INVALSI: Keep Calm and Don’t Panic!
A Guide to Success with No Stress in English at Primary School

30.11.2017

Joanna Carter
In today’s webinar we will…

• look at how the INVALSI test of English fits in with other INVALSI tests

• understand exactly what is an INVALSI test

• look at the Global Scale of English in comparison to the CEFR

• examine the components, layout and structure of the test

• look at effective ways to prepare students for the exam
Where does the INVALSI test of English fit in?

Legge n.176 25 October 2007

MATHS TEST & ITALIAN TEST

in

Primary School (SP)

2° and 5° Year

Middle School (SSPG)

3° Year

High School (SSSG)
Where does the INVALSI test of English fit in?

Decreto Legislativo n.62  13 April 2017

INVALSI ENGLISH TEST

Primary School (SP)
Students in 5° Year
from 2018

Middle School (SSPG)
Students in 3° Year
from 2018

High school (SSSG)
Students in 5° Year
(from 2019)
INVALSI Test of English
3rd May 2018
570.000 5° Year Students
What is an INVALSI test?

INVALSI stand for:

Istituto Nazionale per la Valutazione del Sistema dell’ Istruzione
What is an INVALSI test?

• a standardized national test

• provides a ‘benchmark’ or model level of education that students need to attain

• monitors and evaluates learning at a regional or national scale
What do INVALSI tests mean for the teacher?

• can recognize their individual class’ and pupil’s level of learning compared to others in a region or in the country

• see if students are meeting pre-designated goals

• have an instrument to evaluate their own teaching and make adjustments and changes if necessary
INVALSI tests demonstrate how far students have come on their learning path and in which direction they need to go next.
Introduction of National Standards Tests in Europe
Standards Tests in Europe

Common Characteristics

• all managed and monitored by a central recognized body

• insure that each educational institution in a country is providing an appropriate quality and level of education approved at a national level

• each child on reaching adulthood is adequately prepared to successfully find employment
Why INVALSI specifically for English?

• the EU supports the idea that every citizen should have a second/third language of communication

• through the CEFR (QCER), the EU recommends language levels to be attained (end Primary school = A1)

• English is the most common language taught in schools in Europe

• almost all European countries have a national standard English test

• therefore a test is also needed in Italy

• INVALSI test for English = a placement test / ‘prova di posizionamento’.
To help us understand the INVALSI Test of English better:

What exactly does it mean to be A1 level as a child?
Global Scale of English (GSE)

• Internationally recognised scale for measuring English language levels

• Closely aligned to the CEFR but builds upon it

• GSE 22-29 is equivalent to A1 level on CEFR
GSE

• ‘a similar proficiency framework that specifically targets learners aged 6-14’.

• ‘learners are developing intellectually and cognitively at the same time as they are learning English, unlike adult learners who have already reached full cognitive development when they start’.

• ‘children mainly use English in the classroom’
Summary description GSE 22-29 (A1)

• ‘learners begin to generate basic language independently, rather than solely relying on memorized chunks

• have a basic repertoire of mostly concrete words, simple phrases and functional language related to:
  - personal details
  - routine everyday situations
  - very familiar topics
  - topics related to school subjects

• dependent on simplified input, clear, slow speech and structured support e.g. visuals, cues, prompts, written models etc’
How to train students for the CONTENT in The INVALSI test of English

Course books based on curriculum

Premium Top Secret
Let’s Be Friends
COMPONENTS
INVALSI test of English

READING

LISTENING

USE OF ENGLISH
(from 2019)
3-4 tasks
• Text (max. length 110 words)
• Comprehension questions (3-8 questions)

Two types of reading skills needed
• Quick selective reading
• Careful reading

Types of text: authentic, in keeping with the A1 descriptors of the CEFR

Types of questions: multi-choice, T/F questions, matching, questions with short answers (max 4 words)

Instructions in English: always formulated in the same way
3-4 tasks
• Tracks to listen to (max 2 minutes in length)
• Comprehension questions (3-8 questions)

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• Quick selective listening
• Careful listening

Types of listening tracks: authentic, in keeping with the A1 descriptors of the CEFR

Types of questions: multi-choice, T/F questions, matching, questions with short answers

Instructions in English: always formulated in the same way
INVALSI test of English

How do we train students to cope with the structure, format and types of questions?
INVALSI
Step by Step
INVALSI Step by Step

