

Your name:



The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1



Problem 3. Definitely Italian (10 marks)

Q 3.1 Italian has a number of different ways of saying 'the'. Look at the following examples:

Italian	English	Italian	English	Italian	English	Italian	English
<i>l'orso</i>	the bear	<i>l'anima</i>	the soul	<i>la farfalla</i>	the butterfly	<i>le donne</i>	the women
<i>i treni</i>	the trains	<i>il gusto</i>	the taste	<i>la gara</i>	the race	<i>le anime</i>	the souls
<i>il gatto</i>	the cat	<i>l'agnello</i>	the lamb	<i>i gusti</i>	the tastes	<i>gli alunni</i>	the pupils
<i>il tavolo</i>	the table	<i>l'aula</i>	the classroom	<i>le farfalle</i>	the butterflies		

How would you translate the following into Italian?

English	Italian	English	Italian	English	Italian	English	Italian
1. the woman		3. the tables		5. the classrooms		7. the bears	
2. the train		4. the cats		6. the pupil			

Q 3.2 Now look at this further set of Italian words

<i>lo scopo</i>	the purpose	<i>i sassi</i>	the stones	<i>il suono</i>	the sound	<i>le zie</i>	the aunts
<i>la scopa</i>	the broom	<i>la sala</i>	the room	<i>le scelte</i>	the choices	<i>la storia</i>	history
<i>il sarto</i>	the tailor	<i>la zona</i>	the zone	<i>gli spaghetti</i>	the spaghetti		
<i>lo sforzo</i>	the effort	<i>lo storico</i>	the historian	<i>gli zii</i>	the uncles		
<i>lo zaino</i>	the backpack	<i>i successi</i>	the successes	<i>gli scemi</i>	the fools		

Translate the following into Italian:

English	Italian	English	Italian
1. the aunt		5. the backpacks	
2. the uncle		6. the success	
3. the stone		7. the zones	
4. the historians			

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 28)

- 1 point per correct word. No half points.
- Treat *l'alunno* as two words.

Q 3.1 [Max 14]

English	Italian	English	Italian
1. the woman	la donna	5. the classrooms	le aule
2. the train	il treno	6. the pupil	l'alunno
3. the tables	i tavoli	7. the bears	gli orsi
4. the cats	i gatti		

Q 3.2 [Max 14]

English	Italian		
1. the aunt	la zia	5. the backpacks	gli zaini
2. the uncle	lo zio	6. the success	il successo
3. the stone	il sasso	7. the zones	le zone
4. the historians	gli storici		

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Commentary

The definite article in Italian depends both on the gender of the noun and the initial sound structure of the word following the article (not always the noun as an adjective may intervene).

Masculine nouns, denoted here by those nouns ending in -o in the singular and -i in the plural (for purposes of simplification other possible endings have been omitted from the problem), work as follows:

Masculine Word beginning	Singular Definite Article	Plural Definite Article
z or s+consonant (also x, y, gn and ps not given here)	lo	gli
any other consonant	il	i
vowel	l'	gli

[‘z’ is pronounced /ts/ or /dz/ i.e. as an affricate]

Feminine nouns are denoted here by those nouns ending in -a in the singular and -e in the plural.

Feminine Word beginning	Singular Definite Article	Plural Definite Article
vowel	l'	le
any consonant	la	le