2023 VCE Italian oral external assessment report

Refer to the relevant [study design](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Pages/languages.aspx) and [examination criteria and specifications](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/Languages-index.aspx) for full details on this study and how it is assessed.

Section 1: Conversation

What students did well

In 2023 students:

* engaged in a general conversation about their personal world and their interactions with the language and culture as learners; for example, Studio l’italiano e lo trovo difficile ma per migliorare cerco di leggere e ascoltare la lingua. (‘I study Italian and I find it difficult but to improve I try to read and listen to the language.’)
* provided a range of relevant information, ideas and opinions with an appropriate depth; for example, Nonostante il fatto che l’anno sia stato impegnativo ho sempre trovato tempo per rilassarmi giocando a tennis. Secondo me è molto importante bilanciare gli studi con l’attività fisica. (‘Despite the fact that the year was busy I always found time to relax by playing tennis. In my opinion it is very important to balance studies with physical activity.’)
* demonstrated an excellent level of understanding by responding readily and communicating confidently; and carrying the conversation forward with spontaneity; for example, Ho un rapporto molto positivo con la mia famiglia, infatti spesso facciamo delle cose insieme, per esempio andiamo al cinema e trascorriamo le vacanze insieme. In particolare mi piacciono le vacanze estive perché andiamo in Queensland dove di solito fa caldo e quindi andiamo in spiaggia ogni giorno. (‘I have a very positive relationship with my family. In fact, we often do things together, for example we go to the cinema and spend holidays together. I especially like summer holidays because we go to Queensland where it's usually hot and so we go to the beach every day.’)
* used appropriate vocabulary
* used appropriate grammar and sentence structures
* used appropriate expression, including pronunciation, intonation, stress and tempo.

Areas for improvement

In preparing for this exam, students could:

* ensure adequate preparation for the conversation with relevance, depth and range of information, ideas and opinions. It is important to be aware of the criteria so that students give complete responses supported by appropriate examples, rather than brief, closed, factual answers. In this way they will be able to advance the conversation in a natural manner. Furthermore, students need to be aware of the expected linguistic knowledge required for the successful completion of this examination task
* build confidence through practising interactions in the language
* practise using more complex sentence structures and syntax
* practise using repair strategies to advance the conversation when needed
* revise grammar. Ensure correct use of the present perfect: e.g. ho andato (‘I went’) and the conjugation of verbs: io andare alla festa (‘I go to the party’)
* build vocabulary specific to the student’s personal world and their interactions with the language and culture as learners
* practise pronunciation, intonation, stress and tempo.

Section 2: Discussion

What students did well

In 2023, students:

* clearly introduced the focus of their subtopic, alerting assessors to the image brought to support the discussion of the subtopic
* demonstrated in-depth knowledge of their subtopic
* used the image skilfully to support the discussion on the subtopic, for example, Come vediamo in questa foto … (‘As we see in this photo …’)
* engaged in a discussion using relevant information, ideas and opinions
* clarified, elaborated on and defended opinions and ideas
* communicated effectively with assessors throughout the discussion, including through the use of repair strategies
* used appropriate vocabulary
* used appropriate grammar and sentence structures
* used appropriate expression, including pronunciation, intonation, stress and tempo.

Areas for improvement

In preparing for this exam, students could:

* choose an appropriate subtopic from either of the prescribed themes, ‘The Italian-speaking communities’ or ‘The World around us’, to suit ability and interests and an image that supports discussion about the selected subtopic
* prepare a wide range and depth of information, ideas and opinions with an original perspective on the subtopic
* avoid listing facts without expressing a point of view, or presenting general knowledge as research
* convey information learnt from sources but also express an opinion with an original perspective on the subtopic
* use the image to support the discussion on the subtopic
* ensure that the image can support an aspect of the topic for discussion and that they can describe the relevance of the image to their topic (not just mentioning the image but explaining it, for example: Come si può vedere in quest’ immagine la piramide alimentare insegna alle persone non solo i tipi di alimenti da mangiare, ma anche le quantità e le frequenze. (As one can see in this image the food pyramid teaches people not only the types of foods to be eaten but also the quantities and frequencies.)
* revise grammar (present perfect, use of the imperfect, agreements)
* build vocabulary specific to the selected subtopic. Ensure that the key vocabulary associated with the topic is known
* practise pronunciation, intonation and stress and tempo.