



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

ITALIAN: BACKGROUND LANGUAGE

ATAR COURSE

Year 11 syllabus

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Important information

This syllabus is effective from 1 January 2024.

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Rationale

The place of the Italian culture and language in Australia and in the world

Italian culture has played a central role in the formation of western civilisation. This role is evident in diverse fields, including the arts, politics, economics, philosophy, science and technology, architecture and gastronomy. The history of the Italian culture and language in Australia reflects this influence and also the history of Italian migration during the post-war period. While there had been small-scale migration in the previous century, the major migration of Italians to Australia began after the Second World War, reaching at its peak an average 18 000 people arriving each year in the decade 1951–1961. Most of the arrivals were from regions, such as Calabria, Sicily, Veneto and Campania. Their first language was a regional form of Standard Italian, a distinct regional language or a dialect of Italian. Only a minority were proficient in Italy's national language, Standard Italian, though most were partially familiar with it. The rich cultural diversity of Italy was mirrored in the language variations represented in the Italian community that established and grew into the largest non-English component of the Australian population. Italian-Australians are well represented in all domains of Australian life, including politics, law, the arts, education, sport, industry and entertainment.

Italian is currently the home language of approximately one million Australians who claim Italian ancestry. This constitutes the second largest community language group in Australia. It is an important international language, with millions of speakers around the world: a first language in Italy, the Vatican City, parts of Switzerland and San Marino; an official language of the European Union and of parts of Slovenia and Croatia; a major community language in several countries, such as Luxembourg, the USA, Canada, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and parts of Africa formerly under Italian rule, such as Somalia, Libya and Eritrea. It is an important language in international commerce, economics and trade; a world language with particular dominance in specific domains, such as design, architecture, fashion, cuisine, wine industries, cinema, opera and the arts. In the contemporary world, Italian represents a fusion of traditional experience and contemporary style, taste and creativity. Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with Italy. All over the country, Italian elements are evident in Australia's contemporary cosmopolitan life. As Italian is widely spoken in Australia, many opportunities exist to hear and use the language in real-life situations.

The place of the Italian language in Australian education

Italian has been taught in Australian schools and universities since the 1930s. At this time, it was offered alongside French and German as a 'language of culture'. The language was valued as providing access to the rich literary, musical and artistic heritage of Italy. In addition to the presence of this academic learning of Italian in schools, the Italian community established extensive Saturday morning schools to provide for Italian language learning for their children.

In the 1980s, Italian learning and teaching in Australia increased significantly in primary schools as a result of policies supporting multiculturalism. The Italian community groups organised 'insertion' programs, weekend and afterhours classes. This coincided with a new emphasis in all language teaching on linking schools directly to their communities, and moving away from a traditional grammar/literature focus to more communicatively oriented programs, with a focus on learning the language for 'real' use and interaction. Italian continues to be widely taught in the primary years, with enrolments being second only to students learning Japanese.

The nature of Italian language learning

Italian belongs to the Romance family of languages and is well-connected to its 'sibling' languages of Spanish, Portuguese and French. It has many commonalities and connections with English, sharing many Latin-derived words and operating with the same Roman alphabet. The meaning of many Italian words can be instantly recognised through their similarity to English, for example, *musica*, *dentista*, *professore*, although there are also 'false friends', for example, *eventualmente*, meaning possibly, not eventually. Over their shared history, Italian has influenced the English language significantly, with hundreds of Italian words commonly used in English. This means that many learners already have an aural sense of at least some of the sounds of the Italian language, and an awareness of some key cultural characteristics and influences. There are points of difference between Italian and English grammars, for example, variations in word order, tense use, absence of some articles and the gendering of nouns and adjectives, but overall the Italian language is not linguistically or culturally distant for English-speaking learners. It is a mostly phonetic language, pronounced generally as it is written, which is helpful especially in the development of listening and speaking skills. There is clear emphasis on all syllables, and intonation follows regular rhythms and patterns. As Italian is widely spoken in Australia many opportunities exist to hear and use the language in real-life situations as well as through Italian media in Australia and actual and virtual connections with Italian communities in Italy and beyond.

The diversity of learners of Italian

Italian language programs in Australian schools are offered to a range of learners. Many are monolingual English speakers for whom learning Italian represents a first experience of learning a second language. Many others have existing connections with Italian, most directly as background Italian speakers, or as second or third generation Italian-Australians, or through professional, personal or other forms of cultural connection.

The WACE Italian courses

In Western Australia, there are three Italian courses. The courses are differentiated; each focusing on a pathway that will meet the specific language learning needs of a particular group of senior secondary students. Within each of these groups, there are differences in proficiency in using the Italian language and cultural systems.

The following courses are available:

- Italian: Second Language ATAR
- Italian: Second Language General
- Italian: Background Language ATAR.

The Italian: Background Language ATAR course

This course focuses on building on and further developing a student's language capability through engagement with the Italian-speaking communities, locally and overseas, and through the study of contemporary texts, topics and issues. It enables students to strengthen their personal connections to the Italian culture and language, and enhances the development of their bilingual competence and bicultural identity.

This course is aimed at students who have typically been brought up in a home where Italian is used, and they have a connection to that culture. These students have some degree of understanding and knowledge of Italian. They have received all or most of their formal education in schools where English, or a language other than Italian, is the medium of instruction. Students may have undertaken some study of Italian in a community, primary and/or secondary school in Australia. Students may have had formal education in a school where Italian is the medium of instruction, and may have spent some time in a country where it is a medium of communication.

For information on the Italian: Second Language General and the Italian: Second Language ATAR courses, refer to the course page on the Authority website at www.scsa.wa.edu.au.

Application for enrolment in a language course

All students wishing to study a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) language course are required to complete an online application for permission to enrol in a WACE language course in the year prior to first enrolment in the course.

Course outcomes

The Italian: Background Language ATAR course is designed to facilitate achievement of the following outcomes.

