Introducing the Redesigned AP Italian Language and Culture Course and Exam
AP Italian Language and Culture Donors

- American Association of Teachers of Italian
- American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit
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- National Organization of Italian American Women
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AP Italian Language and Culture Course

Critical Revisions

- The focus of the course is the development of students’ proficiencies in *Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational Communication*.
- Student performance in the course is within a range of proficiency (Intermediate to Pre-Advanced) as described in the *ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners* instead of an assumed college course equivalency (third-year college course).
- The course has a thematic approach.
- The course includes a focus on culture as described in the *standards*: cultural products, practices, and perspectives.
AP Italian Language and Culture Course

Critical Revisions

ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners

Novice \hspace{2cm} \textbf{Intermediate} \hspace{2cm} Pre-Advanced

\textbf{AP Course}
AP Italian Language and Culture Course

Overarching Premise

When communicating, students in the AP Italian Language and Culture course demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics (Connections), make comparisons between the native language and the target language and between cultures (Comparisons), and use the target language in real-life settings (Communities).
AP Italian Language and Culture Course

*Six Primary Learning Objectives*

- Spoken Interpersonal Communication
- Written Interpersonal Communication
- Audio, Visual and Audiovisual Interpretive Communication
- Written and Print Interpretive Communication
- Spoken Presentational Communication
- Written Presentational Communication
Communication Modes

**Interpersonal Communication**
active negotiation of meaning among individuals through conversation (face-to-face or telephonic); however, it can also be realized through reading and writing (e.g., exchange of personal letters, notes, summaries or e-mails)

**Interpretive Communication**
no active negotiation of meaning with another individual, although there is an active negotiation of meaning construction; includes the cultural interpretation of text, movies, radio, television and speeches

**Presentational Communication**
creation of spoken or written communication prepared for an audience and rehearsed, revised or edited before presentation; one-way communication that requires interpretation by others without negotiation of meaning
Interpersonal Communication

Culture

Speaking

Listening

Writing

Reading

Culture
Interpretive Communication

- Reading
- Listening
- Viewing

Culture
Presentational Communication

Culture

Speaking

Writing

Showing

Culture
AP Italian Language and Culture Course

Achievement Level Descriptions

- Represent a student’s progression along the second language learning trajectory
- Provide explicit descriptions of student performance at 5, 4, 3 and 2
- Will allow for more detailed and meaningful reporting of student performance
AP Italian Language and Culture Course

Achievement Level Descriptions

Spoken Interpersonal Communication
- Interaction
- Strategies
- Opinions
- Language structures
- Vocabulary
- Register
- Pronunciation
- Cultures, connections and comparisons

Audio, Visual and Audiovisual Interpretive Communication
- Comprehension of content
- Critical viewing and listening
- Vocabulary
- Cultures, connections and comparisons

Written Presentational Communication
- Discourse and development
- Strategies
- Language structures
- Writing conventions
- Register
- Cultures, connections and comparisons
AP Italian Language and Culture Course
A Thematic Approach

Global Challenges

Beauty and Aesthetics

Families and Communities

Science and Technology

Contemporary Life

Personal and Public Identities
Designing Instruction

A Thematic Approach

Designing instruction around themes

- Provides an integrated approach to teaching and learning
- Promotes the inclusion of a variety of language concepts into a context that is interesting, meaningful and worth exploring
- Connects the modes of communication in meaningful ways
- Facilitates the integration of language, content and culture into an interrelated series of lessons and activities
- Brings content to the language lesson
## AP Italian Language and Culture Exam Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section I: Multiple Choice</th>
<th>70 questions</th>
<th>Approx. 80 minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part A</td>
<td>Interpretive Communication: Audio Texts</td>
<td>30 – 34 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part B</td>
<td>Interpretive Communication: Print Texts</td>
<td>36 – 40 questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## AP Italian Language and Culture Exam Format

### Section II: Free Response
50% of Final Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Prompts</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part A</strong></td>
<td>Interpersonal Writing: E-mail Reply</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Approx. 55 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part B</strong></td>
<td>Interpersonal Speaking: Conversation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20 seconds for each response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interpersonal Speaking: Cultural Comparison</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 minutes to respond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Free Response

E-mail Reply (Interpersonal Writing)

Stimulus:

A formal e-mail message written in Italian (i.e. from a business, organization, university) presented in an e-mail message window; contains a greeting and a closing; contains a request for clarification, elaboration, or explanation by the student; contains two questions that cannot be answered yes/no.

