

ITALIAN (Edexcel: A-Level 9IN01)

Over the centuries, Italy has produced some of the most remarkable cultural works in the western canon, from the Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri to Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. Historically, too, Italy has always been of great importance. In the Middle Ages cities such as Florence and Venice were among the richest and most powerful of Europe; it was Italy that produced the Renaissance, the culture and values of which have provided the foundations of much of western life in the last five hundred years; in the nineteenth century it provided one of the most exciting and inspiring examples of movement of national unification. In the 20th century Italy became one of the top eight world economies and political superpowers. Today Italy is one of the world's leading industrial democracies. It is the seventh largest global market for British exports, and the UK is the third largest supplier to Italy. In the UK today Italy has a high cultural profile: from football to fashion, food and film. In addition to the study of different topics, it is essential to develop both a comprehensive understanding of grammar and oral fluency. These aims are attained through a carefully structured language programme and weekly conversation classes. A-Level Italian is a demanding but rewarding subject. By the end of their course, students will have acquired a range of skills such as the ability to manipulate the language in writing, discuss topics logically and coherently, conduct research and write with clarity and precision.

Qualification aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of Italy and the Italian-speaking world
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of Italian
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of Italian in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of Italian and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- mediate between cultures and between speakers of the language and speakers of English
- foster their ability to learn other languages
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or employment.



WHERE NEXT?

Bella Massam

History and Italian at the University of Oxford

Studied History, Italian, English Literature and French