Outcome 1 – Listening and responding

Students listen and respond to a range of texts.

In achieving this outcome, students:

- use understandings of language, structure and context when listening and responding to texts
- use processes and strategies to make meaning when listening.

Outcome 2 – Spoken interaction

Students communicate in Italian through spoken interaction.

In achieving this outcome, students:

- use understandings of language and structure in spoken interactions
- interact for a range of purposes in a variety of contexts
- use processes and strategies to enhance spoken interaction.

Outcome 3 – Viewing, reading and responding

Students view, read and respond to a range of texts.

In achieving this outcome, students:

- use understandings of language, structure and context to respond to texts
- use processes and strategies to make meaning when viewing and reading.

Outcome 4 – Writing

Students write a variety of texts in Italian.

In achieving this outcome, students:

- use understandings of language and structure when writing
- write for a range of purposes and in a variety of contexts
- use processes and strategies to enhance writing.

Organisation

This course is organised into a Year 11 syllabus and a Year 12 syllabus. The cognitive complexity of the syllabus content increases from Year 11 to Year 12.

Structure of the syllabus

The Year 11 syllabus is divided into two units, each of one semester duration, which are typically delivered as a pair. The notional time for each unit is 55 class contact hours.

Unit 1

This unit focuses on the three topics: Young people and their relationships, Traditions and values in a contemporary society, and Our changing environment. Through these three topics, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the Italian language.

Unit 2

This unit focuses on the three topics: Pressures in today's society, Italian identity in the Australian context, and Media and communication. Through these three topics, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the Italian language.

Each unit includes:

- a unit description – a short description of the focus of the unit
- unit content – the content to be taught and learned.

Organisation of content

The course content is organised into five content areas:

- Learning contexts and topics
- Text types and kinds of writing
- Linguistic resources
- Intercultural understandings
- Language learning and communication strategies.

These content areas should not be considered in isolation, but rather holistically as content areas that complement one another, and that are interrelated and interdependent.

Learning contexts and topics

Each unit is defined with a particular focus, three learning contexts and a set of topics.

The learning contexts are:

- The individual
- The Italian-speaking communities
- The changing world.

Each learning context has a set of topics that promote meaningful communication and enable students to extend their understanding of the Italian language and culture. The placement of topics under one or more of the three learning contexts is intended to provide a particular perspective, or perspectives, on each of the topics.

Text types and kinds of writing

Text types are categories of print, spoken, visual, or audiovisual text, identified in terms of purpose, audience and features.

In learning a language, it is necessary to engage with, and produce, a wide variety of text types and kinds of writing. Text types vary across languages and cultures and provide information about the society and culture in which they are produced. Students are encouraged to listen to, read and view a range of texts and be provided with opportunities to practise them.

Students should also be made aware of the defining characteristics of different texts and different kinds of writing. In school-based assessments and the WACE examinations, students are expected to respond to, or to produce, a range of spoken and written text types in Italian, and to produce the following kinds of writing: informative, evaluative, persuasive and reflective. Text types and kinds of writing for assessment and examinations are defined in Appendix 3.

Linguistic resources

Linguistic resources are the specific elements of language that are necessary for communication. Acquiring linguistic resources allows for the development of knowledge, skills and understandings relevant to the vocabulary, grammar and sound and writing systems of Italian.

In the Italian: Background Language ATAR course, students deepen their knowledge and understanding of the structure of Italian. Students will need to use Italian at a sophisticated level, with a wide range of vocabulary and idiom, and a depth and breadth of language use, particularly to accommodate the language necessary for communication within, and about, the topics.

Intercultural understandings

Intercultural understandings involve developing knowledge, awareness and understanding to communicate and interact effectively across languages and cultures. Students with a background in the Italian language and/or culture, already have experience of negotiating between that culture and language, as well as their Australian cultural identity. The Italian: Background Language ATAR course provides opportunities for these students to reflect and analyse cultural practices and norms in an ongoing process of interpretation, self-reflection, comparison and negotiation, and to enable students to learn more about, better understand and eventually to move between their cultures and languages.

Language learning and communication strategies

Language learning and communication strategies are processes, techniques and skills relevant to:

- supporting learning and the acquisition of language
- making meaning from texts
- producing texts
- engaging in spoken interaction.

These strategies support and enhance the development of literacy skills and enable further development of cognitive skills through thinking critically and analytically, solving problems, and making connections. Students should be taught these strategies explicitly and be provided with opportunities to practise them.

Progression from the Year 7–10 curriculum

The Year 7–10 Languages curriculum is organised through two interrelated strands: Communicating and Understanding. Communicating is broadly focused on using language for communicative purposes in interpreting, creating, and exchanging meaning, whereas Understanding involves examining language and culture as resources for interpreting and creating meaning. Together, these strands reflect three important aspects of language learning: performance of communication, analysing various aspects of language and culture involved in communication, and understanding oneself as a communicator.

This syllabus continues to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure students communicate in Italian, understand language, culture and learning and their relationship, and thereby develop an intercultural capability in communication.

Representation of the general capabilities

The general capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century. Teachers may find opportunities to incorporate the capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Italian: Background Language ATAR course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Literacy

For language learners, literacy involves skills and knowledge that need guidance, time and support to develop. These skills include:

- developing an ability to decode and encode from sound to written systems
- mastering of grammatical, orthographic, and textual conventions
- developing semantic, pragmatic, and critical literacy skills.

For learners of Italian, literacy development in the language also extends literacy development in their first language and English.

Numeracy

Learning languages affords opportunities for learners to develop, use and understand, patterns, order and relationships, to reinforce concepts, such as number, time, and space, in their own and in different cultural and linguistic systems.

Information and communication technology capability

Information and communication technology (ICT) extends the boundaries of the classroom and provides opportunities to develop information technology capabilities as well as linguistic and cultural knowledge.

