



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL
GDST

A Level Italian

Sixth Form study options



A Level Italian

Why choose to study Italian at A Level?

- **Cultural enrichment:** Studying Italian opens the door to Italy's rich cultural heritage, including its art, music, literature and cinema. You will gain a deeper appreciation of iconic works and influential figures like Dante, Leonardo da Vinci and Federico Fellini.
- **Career advantages:** Proficiency in Italian can be a significant asset in various career fields such as international business, fashion, design, culinary arts and tourism. Many global companies value employees who can communicate in multiple languages.
- **Academic challenge:** A Level Italian ensures that you are challenged throughout the course whilst studying engaging and relevant topics. This deepens your understanding of Italy and its culture, making the learning experience both rigorous and rewarding.
- **University applications:** A Level Italian is highly regarded by universities and can strengthen your application. It demonstrates a commitment to learning and the ability to tackle challenging subjects.
- **Distinctiveness:** Italian is a non-mainstream language, which makes you stand out and be more appealing to universities and employers. It showcases a willingness to go beyond the ordinary and embrace unique opportunities.
- **Economic benefits:** Italy has a strong and growing economy. Being able to speak Italian can provide significant advantages in trade and economic sectors, as Italy is a key player in industries such as fashion, automotive and manufacturing. This linguistic skill can open doors to international business opportunities and collaborations.
- **Community and connections:** Joining the A Level Italian course means becoming part of a community of like-minded students. There are opportunities for cultural exchanges, such as the penfriend programme with an Italian secondary school and the Dorothy Rowe Exchange with the Liceo Scientifico in Pozzuoli (Naples).
- **Travel opportunities:** Italy is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world. Knowing the language enhances travel experiences, allowing you to connect more authentically with locals and explore the country beyond the typical tourist spots.
- **Linguistic skills:** Italian is a Romance language, closely related to Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Learning Italian can make it easier to learn other languages in the future, enhancing overall linguistic abilities.

What will my A Level Italian course cover?

Specification: Edexcel – Pearson (taught since 2017)

In the Italian A Level course at OHS, you will:

- learn about Italy's recent history and Italian contemporary culture and customs.

Themes and subthemes:

1. Changes in Italian society

Evolution of the Italian family – changes in attitudes towards marriage; gender and family structures.

Education – the Italian education system and the phenomenon of brain drain.

Employment – gender equality; unemployment; technological innovation.

2. The political and artistic culture in Italy and in Italian-speaking countries

Music – changes and development; influence on popular culture.

Media – freedom of speech; news (online and print); impact on society and politics.

Cultural heritage – traditions, festivals, customs.

3. Italy as an evolving society

The positive impact of immigration – immigrants' contribution to the economy and to culture.

Problems linked to migration – marginalisation and alienation, integration, impact of emigration.

The North/South divide – movement of people between South and North, the role of industry, socio-cultural differences, criminality.

4. From fascism to the present

Mussolini's rise to power – the rise of the Fascist Party.

Fascism during WW2 – Mussolini's government and dictatorship; life under Mussolini during the war.

From dictatorship to democracy – the fall of Mussolini, Resistance and Liberation, 6 EU Nations and the treaty of Rome.

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