

A-Level Preparation into the Sixth Form 2025

Italian

The Italian summer tasks are 3, intended to prepare you to bridge the gap from GCSE and to give you an insight into the different topics and work ethic required at A Level.

- 1) Learning a language is not just about learning vocabulary and grammar, it is also about the whole cultural experience. Therefore, in order to give you a better cultural knowledge of your language and also develop your independent study skills, you will have to create a portfolio of research over the summer holidays.

This can be based on the A level topics of study, which are:

- Immigration in Italy, with its pros and cons
- The North/South divide
- Fascism
- The cultural heritage (this includes festivals eg the Venice Carnival, or celebrations eg how Italians celebrate Easter, or sites of interest eg Pompeii, etc)
- Music and media
- The evolution of the Italian family
- Education and the world of work.

However it does not have to be based on this, it can stem from your own interests in Italian language and culture; the aim of the portfolio is to demonstrate your independent research as well as to show your passion for the subject-therefore, the portfolio should be written as much as possible in Italian, and not copied and pasted from the Internet but re-elaborated in your own words. It should be of a high standard and presentation (we often keep the portfolios and show them to parents on open days).

- 2) The second task is grammar focused, as a lot of the grammatical points learnt at GCSE will not be revised, you need to have a solid foundation of the basics. You need to buy the following grammar textbook "Via della grammatica per English speakers", by Mina Ricci, published by Edilingua, and complete the following units: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,17 and 21.

These can be self-marked as the textbook provides you with the answers at the end. It is an expectation that by the end of the 2 years you will complete the whole textbook at your own pace.

The final task is to familiarise yourself with the Italian works that will be studied during the A Level course: the novel *Io non ho paura* by Niccolò Ammaniti and the film *La vita è bella* by Roberto Benigni. You should purchase them and start to watch/read them over the summer. It is not an expectation that you finish the novel, but you should at least read the whole of chapter 1 and you could start reading/researching the themes and the author.

Please ensure you do not buy an adapted shorter version, and buy the full Italian original version (it is already quite short!) published by Einaudi.