Critical and creative thinking

As students learn to interact with people from diverse backgrounds, and as they explore and reflect critically, they learn to notice, connect, compare, and analyse aspects of the Italian language and culture. As a result, they develop critical thinking skills as well as analytical and problem-solving skills.

Personal and social capability

Learning to interact in a collaborative and respectful manner is a key element of personal and social competence. Recognising that people view and experience the world in different ways is an essential aspect of learning another language.

Ethical understanding

In learning a language, students learn to acknowledge and value difference in their interactions with others and to develop respect for diverse ways of perceiving the world.

Intercultural understanding

Learning a language involves working with, and moving between, languages and cultures. This movement between languages and cultures is what makes the experience intercultural. Intercultural understandings is one of the five content areas of this course.

Representation of the cross-curriculum priorities

The cross-curriculum priorities address the contemporary issues which students face in a globalised world. Teachers may find opportunities to incorporate the priorities into the teaching and learning program for the Italian: Background Language ATAR course. The cross-curriculum priorities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Learning Italian provides opportunities to develop an understanding of concepts related to language and culture in general and make intercultural comparisons across languages, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

In learning Italian, students may engage with a range of texts and concepts related to:

- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- languages and cultures of Asia
- people of Asian heritage within Australia.

Sustainability

In learning Italian, students may engage with a range of texts and concepts related to sustainability, such as:

- the environment
- conservation
- social and political change
- how language and culture evolve.

Unit 1

Unit description

In Unit 1, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the Italian language.

Unit content

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below.

Learning contexts and topics

Unit 1 is organised around three learning contexts and a set of three topics. Engaging with the topics from the perspective of the different learning contexts provides students with opportunities to understand how language is created for particular purposes, and how it can be understood differently by different audiences. As a result, students develop the ability to express, in speech and in writing, their own insights and reflections, and compare them with those of others.

Learning contexts	Topics
<p>The individual</p> <p>Students explore aspects of their personal world, aspirations, values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. They also study topics from the perspectives of other people.</p>	<p>Young people and their relationships</p> <p>Students reflect on their relationships with family and their connections with friends.</p>
<p>The Italian-speaking communities</p> <p>Students explore topics from the perspectives of individuals and groups within those communities, or the communities as a whole, and develop an understanding of how culture and identity are expressed through language.</p>	<p>Traditions and values in a contemporary society</p> <p>Students explore how the traditions and values of Italian-speaking communities are maintained.</p>
<p>The changing world</p> <p>Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community.</p>	<p>Our changing environment</p> <p>Students explore global environmental issues.</p>

Refer to Appendix 2 for a list of suggested sub-topics for delivery of the unit topics.

Text types and kinds of writing

It is necessary for students to engage with a range of text types and kinds of writing. In school-based assessments, students are expected to produce the following kinds of writing: informative, evaluative, persuasive and reflective. They are also expected to respond to, and to produce, a range of text types in Italian from the list below.

- account
- advertisement
- announcement
- article
- blog posting
- cartoon
- chart
- conversation
- description
- diary entry
- discussion
- email
- film or TV program (excerpts)
- form
- image
- interview
- journal entry
- letter
- map
- message
- note
- plan
- review
- script – speech, interview, dialogue
- sign
- summary
- table

Refer to Appendix 3 for details of the features and conventions of the text types and characteristics of the kinds of writing.

Linguistic resources

Vocabulary

Vocabulary, phrases and expressions associated with the unit content.

Grammar

Students will be expected to recognise and use the following grammatical items:

Grammatical items	Sub-elements
Prefixes	adjectives, nouns, verbs
Pronouns	combination (direct and indirect) pronouns
Speech	direct, indirect
Suffixes	nouns adjectives ⇔ nouns nouns ⇔ adjectives adjective/noun ⇔ verbs
Verbs – moods/tenses	causative construction with <i>fare</i>
	conditional mood – perfect
	gerund past gerund
	future perfect tense
	progressive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present • imperfect • future
	subjunctive mood – imperfect
Voice	active, passive

Refer to Appendix 4 for elaborations of grammatical items.

Sound and writing systems

In the Italian: Background Language ATAR course, students show understanding and apply knowledge of the Italian sound and writing systems to communicate effectively information, ideas and opinions in a variety of situations.

Intercultural understandings

The learning contexts and topics, the textual conventions of the text types and kinds of writing selected, and the linguistic resources for the unit, should provide students with opportunities to further develop their linguistic and intercultural competence, and enable them to reflect on the ways in which culture influences communication.

Language learning and communication strategies

Language learning and communication strategies will depend upon the needs of the students and the learning experiences and/or communication activities taking place.

Dictionaries

Students should be encouraged to use dictionaries and develop the necessary skills and confidence to do so effectively.

Unit 2

Unit description

In Unit 2, students build on their intercultural and linguistic skills to gain a deeper understanding of the Italian language.

Unit content

This unit builds on the content covered in Unit 1.

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below.

Learning contexts and topics

Unit 2 is organised around three learning contexts and a set of three topics. Engaging with the topics from the perspective of the different learning contexts provides students with opportunities to understand how language is created for particular purposes and how it can be understood differently by different audiences. As a result, students develop the ability to express, in speech and in writing, their own insights and reflections, and compare them with those of others.

Learning contexts	Topics
<p>The individual</p> <p>Students explore aspects of their personal world, aspirations, values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. They also study topics from the perspectives of other people.</p>	<p>Pressures in today's society</p> <p>Students reflect on a range of personal and social pressures and the relevance of these in their own lives.</p>
<p>The Italian-speaking communities</p> <p>Students explore topics from the perspectives of individuals and groups within those communities or the communities as a whole, and develop an understanding of how culture and identity are expressed through language.</p>	<p>Italian identity in the Australian context</p> <p>Students explore the place of Italian-speaking communities in Australia through migration experiences.</p>
<p>The changing world</p> <p>Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community.</p>	<p>Media and communication</p> <p>Students explore the media and new technologies and their impact on society.</p>

Refer to Appendix 2 for a list of suggested sub-topics for delivery of the unit topics.

