
AP Italian Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Task 2 — Persuasive Essay

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

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

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2)

Clarification Note:

There is no single expected format or style for referring to and identifying sources appropriately. For example, test takers may opt to: directly cite content in quotation marks; paraphrase content and indicate that it is “according to Source 1” or “according to the audio file”; refer to the content and indicate the source in parentheses “(Source 2)”; refer to the content and indicate the source using the author’s name “(Smith)”; etc.

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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Presentation Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2) (continued)

2: WEAK performance in Presentation 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 Presentation 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 Presentation 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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La tecnologia si sta avanzando rapidamente. Questa sta aprendo molte più possibilità per il futuro, avendo vantaggi e svantaggi.

La tecnologia tipo i gadget si stanno sempre migliorando. Gadget tipo ipads, o ipads funzionano sempre meglio e diventano più divertenti. Come è spiegato nella Fonte 1, la tecnologia si sta innovando tutti i giorni. Come spiega la madre questi bambini di questo tempo sono più avanzati rispetto ai miei tempi. La tecnologia porta via la noia, nelle lunghe attese in macchina, dal dottore, o ~~in aereo~~ in aereo. Ricorda una bambina nella Fonte 1, sa come tenersi occupata, basta che chiede il telefono al suo ^{padre} ~~padre~~. Il mio punto è che la tecnologia si sta cambiando e avanzando ma anche i bambini.

I bambini e adulti ora sono quasi tutti bloccati dietro allo schermo. Ora nel nostro mondo si può fare tutto con la tecnologia. Per esempio: puoi comunicare con il tuo amico, puoi ordinare del mangiare, o pure fare shopping su internet. Quando esce un nuovo gadget molti sono affascinati al nuovo gadget. Questo

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crea dipendenze. È il vecchio apparecchio
viene lasciato in dietro. Questo è visto nella
Fonte 2. Quando gadget tipo internet sono
venuti in esistenza, i lettori DVD o Blue Ray
sono diminuiti perché con internet la gente
può vedere tutti i film. I DVD o Blue Ray
sono diminuiti dal 53,8 per cento al 49,5
per cento.

Questa tecnologia sta creando barriere
tra persone, perché la gente è sempre più
dipendente sul cellulare.

Come è spiegato nella Fonte 3 da
Mario Calabresi i professionisti ~~tra~~ avranno
sempre un ruolo cruciale nel lavoro. Per
esempio Mario spiega che il lavoro dei
giornalisti sta perdendo senso. Questo è
probabile perché la tecnologia come internet
può fare ottenere alla gente le notizie
quando vuole. Però Mario spiega che i
professionisti portano esperienza e metodo.
E quelle due cose non potranno mai essere
~~sostituite~~ da un macchinario.
sostituite

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Io penso che la ~~tecnologia~~ tecnologia aiuta a comunicare a distanza. Per esempio io abito in America e la mia famiglia è in Italia. La tecnologia mi permette a comunicare (messaggiare) con la famiglia tutti giorni, facilita la distanza.

In Conclusione

In conclusione, credo che la tecnologia offre molte opportunità per bambini e adulti per comunicare, imparare, e passare il tempo. Usata correttamente la tecnologia è un arma molto importante.

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Oggi, questa molti tecnologia quella molti persone usare. Tecnologia aiuta la qualità della vita e creare molti problemi facile.

Il progresso tecnologico è ~~importante~~ importante per molti ragioni. E creare comunicazione facile. Noi parliamo con ~~facile~~ persone per il mondo molto facile. Con comunicazione facile, noi dice informazione facile e aiuta il mondo. Un altro ragione è creare e difficile per usare il prodotti vecchio, ma questo è bene. Prodotti vecchio è male e non aiutare persone bene. Questi è ragioni per come tecnologia aiutare e migliorare la qualità della vita.

Questo è ragioni per la tecnologia è molto male per le persone. E prevenire persone per socializzare con gli amici e le famiglie. E ~~isolare~~ isolare molti persone e voi non parlare con persone. Questi è ragioni per tecnologia è male.

Finalmente, tecnologia aiutare la vita in molti ragioni, con molti piccoli

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Negativi.

