2017

AP Italian Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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AP[®] ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Identical to Scoring Guidelines used for French, German, and Spanish Language and Culture Exams

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2)

5: STRONG performance in Presentational Writing

• Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task

• Demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies

- Integrates content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with a high degree of clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence and detail
- Organized essay; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors

• Develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

4: GOOD performance in Presentational Writing

- Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; may include a few inaccuracies
- Summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence
- Organized essay; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- General control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Develops mostly paragraph-length discourse with simple, compound, and a few complex sentences

3: FAIR performance in Presentational Writing

- Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes some inaccuracies
- Summarizes content from at least two sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops a somewhat persuasive argument with some coherence
- Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility
- Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences

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2: WEAK performance in Presentational Writing

• Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task

• Demonstrates a low degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; information may be limited or inaccurate

• Summarizes content from one or two sources; may not support the essay

• Presents, or at least suggests, the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops an unpersuasive argument somewhat incoherently

- Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader
- Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of simple sentences and phrases

1: POOR performance in Presentational Writing

• Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task

• Demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes frequent and significant inaccuracies

- Mostly repeats statements from sources or may not refer to any sources
- Minimally suggests the student's own viewpoint on the topic; argument is undeveloped or incoherent
- Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices
- Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility
- Very few vocabulary resources
- Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Very simple sentences or fragments

0: UNACCEPTABLE performance in Presentational Writing

- Mere restatement of language from the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam
- (hyphen): BLANK (no response)

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

Overview

This task assessed writing in the presentational communicative mode by having the student write a persuasive essay on a given topic while referencing three sources of information about the topic. Students were first allotted 6 minutes to read the essay topic and the two printed sources. Then they listened to the one audio source twice. Afterward they had 40 minutes to write the essay. The response received a single, holistic score based on how well it accomplished the assigned task. Students needed to be able, first, to comprehend the three sources, and then to present their different viewpoints. They also had to present their own viewpoint and defend it thoroughly, using information from all of the sources to support the essay. As they referred to the sources, they had to identify them appropriately. Furthermore the essay had to be organized into clear paragraphs.

The course theme for the persuasive essay was *Identità privata e pubblica*, and the prompt asked students to express their own opinions on the practice of getting tattoos and body piercing. The response needed to be based on three different sources:

- a written article beginning with a brief historical discussion of the practices of getting one's body tattooed and pierced. The article maintained that these practices and ancient rituals once symbols of belonging to specific ethnic, religious and political groups have now become a modality of expression of personal history, emotions, and feelings.
- a table showing the percentages of university and high school students in the area of Naples who had tattoos and/or piercings and were aware of hygiene and health risks associated with those practices.
- an audio file presenting the point of view of an expert who spoke about the difficulty in terms of time, money, and pain of removing tattoos.

The prompt was in the form of a question and did not require previous knowledge of the topic. The three sources provided students with the contextual and content support to develop their essays. However, students were expected to understand the main idea(s) and supporting details of the three sources, understand unfamiliar vocabulary by inferring its meaning from the context, and comprehend paragraph length discourse, vocabulary, and structures. They were expected to demonstrate critical reading skills by distinguishing facts from opinions, understanding the intent of the text, and using all that information to develop and defend their arguments.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

The response shows an effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the three sources' viewpoints ("*le persone usano i tatuaggi e i piercing come forme di trasgressione*") and integrates content from all of them in support of the essay ("Sono d'accordo con fonte #1, perchè è importante di avere la conoscenza dei tutti rischi dei tatuaggi"; "Perchè alcuni tatuaggi sono dificili di eliminare, specificamente i tatuaggi dei molti colori (fonte # 3)"; "fonte numero due ha detto che ... studenti universitari sanno i rischi infettivi"). The essay presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with a high degree of clarity ("la pratica di farsi tatuaggi e piercing è una forma di espressione e creatività"; "io penso che i tatuaggi e piercing non siano un problema; è uno scelto, ed è parte della cultura"). The essay is organized into paragraphs that are well connected by transitional elements and cohesive devices ("A dispetto del"; "Inoltre"; "quindi"). The response is fully understandable, and occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility ("Questa significa che i tatuaggi

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

non siano cattivi o maligni per le vite quotidiane"). The vocabulary used is varied and appropriate. Grammar and syntax are generally accurate ("perchè i tatuaggi stanno sulle persone per molto tempo, i tatuaggi devono avere un simbolo per la persona"; "senza i tatuaggi alcune persone non possono avere la opportunità di vivere come loro vogliono"). This response earned a score of 5.

Sample: 2B Score: 3

The response indicates a suitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints ("Il chart dice che, anche, più persone sappano di rischi infettivi"). There are some inaccuracies ("ci sono più modi e medicini per aiutare le persone con infettivi in quest periodo"). The response summarizes content from two sources in support of the essay ("Fonte uno dice che i giovani della questa generazione hanno bisogno della una 'modalità di espressione'"; "Finalmente, in Fonte 3, sentiamo che un medico pensa"). The essay presents the student's own viewpoint on the topic ("Nel mio opinione, sarebbe il deciso della persona che avere un tatuaggio o un piercing"); however, there is not much development of a persuasive argument. The response shows some organization. There are mostly strings of simple sentences, with a few compound sentences. The essay is generally understandable, but some errors may impede comprehensibility ("ma devono aiutare per quando hanno molti anni"; "In conclusione, i tatuaggi può avere un po di cosi male de li, ma"). The student utilizes appropriate but basic vocabulary ("I tatuaggi e i piercing sono topici molto diversi nel nostro mondo"; "più persone hanno i tatuaggi e i piercing quando sono più maggiore"). There is some control of grammar, syntax, and usage ("In simile riguardo, i ragazzi vogliono una propria identità, individualità e indipendenza dai suoi genitori"; "un medico pensa che non sia un idea male per avere i tatuaggi"). This response earned a score of 3.

Sample: 2C Score: 1

The response shows almost no treatment of the topic within the context of the task. It demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints and consequently includes frequent and significant inaccuracies (*"il dottore Luciano dica i tatuaggi da malattie e voglia eliminare i tatuaggi"*; *"molti giovani pensano tatuaggi e piercing è un simbulo diversa*"). The essay mostly repeats statements from the sources (*"Studenti a universitari hanno malattie da virus associate ai tatuaggi e piercing*"). The response minimally suggests the student's viewpoint on the topic. The argument is underdeveloped or incoherent (*"No fai tatuaggi e piercing*"; *"Ho paura di infettivi e virus perche non voglio vomitare*"). There is little organization. The response presents very simple sentences or fragments (*"Quindici percente!"*; *"I tatuaggi sono male per salute"*), and it contains frequent errors that impede comprehensibility (*"Non sempre fa che è populare"*). There are very few vocabulary resources (*"Genetori influenca i figli e è un chain"*; *"Quando i giovani become vecchio, non sono contento con un decizione"*). There is little or no control of grammar (*"Vogli perdi soldi?"*; *"Non vedo buone anche"*). This response earned a score of 1.