Text types and kinds of writing

It is necessary for students to engage with a range of text types and kinds of writing. In school-based assessments, students are expected to produce the following kinds of writing: informative, evaluative, persuasive and reflective. They are also expected to respond to, and to produce, a range of text types in Italian from the list below.

- account
- advertisement
- announcement
- article
- blog posting
- cartoon
- chart
- conversation
- description
- diary entry
- discussion
- email
- film or TV program (excerpts)
- form
- image
- interview
- journal entry
- letter
- map
- message
- note
- plan
- review
- script – speech, interview, dialogue
- sign
- summary
- table

Refer to Appendix 3 for details of the features and conventions of the text types and characteristics of the kinds of writing.

Linguistic resources

Vocabulary

Vocabulary, phrases and expressions associated with the unit content.

Grammar

Students will be expected to recognise and use the following grammatical items:

Grammatical items	Sub-elements
Prefixes	adjectives, nouns, verbs
Pronouns	combination (direct and indirect) pronouns
Speech	direct, indirect
Suffixes	nouns adjectives ⇔ nouns nouns ⇔ adjectives adjective/noun ⇔ verbs
Verbs -moods/tenses	causative construction with <i>fare</i>
	conditional mood – perfect
	gerund past gerund
	future perfect tense
	progressive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present • imperfect • future
	subjunctive mood – imperfect
Voice	active, passive

Refer to Appendix 4 for elaborations of grammatical items.

Sound and writing systems

In the Italian: Background Language ATAR course, students show understanding and apply knowledge of the Italian sound and writing systems to communicate effectively information, ideas and opinions in a variety of situations.

Intercultural understandings

The learning contexts and topics, the textual conventions of the text types and kinds of writing selected, and the linguistic resources for the unit, should provide students with opportunities to further develop their linguistic and intercultural competence, and enable them to reflect on the ways in which culture influences communication.

Language learning and communication strategies

Language learning and communication strategies will depend upon the needs of the students and the learning experiences and/or communication activities taking place.

Dictionaries

Students should be encouraged to use dictionaries and develop the necessary skills and confidence to do so effectively.

School-based assessment

The *Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Manual* contains essential information on principles, policies and procedures for school-based assessment that needs to be read in conjunction with this syllabus.

Teachers design school-based assessment tasks to meet the needs of students. The table below provides details of the assessment types for the Italian: Background Language ATAR Year 11 syllabus and the weighting for each assessment type.

Assessment table – Year 11

Type of assessment	Weighting
<p>Oral communication</p> <p>Interaction with others, to exchange information, ideas, opinions, and/or experiences in spoken Italian. This can involve participating in an interview, a conversation and/or a discussion. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.</p>	20%
<p>Response: Listening</p> <p>Comprehension and interpretation of, and response to, a range of Italian spoken texts, such as interviews, announcements, advertisements, messages, conversations and/or discussions. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.</p>	15%
<p>Response: Viewing and reading</p> <p>Comprehension and interpretation of, and response to, a range of Italian print and/or audiovisual texts, such as emails, blog postings, films/television programs (excerpts), letters, reviews and/or articles. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.</p>	15%
<p>Written communication</p> <p>Production of written texts to express information, ideas, opinions and/or experiences in Italian. This can involve responding to a stimulus, such as a blog posting, an email and/or a chart or writing a text, such as a journal/diary entry, an account, a review, a summary and/or an email. Typically these tasks are administered under test conditions.</p>	20%
<p>Practical (oral) examination</p> <p>Typically conducted at the end of each semester and/or unit. This can involve an interview and/or a conversation based on the topics in the unit(s).</p>	10%
<p>Written examination</p> <p>Typically conducted at the end of each semester and/or unit. In preparation for Unit 3 and Unit 4, the examination should reflect the examination design brief included in the ATAR Year 12 syllabus for this course.</p>	20%

Teachers are required to use the assessment table to develop an assessment outline for the pair of units (or for a single unit where only one is being studied).

The assessment outline must:

- include a set of assessment tasks
- include a general description of each task
- indicate the unit content to be assessed
- indicate a weighting for each task and each assessment type
- include the approximate timing of each task (for example, the week the task is conducted, or the issue and submission dates for an extended task).

In the assessment outline for the pair of units, each assessment type must be included at least once over the year/pair of units. In the assessment outline where a single unit is being studied, each assessment type must be included at least once.

The set of assessment tasks must provide a representative sampling of the content for Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Assessment tasks not administered under test/controlled conditions require appropriate validation/authentication processes.

Grading

Schools report student achievement in terms of the following grades:

Grade	Interpretation
A	Excellent achievement
B	High achievement
C	Satisfactory achievement
D	Limited achievement
E	Very low achievement

The teacher prepares a ranked list and assigns the student a grade for the pair of units (or for a unit where only one unit is being studied). The grade is based on the student's overall performance as judged by reference to a set of pre-determined standards. These standards are defined by grade descriptions and annotated work samples. The grade descriptions for the Italian: Background Language ATAR Year 11 syllabus are provided in Appendix 1. They can also be accessed, together with annotated work samples, through the Guide to Grades link on the course page of the Authority website at www.scsa.wa.edu.au.

To be assigned a grade, a student must have had the opportunity to complete the education program, including the assessment program (unless the school accepts that there are exceptional and justifiable circumstances).

Refer to the *WACE Manual* for further information about the use of a ranked list in the process of assigning grades.

Appendix 1 – Grade descriptions Year 11

A

Written production and oral production

Manipulates Italian effectively to communicate a range of ideas and opinions relevant to context, purpose and audience.

Formulates logical arguments and justifies points of view consistently, and shows highly effective use of textual references.

Reflects on and applies knowledge and understanding of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context, where relevant.

Uses Italian with a high degree of accuracy and uses vocabulary and language conventions effectively.