Directions in English and Italian (printed side-by-side)

You will write a reply to an e-mail message. You have 15 minutes to read the message and write your reply.

Your reply should include a greeting and a closing as well as respond to all the questions and requests in the message. In your reply, you should also ask for more details about something mentioned in the message. Also, you should use a formal form of address.
Tema del corso: Vita contemporanea

Introduzione
Il mittente di questo messaggio email è Nadia Nardini, direttore di Porte Aperte. Ricevi il messaggio perché avevi scritto all’agenzia Porte Aperte per avere informazioni su programmi di studio in Italia.

Caro studente,

La ringraziamo per l’interesse espresso nei confronti dei nostri programmi di studio in Italia. Per assicurarle un’esperienza di studio e soggiorno indimenticabili, faremo di tutto per aiutarla a scegliere un programma corrispondente ai suoi interessi e alloggiarla c/o una famiglia che condivida le sue abitudini ed i suoi gusti. Perciò, per evitare di inviarle informazioni inutili, vorremmo sapere qualcosa in più circa le sue preferenze e le sue intenzioni. Le risposte alle seguenti domande ci aiuterebbero ad offrirle un’esperienza meravigliosa.

- Quali regioni dell’Italia le interessano particolarmente e perché?
- Quali dovrebbero essere le caratteristiche della famiglia ospite ideale?

Saremmo molto grati di ricevere le sue risposte al più presto per poter inviarle a stretto giro di posta varie proposte.

In attesa di un suo gentile riscontro, pregiamo

cordiali saluti,

Nadia Nardini

Direttore, Porte Aperte

Programmi di Studio in Italia
Sample Free Response

*Persuasive Essay (Presentational Writing)*

Stimuli:

1. A print source (journalistic article or literary text) that presents a clear opinion on the topic; opinion is different from that of the audio source (authentic source, may be excerpted).

2. A map with text, a chart or a table that presents information on the topic – this source doesn’t necessarily present an opinion (authentic source).

3. An audio source (interview, report, or announcement) that presents a clear opinion on the topic that is different from the opinion in the print source (authentic source, may be excerpted).
Sample Free Response

Persuasive Essay (Presentational Writing)

Directions in English and Italian (printed side-by-side)

You will write a persuasive essay to submit to a Italian-language writing contest. The essay topic is based on three accompanying sources, which present different viewpoints on the topic and include both print and audio material. First, you will have 6 minutes to read the essay topic and the printed material. Afterward, you will hear the audio material twice; you should take notes while you listen. Then you will have 40 minutes to prepare and write your essay.

In your persuasive essay, you should present the sources’ different viewpoints on the topic and also clearly indicate your own viewpoint and thoroughly defend it thoroughly. Use information from all of the sources to support your essay. As you refer to the sources, identify them appropriately. Also, organize your essay into clear paragraphs.
Sample Free Response

*Persuasive Essay (Presentational Writing)*

**Tema del corso:** Sfide globali

*Traccia:*
Cosa dovrebbe fare il governo italiano per gestire meglio il fenomeno dell’immigrazione?
Fonte numero 1

*Introduzione*

**Messaggio del Presidente della Repubblica Giorgio Napolitano in Occasione della Giornata Internazionale del Migrante**
Con il tempo l’emigrazione italiana si è notevolmente ridotta, ma non è mai cessata e, anzi di recente ha registrato una ripresa. Tuttavia il carattere della nostra emigrazione è profondamente mutato. I nuovi emigrati sono solo marginalmente lavoratori poco qualificati. A lasciare il nostro paese non solo per determinati periodi, ma definitivamente, sono spesso brillanti laureati e ricercatori, tecnici, imprenditori, personale altamente qualificato. Questa emorragia di talenti rappresenta allo stesso tempo una perdita per il nostro paese e un segnale di debolezza del nostro sistema scientifico e produttivo, della sua capacità di mettere a frutto risorse umane, di selezionare e promuovere in base al merito.
Fonte numero 2

