

2009 HSC Italian Extension

Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answer may include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice, are not intended to be exemplary or even complete responses. They have been reproduced in their original form as part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’. While the handwritten notes have been typed for legibility, no further editorial change or addition has occurred.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

While walking through the town square, Giosuè asks his father why the sign in the shop window states “No Jews or dogs allowed”. The father explains that everyone has their own likes and dislikes. Giosuè points out that in their own shop, on the other hand, they don’t make any distinctions between who can and who cannot go in.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

In order to protect Giosuè from the reality of the meaning of the sign, Guido becomes light-hearted, trivialising the situation by providing ridiculous examples of other people and animals that might be excluded. He makes himself and Giosuè part of a game, encouraging him to express his own dislikes so that they can set up their own shop sign.

Question 1 (c)***Answers could include:***

The change in atmosphere from a happier, more colourful, idyllic world is brought about by the presence of the German soldiers marching through the town and the large sign in the shop window “Vietato l’ingresso agli ebrei e ai cani.” Guido and Giosuè are on the outside of the shop looking in, symbolic of their exclusion while other people in the square move around freely in and out of stores. The bookshop with its cosy feel is a reminder of their world as it was. The threatening presence of the two Fascist officials, one putting out the cigarette on the glass, the other dressed in a dark suit, is an intrusion and it creates a feeling of impending doom. The close-ups of Guido’s face show his disappointment at yet again being ordered to report. Although Guido attempts to lighten the situation as he is taken away, the fact that he is in between the two official figures creates an atmosphere of fear and foreboding and this is intensified by the music becoming more sombre.

Question 1 (d)***Answers could include:***

Guido attempts to escape the consequences of social and political events, by maintaining his natural optimism at all times. The events that influence their lives are:

The presence of the dictatorial Fascist regime and alliance with Germany that imprisons and restricts freedom of the individual. The family’s inability to escape the racial policies (e.g. implications of racial manifesto, and deportation to concentration camp). The new regulations which affect daily life (e.g. restricted ability to move freely, go into shops, periodic reporting to authorities, identifying self and businesses as Jewish).

Guido’s attempts to neutralise the consequences of social and political events include:
Using a world of illusion and a game to protect his son from the harshness of their reality. This game endures through to the end and his son does indeed survive. The power of love and family ties also provides a way of coping with the brutal upheaval caused by the political events (e.g. Dora’s choice to go to the camp gives Guido and Giosue hope and enables them to persevere knowing they are together; Guido connects with Dora through loudspeaker message and Offenbach music. He also keeps reminding Giosue of his mother’s love and presence).