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2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

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 *Vita contemporanea*, and the prompt asked students to express their own opinion on the idea that technological progress always improves the quality of life and work. The response needed to be based on three different sources:

- A written article about the ability of children — from a very young age — to use and entertain themselves with electronic devices. The journalist argues that technology has improved both children’s and adults’ lives by stimulating and helping children express their creativity, which then helps parents by alleviating children’s boredom during long waits at the doctor’s office, the post office, etc.
- A graph showing the presence of technological devices and services in Italian households in 2013 and 2014.
- An audio source in which a journalist discusses the negative impact on professional journalism when information encountered accidentally is recorded and disseminated by individuals using devices such as smartphones. Because there are now so many amateur journalists lacking expertise or methodology, the authoritativeness of traditional news — which depends on investigation conducted over a significant period of time — is now at risk.

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 essay. However, students were expected to understand the main idea(s) and supporting details of the three sources, understand unfamiliar and idiomatic vocabulary by inferring its meaning from the context, and comprehend paragraph-length discourse that uses a variety of language structures. Students 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 argument.

Sample: 2A

Score: 5

The response earned a score of 5 because it demonstrates a strong performance in Presentational Writing and shows an effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints with very few minor inaccuracies (“*Come spiega la madre*” [Source 1]) and integrates content from all three sources to present and defend the student’s own viewpoint with a high degree of clarity, coherence, and details (“*Il mio punto è che la tecnologia si sta cambiando e avanzando ma anche i bambini. I bambini e adulti ora sono quasi tutti bloccati dietro allo schermo*”; “*Questa tecnologia sta creando*

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2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

barriere tra persone, perché la gente è sempre più dipendente sul cellulare). The essay is organized and fully understandable. Occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility (*“È il vecchio apparecchio viene lasciato in dietro”; “sempre più dipendente sul cellulare”*). The student uses varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language (*“tenersi occupato”; “bloccati dietro allo schermo”; “sta creando barriere tra persone”; “portano esperienza”; “messaggiare”; “offre molte opportunità”*). Grammar is accurate, with few errors (*“Gadget tipo ipads o ipods funzionano sempre meglio e diventano più divertenti”*). The response also develops paragraph-length discourse with some complex sentences (*“Questo è probabile perché la tecnologia come internet può fare ottenere a la gente le notizie quando vuole”*).

Sample: 2B

Score: 3

The response earned a score of 3 because it demonstrates a fair performance in Presentational Writing. It indicates a suitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task and demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints (*“Mentre elettronici è molto divertente, è anche aiuterò i giovani insegnare”; “Nell'anni di 2013 Italia usando 5,4 lettore di e-book”*). The response summarizes content from two sources in support of the essay. The response presents the student's opinion and develops a somewhat persuasive argument by providing evidence for and against the fact that technology may improve the quality of life and work. The essay is generally organized and understandable, with some errors that may impede comprehensibility (*“L'idea che il progresso tecnologico migliori sempre la qualità della vita e del lavoro positivamente”; “Loro creda che tecnologico aiuterò niente con studenti nella scuola”*). It uses appropriate but basic vocabulary. There is some control of grammar (*“La scuola è non molto divertente ma, quando usare elettronici è più interessante più divertente”*). The response uses a few compound sentences (*“Nella scuola molte persone creda che usare elettronici è molti difficili.”; “Credo che l'idea che il progresso tecnologico migliori sempre la qualità della vita e del lavoro è una buona idea”*).

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response earned a score of 1 because it demonstrates a poor performance in Presentational Writing. It shows almost no treatment of the topic within the context of the task, and it does not refer to the sources. The response only minimally suggests the student's viewpoint on the topic, with an undeveloped and incoherent argument (*“Tecnologia aiuta la qualità della vita e creare molti problemi facile.”*) and little organization. The essay is barely understandable, with frequent errors that impede comprehensibility (*“Un altro ragione e creare e difficile per usare il prodotti vecchio, ma questo è bene.”; “Prodotti vecchio e male e non aiutare persone bene.”*). The response shows very few vocabulary resources and little or no control of grammar (*“Questi e ragioni per come tecnologia aiutare, e improvare la qualità della vita.”; “tecnologia aiutare la vita in molti ragioni”*). The essay uses simple sentences (*“Il progresso tecnologico è importante per molti ragioni.”; “E creare comunicazione facile.”; “Questa e ragioni per tecnologia e molto male”*).