Influence of accent/dialect may be evident in pronunciation, choice of vocabulary or sentence structure; however, meaning is fluently conveyed.

Organises information coherently and expresses ideas effectively.

Comprehension

Competently summarises and synthesises key points and details in texts and provides detailed analysis with insight and interpretation.

B

Written production and oral production

Uses Italian effectively to communicate a range of ideas and opinions relevant to context, purpose and audience.

Formulates logical arguments and justifies points of view.

Shows effective use of textual references.

Applies some knowledge and understanding of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context.

Uses vocabulary and a range of language conventions mostly accurately and effectively.

Influence of accent/dialect may be evident; however, meaning is effectively conveyed.

Organises information logically and develops ideas clearly.

Comprehension

Able to extract and synthesises most relevant key points and details in texts with some analysis and interpretation.

C

Written production and oral production

Uses Italian mostly effectively to communicate ideas and opinions relevant to context, purpose and audience.

Shows some ability to express and support a point of view.

Applies some knowledge of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context.

Uses vocabulary and language conventions mostly accurately.

Some influence of accent/dialect may be evident; however, meaning is effectively conveyed.

Shows some organisation and sequencing of ideas and information.

Comprehension

Extracts and summarises some relevant information from texts with limited analysis and interpretation.

D**Written production and oral production**

Communicates simple, personal ideas and basic information in Italian.

Displays some ability to express a point of view using predominantly well-rehearsed, simple vocabulary and language conventions.

Shows some awareness of the relationships between language, culture and identity in a bilingual context.

Uses familiar vocabulary, simple sentence structures and learned expressions mostly accurately.

Influence of accent/dialect may be evident and may affect fluency and ability to convey meaning clearly and effectively.

Comprehension

Extracts and summarises some relevant information from texts with limited analysis.

E

Does not meet the requirements of a D grade.

Appendix 2 – Suggested sub-topics to guide the treatment of topics in Unit 1 and Unit 2

Each unit has a number of topics with which students will engage in their study of Italian. The following suggested sub-topics are provided to guide students and teachers as to how the topics may be treated. The list is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Learning contexts	Unit 1	Unit 2
<p>The individual</p> <p>Students explore aspects of their personal world, aspirations, values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. They also study topics from the perspectives of other people.</p>	<p>Young people and their relationships</p> <p>Students reflect on their relationships with family and their connections with friends.</p> <p>Suggested sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature of friendship • the importance of family • relationships with family and friends • changing relationships between generations • popular youth culture • peer group pressure and conflict. 	<p>Pressures in today's society</p> <p>Students reflect on a range of personal and social pressures and the relevance of these in their own lives.</p> <p>Suggested sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coping with change • tolerance of others • peer and social pressures • gender roles in today's society • self-image.
<p>The Italian-speaking communities</p> <p>Students explore topics from the perspectives of individuals and groups within those communities, or the communities as a whole, and develop an understanding of how culture and identity are expressed through language.</p>	<p>Traditions and values in a contemporary society</p> <p>Students explore how the traditions and values of Italian-speaking communities are maintained.</p> <p>Suggested sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of traditions and values • lifestyles, past and present • rural and urban life: a comparison • leisure pursuits • the importance of preserving tradition • the family in contemporary society • the individual and the community. 	<p>Italian identity in the Australian context</p> <p>Students explore the place of Italian-speaking communities in Australia through migration experiences.</p> <p>Suggested sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the contribution of the Italian-speaking communities to the Australian community • the Australian-Italian identity • migration experiences • vice versa: an Australian in an Italian-speaking community • ethnic and national identity • adapting to new cultures (education, work, lifestyle) • bicultural identity • maintaining the Italian culture in Australia.
<p>The changing world</p> <p>Students explore information and communication technologies and the effects of change and current issues in the global community.</p>	<p>Our changing environment</p> <p>Students explore global environmental issues.</p> <p>Suggested sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserving the environment • traditional and renewable energy sources • environmental pressure groups • ecotourism. 	<p>Media and communication</p> <p>Students explore the media and new technologies and their impact on society.</p> <p>Suggested sub-topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • media in a contemporary society • the social effects of new technologies • advertising and the language of persuasion • the culture of celebrity.

Appendix 3 – Text types and kinds of writing

These lists are provided to enable a common understanding of the text types and kinds of writing listed in the syllabus.

Text Type	Definition
Account	In both spoken and written form, accounts retell something that happened: a story. Accounts have a title and are often in the first person. They describe a series of events or experiences, are often presented in a logical manner and at the conclusion there may be a resolution. Language is either formal or informal, with time words used to connect ideas, and action words used to describe events.
Advertisement	Advertisements promote a product or service. Emotive, factual or persuasive language is used in an informal or colloquial register. They often use abbreviated words and sentences, comparatives and superlatives, and may be in spoken, written or graphic form.
Announcement	In both spoken and written form, announcements present factual information about an event that has recently occurred or is about to occur. They may also be in graphic form. Announcements can sometimes use a formal register, but may also be in informal or colloquial register. They include factual, straightforward language with little elaboration, and present information in a logical sequence.
Article	Articles consist of a section of text from a newspaper, a magazine, a web page, or other publication. Typically, articles have a title that indicates the content. They are usually in a formal register and the language in an article can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on the context. Within an article, ideas or opinions are developed. Articles often end with a statement of conclusion or advice to the reader. They may be accompanied by a graphic, if necessary. Articles can be reproduced directly, or can be modified to make the language more accessible for students.
Blog posting	Web logs (blogs) are basically journals that are available on the World Wide Web. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. Typically, blogs combine text, images, and link to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to their topic. Students will generally be required to write a response to a blog (a posting). Postings can sometimes use a formal register, but may also be in informal or colloquial register. The language in a blog posting can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on the context.
Cartoon	Cartoons or comic strips represent a drawing or sequence of drawings arranged in panels to display brief humour, or form a narrative with text in balloons and captions. The language in a cartoon or comic strip can be subjective or objective, descriptive, factual, judgemental, humorous, emotive, or persuasive, depending on context and may involve a range of tenses. A cartoon or comic strip may illustrate or describe an event, or series of events, often presented in a logical sequence, and at the conclusion there may be a resolution.
Chart	Charts organise and represent a set of data in a diagram or table. They may also visually represent knowledge, concepts, thoughts, or ideas. They are typically graphical and contain very little text. Charts include a title that provides a succinct description of what the data in the chart refers to, and contain key words that readers are looking for. They are usually in a formal register.

