



AATI NATIONAL ITALIAN EXAMINATION 2018

Exam Levels

The **2018 AATI National Italian Examination** comprises 6 levels: **Novice Level, Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV, Level 5**. There are specific criteria to consider when selecting the appropriate exam level for our students. The table below describes the criteria:

Novice Level (Grades: 7)	Middle school students who are enrolled in 7 th grade and are studying Italian for the first time (in a course that splits over 7 th and 8 th grade)
Level I (Grades: 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12)	Middle school students in 8 th grade who are completing their one-year course of Italian; High school students who are taking the first year of Italian (9 th or higher)
Level II (Grades: 9, 10, 11 or 12)	9 th grade students who have completed one year of Italian in Middle school; High school students who are taking the second year of Italian
Level III (Grades: 10, 11 or 12)	High school students who are taking the third year of Italian
Level IV (Grades: 11, 12)	High school students who are taking the fourth year of Italian
Level V (Grade: 11, 12)	High school students who are taking the fifth year of Italian

Exam Categories

Considering the wide variety of students' language background and the impact that it might have on the exam outcomes, the NIE presents a series of categories for each of the exam levels. The correct placement of students in the appropriate category is crucial to obtaining reliable and valid results. Teachers and test administrators are encouraged to verify the accuracy of placement and refer it to the exam director who may elect to verify. Whenever there are borderline cases, the teacher and the administrator will decide on the basis of good judgement and consistency or contact the Exam director.

The Novice Level has only one category. In Level I and II we have two categories (A and B), In Level III, IV and V we have 3 categories: (A, B, and C).

CATEGORY A: A student who has studied Italian only in the classroom.

CATEGORY B: A student who:

- has or has had consistent exposure to Italian outside of the classroom (including heritage speakers and students who might hear or speak some Italian);
- lived for more than a year in Italy;
- studied more than 4 months in Italy;
- has studied or is studying the third year of another romance language or a romance language is his/her native or principal language.

CATEGORY C: A student who:

- has grown up in a home where Italian is regularly used (predominantly orally);
- within the last three years attended school for a period of one year or more where Italian was the primary language of instruction.

Format of the exam

The format of the exam for the school year 2018 is structured on the following sections:

1. **Language competence** which includes:
 - a. **Grammar knowledge**, which comprises the knowledge of lexis, morphology, syntax, and other language aspects;
 - b. **Pragmatic competence**: the ability to use the language effectively in a contextually appropriate fashion and involves the functional use of the language (such as formulating a request or a command, giving compliments, formulating apologies, etc.);
 - c. **Sociolinguistic competence**: the ability to use the language effectively in a social context and involves a sensitivity to social norms and customs (such as the use of appropriate registers, rules of address, greeting and politeness, idiomatic expressions, and various cultural references);
2. **Reading Skills**. Interpreting Written Text.
3. **Listening or/and Viewing Skills**. Interpreting Aural Input.

Questions

Each exam consists of **75 questions**. Students have **70 minutes** to complete the exam and its preliminary questions. The format will be the same for all levels as follows (please note that some minor changes in the number of questions for each section might be possible):

Test Sections	Items per Competence / skill	Format of Items per Skill /Competence
Language competence	A. 18 questions on grammar competence (see part V of 2017 exam) B. 7 questions on pragmatic knowledge / sociolinguistic competence (not in 2017 exam)	<i>Multiple-choice with 4 options</i>
Reading: interpreting written text	A. 5 pieces of images with 3 blanks each (see part III of 2017 exam) B. 2 short dialogues / reading with 5 questions each questions written texts (see part VI of 2017 exam)	<i>Multiple-choice with 4 options</i>

Listening/ Viewing: interpreting aural input	A. 15 audio questions on vocabulary (see part I of 2017 exam) B. 5 audio questions on mini dialogues (see part II of 2017 exam) C. 5 audio questions on images or short video (not in 2017 exam)	<i>Multiple-choice with 4 options</i>
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Medals, Certificates

All students in all levels (Novice, Level I-V) and categories (A,B, C) will receive a medal or a certificate, according to the table below.

Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Achievement Certificate	Participation Certificate
90% or higher	80% - 89%	70% - 79%	50% - 69%	49% or lower

Monetary Prizes

The value and the criteria for the monetary prizes as well as the prizes assigned by the *Società Onoraria Italica* will be posted at a later stage.

2-week study courses in Italy for Students and Teachers

The following language schools will be participating in a scholarship program for the AATI National Italian Exam. They have offered a total 6 scholarships. Each scholarship consists of a 2-week course in one of the above schools. Accommodations and tuition expenses are included. The flight will be at the recipient's expense; however, AATI will contribute a cash award of \$500. Five scholarships will go to the top students in each level; one scholarship will go to teachers of those top students. A draw might be necessary. The recipients will be notified via email.

The language schools participating in this scholarship program are:

- **A Door to Italy**, Genova (Director Lara Avvenente; <https://www.adoortoitaly.com/>)
- **Accademia Italiana**, Salerno (Director: Francesca Romana Memoli; <http://www.accademia-italiana.it/en/>)
- **Sant'Anna Institute** - Sorrento Lingua, Sorrento (Director: Cristiana Panicco; <http://www.santannainstitute.com/en/index.php>)

Cost of Exam and Certificates

The cost per exam is \$8.00 per student.

The Certificates will be available online at no cost. Teachers will be able to download the certificates from the AATI webpage (information will be added later).

Disclosure: It is an academic infraction to alter any information about a student's award on the certificate the student receives. Any deliberate offences will result in the school being excluded from future competitions.

EXAM SPECIFICATIONS

Please note that we have added a Novice level to the 2018 exam while the specifications of Level 1-5 will remain unchanged.

NOVICE LEVEL (grade 6-7 or below)

1. Nouns	Singular and plural regular nouns Gender
2. Adjectives	Agreement in gender and number
3. Articles	Definite and indefinite
4. Prepositions	Simple and contracted
5. Verb tenses	Present tense of regular first, second and third conjugation verbs Idiomatic expressions with AVERE
6. Interrogatives	Basic interrogative pronouns: <i>How? When? Why? What? Where?</i>
7. Pronouns	Subject pronouns
8. Negation	Word order (non ... mai)
9. Vocabulary	Basic description adjectives, greetings, dates, days, months, numbers, time of the day, basic vocabulary about school, family, house, food.

LEVEL I
Everything covered in Novice Level, plus:

1. Nouns	Gender and number, some irregular nouns (<i>la città, la lezione, la classe, lo sport, il bar, la mano, il cinema, la foto, l'uomo, il poeta, etc.</i>)
2. Adjectives	Agreement/position, possessive, demonstrative, descriptive, quantity, nationalities
3. Articles	Definite and indefinite
4. Prepositions	Simple and contracted
5. Verb tenses	Present and recognition of the present perfect of regular and irregular verbs Basic verbs in 'isc' (<i>preferire, pulire, finire, etc.</i>) Basic reflexive verbs (<i>alzarsi, vestirsi, svegliarsi, lavarsi, addormentarsi, truccarsi, prepararsi, etc.</i>)
6. Irregular verbs	<i>avere, andare, volere, essere, dare, potere, venire, fare, dire, sapere, dovere, uscire, stare, bere, and (mi chiamo, ti chiami, si chiamano, mi piace/piacciono, ti piace/piacciono)</i>
7. Numbers	Cardinal, ordinal, time of day, dates
8. Weather	Weather expressions, months, seasons
9. Interrogatives	<i>How? When? Why? Who? What? Where? How long? How many? How much? Which? With whom? For whom? etc.</i>
10. Adverbs	Of time, place, quantity
11. Pronouns	Subject, direct object (recognition)
12. Negation	Word order
13. Idioms	With <i>avere</i> (<i>avere fame, avere sete, avere sonno, etc.</i>) With <i>fare</i> (<i>fare colazione, fare una domanda, fare una passeggiata, etc.</i>) With <i>andare</i> (<i>andare a piedi, andare in autobus, andare in bici, etc.</i>) With <i>dare</i> (<i>dare del tu, dare un esame</i>)
14. Vocabulary	greetings, school terms/subjects, food, clothing, rooms of the house, places, basic animals, nationalities, days of the week, sports and past times (<i>giocare a scacchi, etc.</i>), extended family members, basic professions (<i>avvocato, professore, insegnante, dottore, attore, etc.</i>), daily routines
15. Culture	Geography, history, art, music, food, literature, general questions