*Introduzione*

Questo testo tratta degli immigrati ed il mondo del lavoro. Le statistiche originali sono state pubblicate nel 2007 in Italia. Sono state compilate dalla ISI Group, società specializzata nei servizi finanziari e assicurativi rivolti al mass market.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descrizione</th>
<th>Percentuale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati che hanno un lavoro o un’attività</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati ancora in cerca di lavoro</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati che lavorano come prestatori d’opera (domestici o assistenti domiciliari per anziani e malati)</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati che lavorano come lavoratori dipendenti</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati che hanno una propria attività commerciale o artigianale</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati che riescono a risparmiare</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrati che sono titolari di un conto corrente</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livello di istruzione diploma di scuola superiore</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livello di istruzione laurea universitaria</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buona conoscenza di una lingua straniera</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buona conoscenza dell’italiano</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reddito medio per individuo</td>
<td>836 euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reddito medio per famiglia</td>
<td>1320 euro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fonte numero 3

Introduzione
Sample Free Response

Conversation (Interpersonal Speaking)

Stimulus:

Outline of a conversation in Italian that contains a description of each of five utterances from the interlocutor (the recording) and each of five utterances from the student; descriptions in the outline focus on communicative functions (e.g. tell your friend what happened, make a suggestion, offer a solution, excuse yourself and say goodbye)

Directions in English and Italian (printed side-by-side)

You will participate in a conversation. First, you will have 1 minute to read a preview of the conversation, including an outline of each turn in the conversation. Afterward, the conversation will begin, following the outline. Each time it is your turn to speak, you will have 20 seconds to record your response. You should participate in the conversation as fully and appropriately as possible.
**Tema del corso:** Famiglia e società

*Introduzione*

Fai una conversazione con Massimo, un tuo caro amico. Prendi parte alla conversazione perché Massimo non può venire alla festa che hai organizzato a casa tua.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Massimo</th>
<th>Ti fa una domanda.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>Gli rispondi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massimo</td>
<td>Ti parla di un problema.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>Gli chiedi perché e commenti.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massimo</td>
<td>Ti dà una spiegazione.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>Gli suggerisci cosa fare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massimo</td>
<td>Ti chiede un consiglio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>Gli dai un consiglio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massimo</td>
<td>Ti ringrazia e esprime interesse per qualcosa da fare insieme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu</td>
<td>Accetti e proponi un programma.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Free Response

*Cultural Comparison (Presentational Speaking)*

**Stimulus:**

There is *no stimulus*, only a prompt. The goals of this task are for the students to speak first about themselves and their communities (using description or explanation) and then speak of an area of the Italian-speaking world about which they’ve learned something or have some personal experience (using comparison). Students are encouraged to cite examples from materials they’ve read, viewed, and listened to, personal experiences and observations.

**Directions in English and Italian (printed side-by-side)**

> You will make an oral presentation on a specific topic to your class. You will have 4 minutes to read the presentation topic and prepare your presentation. Then you will have 2 minutes to record your presentation.

> In your presentation, compare your own community to an area of the Italian-speaking world with which you are familiar. You should demonstrate your understanding of cultural features of the Italian-speaking world. You should also organize your presentation clearly.
Sample Free Response

Cultural Comparison (Presentational Speaking)

Tema del corso: Scienza e tecnologia

Argomento della relazione:

Quale ruolo hanno i social network nella realtà in cui vivi? Fai un confronto fra la realtà che hai osservato e in cui hai vissuto fino ad oggi e una realtà italiana che conosci bene. Nella tua relazione, puoi fare riferimento a cose che hai studiato, visto, conosciuto, ecc.
AP Italian Language and Culture Course Home Page

The College Board is happy to announce that AP Italian Language and Culture is being reinstated in fall 2011 with the first AP Italian Exam to be administered in May 2012. Thanks to the hard work and advocacy of the Italian Embassy and many proud Italian Americans, students once again have the opportunity to develop proficiency in Italian language and culture through the unique learning experiences offered by Advanced Placement.

AP Italian Language and Culture Course Information

- AP Italian Language and Culture Course and Exam Description, Effective Fall 2011 (.pdf/1.8MB)
- AP Italian Language and Culture Course and Exam Description Audio Files
- AP Italian Language Teacher’s Guide (.pdf/592KB)
- AP Italian Language and Culture FAQs
- AP Italian Language and Culture Development Committee
- AP Italian Language and Culture Newsletter

AP Course Audit Information

- Syllabus Development Guide, Sample Syllabi and more

Exam Information and Resources

- AP Italian Language and Culture Exam Information
- Free AP Italian Language and Culture Practice Exam, Effective Fall 2011

Classroom Instruction and Resources

apcentral.collegeboard.com