Text Type	Definition
Conversation	In both spoken and written form, conversations often begin with an exchange of opening salutations, are followed by a question or statement, and then a two-way sustained interaction. The language is often authentic, informal and conversational in style, sometimes with interjections, incomplete sentences, pauses and fillers. The register of conversations will often depend on the context and relationship between participants.
Description	Descriptions of people, places, animals, events or feelings, or a combination of these, can often be found within another context (letter, article, etc.) Information can be presented in an objective or subjective way. Details are presented to create a clear image for the reader. Extravagant language or superlatives may be used to emphasise an impression, atmosphere or mood. Descriptions may contain references to sight, sound, smell, touch, taste or feelings.
Diary entry	Diary entries record personal reflections, comments, information or experiences of the writer. The language of diary entries should generally be informal and colloquial and entries are often written in the first person. Entries use subjective language to give a clear sense of the writer's personality, and to explain their feelings and emotions. The layout should appear authentic, provide a sense of time and sequence, and possibly a place name.
Discussion	In both spoken and written form, discussions are used to present different ideas and opinions on a particular issue or topic. They often use a formal register, but may also be informal. The language of discussions uses comparison and contrast words, linking words, and language that indicates judgements and values.
Email	The language of email messages could be formal or informal, depending on the context. A message from one friend to another should be colloquial. A business-related message should use a more formal register. Although authentic emails often do not have either a salutation at the beginning, or a signature at the end, they should have both in assessment usage in order to indicate more clearly the context of the message.
Film or TV program (excerpts)	Excerpts are segments taken from a longer work of a television program or a film. They are often used to illustrate and strengthen understanding of a topic, provide a description of characters and settings, or present a series of events in a logical progression. Depending on the context, excerpts may be either in formal or informal register, present a range of tenses, or contain language that can be subjective or objective, descriptive, factual, judgemental, humorous, emotive, or persuasive.
Form	Forms contain a series of questions asked of individuals to obtain information about a given position, focus or topic, etc. In their design, they have a title, contact details and questions. Forms may include categories. The language of forms is often objective and includes descriptive words, a range of tenses, and a variety of questions to address. As a response, students could be asked to complete a form or respond to questions or criteria in an application, for example, for a job.
Image	Images can frequently be used on their own, as they communicate ideas in much more complete and complex ways than words alone. At other times, they are included with a title or caption or other text as a stimulus for response. Images should always complement and provide information on the topic or text.

Text Type	Definition
Interview	In both spoken and written form, interviews often begin with an exchange of opening salutations, are followed by a question or statement, and then a two-way sustained interaction. The language is often authentic, informal and conversational in style, sometimes with interjections, incomplete sentences, pauses and fillers. The register of interviews will often depend on the context and relationship between participants.
Journal entry	Journal entries record personal reflections, comments, information, or experiences of the writer. The language of journal entries should generally be informal and colloquial, and entries are often written in the first person. Entries use subjective language to give a clear sense of the writer's personality, and to explain their feelings and emotions. The layout should appear authentic, provide a sense of time and sequence, and possibly a place name.
Letter	<p>Formal letters are written communication in formal contexts to convey/request information, to lodge a complaint, or to express an opinion. The layout of a formal letter must include the date, the address of sender and recipient, and a formal greeting and phrase of farewell. The language should be in formal register and deal with a business or other specific topic. Common features of a formal letter are the use of objective language, full sentences and paragraphs, frequent use of formulaic language, and a logical and cohesive sequence of ideas.</p> <p>Informal letters are written communication with acquaintances, friends and family, to inform or to amuse. The layout of an informal letter can be less stylised than a formal letter; possibly with only the date, the address of the sender, and a casual greeting and a phrase of farewell. The language can be informal and colloquial and the content can be simple and casual. Common features of an informal letter are the use of subjective language, sentence structure often less complex than in formal letters, and a logical and cohesive sequence of ideas.</p>
Map	Maps are a form of symbolisation, governed by a set of conventions that aim to instruct, inform or communicate a sense of place. Maps are usually in a formal register and frequently use formulaic expressions. They should have a title, orientation, scale, longitude and latitude, an index grid and a symbols translator. They can be reproduced directly or can be modified to make the language more accessible for students.
Message	In both spoken and written form, messages are objects of communication that inform, request, instruct or remind. The written forms are less formal than informal letters and are often used to convey information left on an answering machine, on a mobile phone, or in a telephone call. They have a salutation and a signing off, but the content should be brief and to the point, and convey a specific piece of information with little extra detail.
Note	Notes are written to inform, request, instruct or remind. They are less formal than informal letters. Notes have a salutation and a signing off, but the content should be brief and to the point, and convey a specific piece of information with little extra detail.

