

THE CLA-UNIBS ITALIAN A1 LEVEL CERTIFICATE

The CLA- Unibs A1 level certificate consists of a written and an oral test, to which only students who pass the written test are admitted.

The written paper (which takes approximately 60 minutes to complete) tests your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary, listening and comprehension, and oral and written production at the A1 level. The test structure includes audio and/or video listening with questions, text comprehension with questions, grammar and vocabulary exercises and two very short written productions. Except for the latter, all exercises are closed-ended. The oral interview (5 minutes) assesses oral interaction and communication skills at level A1 in the way indicated in the syllabus below.

OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT

The aim of the English language exercises provided by CLA is to achieve level A1 as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, which requires the learner to

- *Can recognise familiar words and very simple phrases relating to himself, his family and his environment, provided people speak slowly and clearly.*
- *Can understand familiar names and people and very simple sentences, e.g. announcements, posters, catalogues.*
- *Can interact in a simple way if the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things more slowly and to help formulate what he/she is trying to say.*
- *Can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where he lives and people he knows.*
- *Can write a short, simple text. Can fill in forms with personal details, e.g. name, nationality or address on a hotel registration form.*

The content of the exercises includes the following

NOUNS

- The gender and number distinction of regular nouns with suffix -O -A and with suffix -E
- The main invariable nouns (es. *caffè, cinema, città, università*)
- The main nouns generally used in the plural (es. *occhiali, pantaloni, spaghetti*)
- Some nouns with irregular plurals (es. *uomo/uomini*)
- Some names of foreign origin with unchanged plurals (es. *bar, computer, sport*)
- The main names with the suffix -E /-ESSA (es. *dottore/dottoressa, professore/professoressa, studente/studentessa*)

PRONOUN

- Personal pronouns with special reference to the 3 singular persons: subject, direct and indirect object (tonic and atonal)
- Reflexive pronouns

- Interrogative pronouns: *chi, che (cosa), quanto, quale?*
- Indefinite pronouns: *nessuno, niente*

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

- Qualifying adjectives with suffix -O and -A and with suffix -E
- Possessive adjectives (*mainly first singular with family names*)
- Demonstrative adjectives: *questo, quello*
- Interrogative adjectives: *che, quanto*
- Indefinite adjectives: *poco, molto, tanto*
- Cardinal numeral adjectives: from 1 to 100
- Ordinal numeral adjectives from *primo* to *decimo*
- Adverbs of mode: *bene, male*
- Adverbs of place: *qui, qua, lì, là, fuori, dentro, dietro, davanti, sopra, sotto, vicino, lontano, su, giù, indietro, avanti*
- Adverbs of time: *ora, adesso, oggi, dopo, ieri, domani, spesso, sempre, mai, presto, tardi*
- Adverbs of quantity: *molto, poco, tanto, più, meno, niente, un po'*
- Adverbs of judgement: *sì, no, non, certo, quasi*
- Adverbs interrogatives: *come, dove, quando, perché, quanto, chi, che, cosa, che cosa, quale?*

ARTICLES

- The different functions of all determinative and indeterminative articles
- Use of the determinative article to express the time, es. *Sono le otto.*
- Omission of the determinative article with demonstrative adjectives, es. *questo quaderno*
- Omission of the determinative article with indefinite adjectives, es. *molti libri*
- Presence of the determinative article in the position preceding possessive adjectives, es. *la mia sedia*

VERBS

Indicative

- The active conjugation (with particular reference to all three singular persons and the we) of the auxiliaries to be and to have, of the main regular verbs, of some irregular ones (see lexicon) in the following modes and tenses:
- Present

Conditional

- Simple conditional only of the verb *volere* in the 1st person singular (*vorrei*)

Imperativ

- Formal and informal verb imperative *scusare (scusi/scusa)*

- Imperative first person plural to invite (*andiamo!*)
- The perception of the modal meaning of verbs *potere*, *volere* and *dovere*
- The construction *ci* + verb to be only in the 3rd person singular and plural of the indicative present tense (*c'è*, *ci sono*)
- Infinitive present in implicit final propositions, es. *Sono qui per studiare l'italiano*.

PREPOSITIONS

Simple and articulate prepositions mainly with functions of:

di: provenance, es. *Sono di Berlino*.

A: term, es. *Do il libro a Giovanni*; time es. *a mezzogiorno*, *alle tre*; *a domani!*; state in and motion to place, es. *Sono / vado a casa / a scuola*, *vado a fare la spesa*; state in and motion to place with city names, es. *Vado a Roma*.

In: state in and motion to place with names of nations, es. *Abito / vado in Italia*; vehicle, es. *in treno*, *in macchina*

Con: company, es. *Vado a scuola con Mario*.

per: advantage es. *Il regalo è per Luca*; motion to place, es. *A che ora parte il treno per Roma?*
introduction of implied final subposition, es. *Sono qui per studiare l'italiano*.

- Idiomatic use of prepositions in frequently used forms, es. *giocare a*
- Other prepositional forms, es. *senza*

CONJUNCTIONS

e, *o*, *perché*, *per* + *infinito*, *vorrei* + *infinito*

es. *Abito a Madrid e studio economia*.

es. *Mangi qui o vai a casa?*

es. *(Perché vai a casa?) Perché sono stanco*.

es. *Sono qui per imparare l'italiano*.

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