Candidates will be asked to write an essay in English on ONE of the three essay questions on Ungaretti.

### **Paper IV (3 hours)**

Candidates must answer three questions, in which they demonstrate knowledge of at least FOUR of the narrative texts, or three of the narrative texts and the one in film studied.

The paper will be divided into two sections.

In Section A there will be a choice of TWO essay questions on EACH of the five texts and on the one film studied: candidates will have to answer TWO of these questions (on two different texts or on one text and the film).

In Section B there will be FOUR general questions, of which candidates will have to answer ONE, in which they display knowledge of at least TWO other texts, or of ONE other text and the film (if they have not answered on the film in Section A).