Text Type	Definition
Plan	<p>Plans are created by individuals to record what they are going to do. They can be any diagram or list of steps, with timing and resources used, to achieve an objective. Plans provide specific details, and depending on the context, may be either in formal or informal register, present a range of tenses, or contain language that can be subjective or objective, descriptive, factual, judgemental, humorous, emotive or persuasive.</p> <p>Plans can also be a form of symbolisation, governed by a set of conventions, that aim to instruct, inform or communicate a sense of place. Plans are usually in a formal register and frequently use formulaic expressions. They should have a title, orientation, scale, longitude and latitude, an index grid and a symbols translator.</p>
Review	<p>Reviews are evaluations of publications, such as films, songs, musical performances, novels or stories. The plot summary and description of the work or performance form the majority of the review. The language and structure are formal; however, more personal and evaluative comments are often included. A title should be given.</p>
Script – speech, interview, dialogue	<p>Scripts are written forms of speeches, interviews or dialogues that communicate and exchange ideas, information, opinions and experiences. Scripts would generally have only two speakers, possibly an interviewer and an interviewee, but each speaker must be clearly identified. A script often begins with an exchange of opening salutations, is followed by a question or statement and then a two-way sustained interaction. The language is often authentic, informal and conversational in style, sometimes with interjections, incomplete sentences, and pauses and fillers to maintain the conversation. The language level of scripts will often depend on the context and relationship between participants.</p>
Sign	<p>Signs convey a meaning. They present factual information about an object, a situation that exists, or an event that is about to occur. Signs use a formal register and are most often in graphic form.</p>
Summary	<p>Summaries present the essential points and relevant details from an original text. A summary will often have a title, an introduction, content and a conclusion. They often require the use of full sentences and may contain reported speech. The language of summaries may either be formal or informal.</p>
Table	<p>Tables organise and represent a set of data in a diagram or table. They may also visually represent knowledge, concepts, thoughts, or ideas. Tables are typically graphical, containing very little text; however, they do include a title that provides a succinct description of what the data in the chart or table refers to. They are usually in a formal register.</p>

Kinds of writing	
Informative	Informative texts convey information as clearly, comprehensively and as accurately as possible. The language should generally be formal, and in an objective style with impersonal expressions used. Normally, no particular point of view is conveyed; rather, facts, examples, explanations, analogies, and sometimes statistical information, quotations, and references are provided as evidence. The language is clear and unambiguous, and information is structured and sequenced logically. The writing contains few adjectives, adverbs and images, except as examples or analogies in explanation.
Evaluative	Evaluative texts give a balanced view of both sides of a case, weighing up two or more items or ideas, in order to convince the reader rationally and objectively, that a particular point of view is correct. The writing presents two or more important aspects of an issue or sides of an argument, and discusses these, using evidence to support the contrasting sides or alternatives. The style is objective, appealing to reason rather than emotion, in order to create an impression of balance and impartiality. The writing often includes expressions of cause, consequence, opposition and concession.
Persuasive	Persuasive texts aim to convert the reader to a particular point of view or attitude in order to convince them to act or respond in a certain way. The writer attempts to manipulate the reader's emotions and opinions, giving logical reasons and supporting evidence to defend the position or recommend action. The language used may be extravagant, using exaggeration, superlatives, and humour, to create a relationship between the writer and the reader.
Reflective	Reflective texts explore opinions or events for greater understanding, and try to convey something personal to the reader. Generally using a personal voice, these texts allow the writer to examine their own beliefs, values and attitudes. The language used is often emotive, as writing involves personal responses to experiences, events, opinions and situations.

Appendix 4 – Elaborations of grammatical items

Elaborations are examples that accompany the grammatical items and sub-elements. They are intended to assist teachers to understand what is to be taught. They are not intended to be complete or comprehensive, but are provided as support only.

Units 1 and 2		
Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Prefixes	adjectives	For example, <i>con-</i> , <i>stra-</i> , <i>s-</i> <i>convinto</i> , <i>straordinario</i> , <i>scorretto</i>
	nouns	For example, <i>bi-</i> , <i>sotto-</i> <i>bilingue</i> , <i>sottopassaggio</i>
	verbs	For example, <i>in-</i> , <i>intro-</i> , <i>ri</i> <i>investire</i> , <i>intromettersi ritrovare</i>
Pronouns	combination (direct and indirect) pronouns	<i>Gliele l'ho prestata.</i> <i>Ce l'aveva chiesto.</i> <i>Dimmelo di nuovo!</i> <i>Non gliele dare!/Non dargliele!</i>
Speech	direct	<i>Marcello: Non mi andava di vedere quel film.</i> <i>Marina: Quando vai in Italia?</i>
	indirect	<i>Marcello ha detto che non gli andava di vedere quel film.</i> <i>Marina mi ha domandato quando sarei andato in Italia.</i>
Suffixes	nouns	For example, <i>-eria</i> , <i>-icio</i> , <i>-iere</i> <i>gelateria</i> , <i>panificio</i> , <i>barbiere</i>
	adjectives ⇔ nouns	For example, <i>-ezza</i> , <i>-ia</i> <i>tristezza</i> , <i>grandezza</i> , <i>allegria</i> , <i>amicizia</i>
	nouns ⇔ adjectives	For example, <i>-ato</i> , <i>-are</i> , <i>-ale</i> <i>fortunato</i> , <i>salutare</i> , <i>commerciale</i>
	adjective/noun ⇔ verbs	For example, <i>-are</i> , <i>-ere</i> , <i>-ire</i> <i>cantare</i> , <i>sciare</i> , <i>vestire</i> , <i>schiaffeggiare</i> , <i>scandalizzare</i>
Verbs – moods/tenses	causative construction with <i>fare</i>	<i>Ti facciamo portare da nostro padre.</i> <i>L'ho fatto mandare tramite lui.</i> <i>Mi sono fatta tagliare i capelli.</i>
	conditional mood – perfect	<i>avrei capito</i> , <i>avrebbe avuto</i> , <i>sarebbero venuti</i> <i>Aveva promesso che avrebbe telefonato ogni giorno.</i> <i>Sarei venuta ma non ho avuto tempo.</i>
	future perfect tense	<i>Quando i risultati degli esami saranno usciti organizzerò una festa.</i> <i>Quando avrò finito la scuola mi prenderò un anno sabbatico.</i>
	gerund – present and past	<i>Parlando francamente, quel film non mi è piaciuto.</i> <i>Essendo partiti in ritardo non siamo arrivati per l'inizio del film</i>

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
	progressive – present/imperfect/future	<i>Cosa state facendo? Stiamo studiando la matematica.</i> <i>Luigi stava dormendo quando sono entrato.</i> <i>Marta starà dormendo.</i>
Verbs – moods/tenses	subjunctive mood – imperfect	<i>parlassi, scrivessi, sentissi, capissi, avessi, fossi</i> <i>Credevo che avessero ragione.</i> <i>Non c'era nessuno che ci capisse.</i>
Voice	active	<i>Giovanni ha mandato questo messaggio.</i> <i>Il preside e il vice-preside l'hanno deciso.</i>
	passive	<i>Questo messaggio è stato mandato da Giovanni.</i> <i>È stato deciso dal preside e dal vice-preside.</i>

Assumed learning

Before commencing the study of Unit 1 and Unit 2, it is assumed that students have, through prior experience or study, already acquired an understanding of the following Italian grammatical items.