LEVEL II
Everything covered in Level I, plus:

1. Adjectives	*Regular and irregular comparatives and superlatives; shortened forms of (<i>grande, santo, buono</i>) *contracted forms that depend on definite articles (<i>bello</i>) *the partitive construction <i>some (di + definite article)</i>
2. Omission of definite & indefinite articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parlo italiano. ✓ Parlo bene l'italiano. ✓ Scrive sempre in italiano. ✓ Io sono americano. ✓ Che bei capelli!
3. Negative & affirmative words	sempre/mai; tutto/niente; nessuno/qualcuno; più/ancora; etc.
4. Pronouns	Use and position: indirect, possessive, direct, demonstrative, reflexive, reciprocal, and disjunctive
5. Verb tenses & moods	Future, conditional, imperfect vs. present perfect, imperative, present & past progressive
6. Adverbs	Regular formation, comparative/superlative forms (regular and irregular), <i>ci</i>
7. Exclamations	<i>Come! Che bello! Davvero! Peccato! Ma dai! Forza! etc.</i>
8. Vocabulary	reflexive verbs, furnishings and appliances, house chores, hobbies, professions, musical instruments
9. Culture	Geography, history, art, music, food, literature, general questions

LEVEL III
Everything covered in Levels I and II, plus:

1. Irregular nouns	<i>l'uovo/le uova; il braccio/le braccia; il dito/le dita; il ginocchio/le ginocchia; il paio/le paia; il miglio/le miglia; la crisi/le crisi; la serie/le seri; etc.</i>
2. Adjectives	Used as nouns (<i>il giovane, il vecchio, il ricco, il povero, il biondo, etc.</i>)
3. Verb + preposition + infinitive	(In)cominciare a, imparare a, insegnare a, finire di, suggerire di, decidere di, pensare di, stare per
4. Past Participles	Used as adjectives (<i>la porta chiusa, la parola scritta, il libro aperto</i>)
5. Pronouns	Double object, relative, <i>ne</i>
6. Verb tenses & moods	Future perfect, conditional perfect, pluperfect, present and present perfect subjunctive
7. Prepositions	Special uses requiring infinitives (<i>qualcosa da mangiare, non vedo l'ora di, entrare in, partire da, etc.</i>)
8. Impersonal construction	a. In Italia si parla italiano. b. Il pane si compra in una panetteria. c. Le scarpe si vendono al centro commerciale.
9. Culture	Geography, history, art, music, food, literature, general questions

LEVEL IV and V
Everything covered in Levels I, II, and III, plus:

1. Nouns	Other parts of speech used as nouns For example: <i>Spiegami il perché delle tue azioni.</i> <i>Il fumare fa male alla salute.</i>
2. Verb tenses and moods	passive constructions; imperfect, pluperfect subjunctive and recognition of the past absolute
3. Verb phrases/usage	Sequence of tenses, subjunctive in adjectival and adverbial clauses, "if" clauses, hypothetical period
4. Indefinite adjectives	<i>ogni, qualche, tutto, tutta, tutti, tutte, alcuni, alcune, qualunque</i>
5. Indefinite pronouns	<i>ognuno, tutto, alcuni, qualcuno, tutti, qualcosa, qualche cosa</i>
6. Culture	Geography, history, art, music, food, literature, general questions