2019

AP[°] Italian Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Task 2—Persuasive Essay

- **☑** Scoring Guideline
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AP[®] ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2019 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

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

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

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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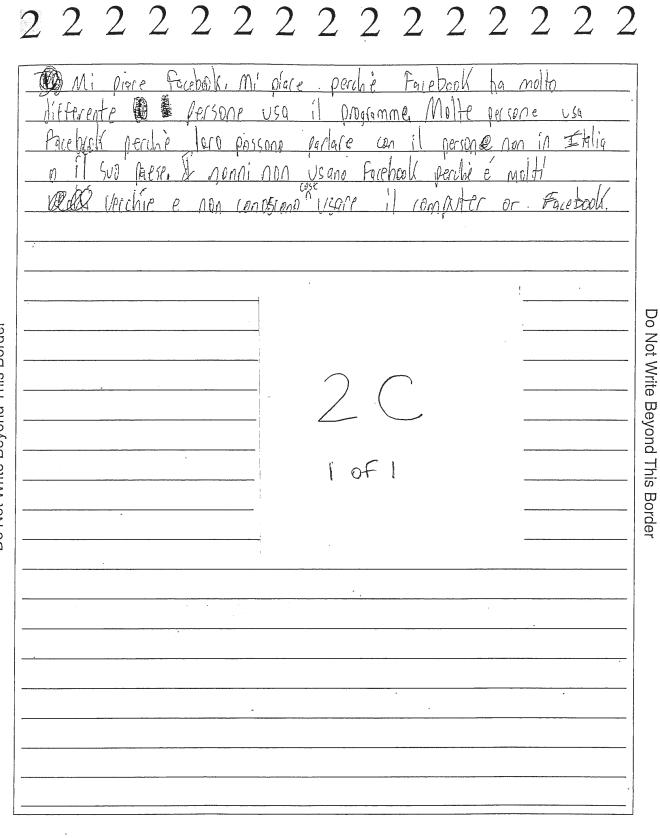
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Task 2: Persuasive Essay

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and 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 task was *Identità privata e pubblica*, and the prompt asked students to express their own opinions on how the elderly can play an active role in society and everyday life. The response needed to be based on three different sources:

- A written article about the use of social media by the elderly, where the journalist praises the userfriendliness of Facebook and argues that it has improved the elderly's lives by allowing them to preserve and share memories, to share recipes, and to feel part of grandchildren's lives; thus, defeating loneliness.
- A chart (based on data collected in 2008–2009) showing typical activities performed by Italian students, workers, and the elderly in a typical day.
- An audio source where two grandparents talk with a journalist about their "work" as babysitters of their grandchildren and how this engagement is emotionally rewarding but physically demanding.

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 and idiomatic vocabulary by inferring its meaning from the context; and comprehend paragraph-length discourse and 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: 4

The response earned a score of 4 because it shows a good performance in Presentational Writing. It presents a generally effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The student demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints despite a few minor inaccuracies ("*Usando questo, loro possono vedere foti*"). The response mostly summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of the student's viewpoint and the essay overall. The student develops a persuasive argument with coherence ("*Rete sociali sirvono anche per ricordare vecchi tempi. Permette che anziani viaggiano all passato è fanno memoria della vita e di relazioni passati*"; "*Gli anziani in generale hanno molto tempo libero*"). The essay is organized and fully understandable. There are a few errors that do not impede comprehensibility ("*Per gli anziani in particolare è importante che si sentano attivo e utile nella secietà. Ci sono diversi maneri per fare questo*"). The student uses generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language ("*si sentano più soddisfetto*"; "*possiamo participare*"; "*Ci sono diversi maneri per fare questo*"; "*ricordare vecchi tempi*"; "*viaggiano all passato*"). The response also develops

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

mostly paragraph-length discourse with a few complex sentences ("*Può essere che alcuni gruppi si sentano più soddisfetto che di altri grupi ma tutti possiamo participare in alcuna attività.*").

Sample: 2B Score: 3

The response earned a score of 3 because it shows 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 ("*In uno scenario altro, una telegiornalista usa l'esperienza di due nonni italiani che fanno da babysitter perché questo lavoro simplice è un mezzo per l'integrazione*"). The response summarizes content from the three sources in support of the essay. The student presents a personal opinion and develops a somewhat persuasive argument by providing evidence that seniors can find activities which involve them in society and daily life ("*In Italia, molti anziani pratica il religione, un grande parte della cultura nel paese. La chiesa representa un communità spintoso. Altre l'attività è un voluntariano, e è facile con il tempo libero*"). The essay is generally organized and understandable, with some errors that may impede comprehensibility ("*Adviso per i nonni: la dolce vita con l'integrazione nella società*"). It presents appropriate but basic vocabulary. There is some control of grammar ("*Ci sono i molti mezzi per l'integrazione*"). The response uses a few compound sentences ("*Senza un lavoro formale, molti anziani non sentono come un parte nella società.*"; "*Con questo tempo, credo che gli anziani fanno il lavoro per il proprio bene al mondo.*"; "*Anche, dopo leggevo gli statisti, la mia interessa per aiutare gli anziani sono diventata più forte.*").

Sample: 2C Score: 1

The response earned a score of 1 because it shows a poor performance in Presentational Writing. It shows almost no treatment of the topic within the context of the task, and there is an implied reference to only one source. The student minimally suggests a personal viewpoint on the topic and makes an undeveloped and incoherent argument ("I nonni non usano Facebook perchè é molti vecchìe e non conoscono cose usare il computer or Facebook"; "Molte persone usa Facebook perchè loro possono parlare con il persone non in Italia o il suo paese"). The essay contains little organization. It is barely understandable, with frequent errors that impede comprehensibility ("Mi piace perchè Facebook ha molto differente persone usa il programme"). The response shows very few vocabulary resources and little control of grammar. The essay uses simple sentences ("Mi piace Facebook.").