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Adjectives	regular and irregular	<i>Anna è una cara amica.</i> <i>Abitano in una casa molto piccola.</i> <i>Molti bei ragazzi frequentano la mia scuola</i> <i>Voglio dei fiori rosa.</i> <i>Mi piacciono le case bianche.</i>
	demonstrative	<i>Questo ragazzo è più alto di quella ragazza.</i>
	possessive	<i>Non posso stare senza il mio cellulare.</i> <i>Mia sorella si chiama Adele.</i>
	comparative, relative and absolute superlative	<i>È il migliore caffè di tutta Perth.</i> <i>L'inconveniente maggiore di vestirsi 'made in Italy' è il costo.</i> <i>Le bellissime spiagge di Perth.</i>
Adverbs	position and formation	<i>Mio padre va molto piano in macchina.</i> <i>Ha mangiato lentamente.</i> <i>Andiamo spesso al cinema.</i>
	adverbial phrases	<i>All'improvviso abbiamo sentito un urlo.</i> <i>Fra poco finisco la scuola ma nel frattempo devo prepararmi per gli esami.</i>
	comparative and relative superlatives	<i>Più studiamo, più impariamo.</i> <i>Meglio comprare vestiti 'made in Italy' che quelli importati.</i> <i>Cerco di risparmiare il più possibile per comprare prodotti di alta qualità.</i>
Articles	partitive	<i>Vorrei qualche consiglio su cosa vedere a Perth.</i> <i>Mi dai un po' di latte?</i> <i>Abbiamo visto dei coccodrilli a Darwin.</i>
Conjunctions	conjunctions	<i>For example, a causa di, affinché, a meno che, cioè, ebbene, infatti, né....né; quindi, magari, perciò, però,</i>
Negation	non/double negatives	<i>Lui non vuole venire.</i> <i>Non vogliamo niente.</i>

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Nouns	common, proper, collective, concrete, abstract, borrowed	<i>Molti ragazzi italiani sognano la celebrità. Quando arrivi all'aeroporto bisogna fare subito il checkin.</i>
Prepositions	simple, articulated and prepositional phrases	<i>Sono venuti a vedere Marco. Andiamo a casa di Marta per studiare. Ieri siamo andati alla partita. L'anno prossimo andrà negli Stati Uniti.</i>
Pronouns	direct and indirect object	<i>Perché non li inviti? È una buona idea invitarli. Marina? Non l'ho vista oggi, forse la chiamo più tardi. Me l'hai detto ieri? Non mi ricordo! Gli telefono tutte le mattine. Te lo spiego. Gliela darò domani Amo i tortelli di spinaci! La nonna ce li ha preparati per pranzo domenica.</i>
	<i>ne</i> and <i>ci</i>	<i>Ne ho comprati cinque. Ci sono andata.</i>
	impersonal <i>si</i>	<i>Ci si divertiva nella classe d'italiano. Come si dice 'ferry' in italiano?</i>
	relative	<i>L'uomo che parla è un famoso cantante italiano. Non capisco quello che dice. Il ristorante italiano, di cui mi ha parlato Francesco, sembra molto frequentato.</i>
Verbs – moods/tenses	<i>avere</i> and <i>fare</i> expressions	<i>Abbiamo bisogno d'aiuto! Le mie amiche non vanno sempre d'accordo</i>
	use of <i>piacere</i>	<i>A David piacciono i film gialli. Ci è piaciuto tanto.</i>
	conditional mood – present	<i>Con più soldi potremmo viaggiare di più. Mi piacerebbe andare in Australia, sarebbe bello. Stasera andrei volentieri al cinema a vedere quel nuovo film italiano.</i>
	conditional 'if' clause + imperfect subjunctive	<i>Se tu studiassi di più, saresti promosso. Se tutte le persone riciclassero non ci sarebbe così tanta spazzatura.</i>
	future tense	<i>Quando tornerà Paolo? Se finirò i compiti prima del weekend, potrò uscire con gli amici.</i>
	future perfect tense	<i>Quando i risultati degli esami saranno usciti organizzerò una festa. Quando avrò finito la scuola mi prenderò un anno sabbatico.</i>
	imperative mood	<i>Leggete da pagina 1 a pagina 20! Non fumare!</i>
	imperfect tense	<i>Quando ero piccolo, andavo spesso al mare.</i>

Grammatical items	Sub-elements	Elaborations
Verbs – moods/tenses continued	infinitive	<i>Siamo pronti per uscire. Mi piace ballare.</i>
	modal verbs	<i>Mi dispiace, ma devo andare. Non sono potuti partire.</i>
	present tense	<i>Invidiano un messaggio agli amici. Da quanto tempo studi l'italiano? Lo studio da tre anni.</i>
	present perfect tense	<i>Sabato sono andata in città e ho comprato un nuovo cellulare. La festa è finita alle undici.</i>
	subjunctive mood – present/perfect	<i>Ho paura che sia troppo tardi. Desidero che venga con me. Speriamo che abbia preso la giusta decisione. Pensate che loro siano andati in Italia?</i>