• Integrate into the lesson a little at a time and very often

• Create your own complete ‘mock test’

• Exercises are organised into 3 progressive levels of difficulty

• You can create your own personalised learning program

• Pupils can download the listening material from MYApp Pearson so exercises can be done in class or at home

• There is an audio version of all the reading texts for DSA students and to help pronunciation in general
Example Learning and Training Path 1
Example Learning and Training Path 2
Completely personalise your training /learning path!
John's birthday

John: Good morning, mum!
Mum: Good morning, John.
John: What are you doing?
Mum: I’m making a cake for your birthday!
John: Thank you, mum!
Mum: Go out and play with Bobby, John!

John: Bobby, come here! Let’s go out and play!
Bobby: Woof woof.
John: It’s my birthday, today!
Bobby: Woof woof.
John: I want a new bike for my birthday!
Bobby: Woof woof.

Dad: John, come here! Your cake is ready!
John: I’m coming!
Everybody: Happy birthday, John!
John: Thank you!
Dad: Open your present!
John: What is it? It’s very big...
Dad: It’s blue and green. It has got two wheels and you can ride it...
John: I know! It’s a bike! Wow! Thank you, it’s wonderful!

Now answer the questions.
Ora rispondi alle domande.

B1. What day is it today?
A. It’s Bobby’s birthday.
B. It’s John’s birthday.
C. It’s mum’s birthday.
D. It’s dad’s birthday.

B2. What is mum doing?
A. She’s washing the car.
B. She’s cleaning the house.
C. She’s making a pizza.
D. She’s making a cake.

B3. Who is Bobby?
A. Bobby is John’s dog.
B. Bobby is John’s cat.
C. Bobby is John’s friend.
D. Bobby is John’s dad.

B4. What does John want for his birthday?
A. He wants a scooter.
B. He wants a toy car.
C. He wants a bike.
D. He wants a train.

B5. Read and tick True or False.
A. John is a boy. [True]
B. John has got a dog. [False]
C. John’s present is a computer. [False]
D. John’s bike is red and yellow. [False]
An email from Jessica

Hi Robert,
I'm Jessica and I'm twelve years old. I'm American. I live in Los Angeles with my family. My mother's name is Rachel and my father's name is Jack. My dad works in a restaurant and my mum works in a hospital, she's a doctor. I've got a brother. His name is David. He's ten years old. I've got two sisters, Nancy and Susan. Nancy is seven and Susan is fifteen. I haven't got a grandfather but I've got a nice grandmother. Her name is Sally. She's sixty-nine years old. I've also got a cat. His name is Fluffy.
Tell me about your family!
Jessica

Task 5

Now answer the question.
Ora rispondi alle domande.

B1. Read and tick True or False.
   A. Jessica is English. True False
   B. Jessica lives in Los Angeles. True False
   C. Jessica is thirteen years old. True False
   D. Jessica has got two brothers and one sister. True False

B2. Read and complete with the words in the box.
   brother • grandmother • doctor • restaurant
   A. Jessica's father works in a restaurant. __________
   B. Jessica's mother is a doctor. __________
   C. David is Jessica's __________.
   D. Jessica has got a nice grandmother. __________

B3. How old are Jessica's sisters?
   A. Nancy is eight and Susan is fifteen. True False
   B. Nancy is ten and Susan is fifteen. True False
   C. Nancy is seven and Susan is fourteen. True False
   D. Nancy is seven and Susan is fifteen. True False

B4. Where does Jessica's mother work?
   A. She works in a restaurant. True False
   B. She works in a school. True False
   C. She works in an office. True False
   D. She works in a hospital. True False

B5. Read and circle.
   A. Jessica lives with her family / friends. True False
   B. Jessica has got one brother / sister. True False
   C. Jessica has got a dog / cat. True False
   D. Jessica hasn't got a grandfather / grandmother. True False

Total score ___ / 20
Living in New York: Jack’s daily routine

Jack Brown is an American boy. He lives in New York, USA. Jack is eleven years old. His birthday is in October. He’s very tall. Jack lives in a big house with his father Richard, his mother Brenda and his older sister, Liz. Liz is eighteen years old. She’s a musician.

She plays the piano. She likes taking photos, too. Jack’s mother, Brenda, is forty years old. She teaches Art in a primary school. She loves painting. She loves making cakes, too. Jack’s father, Richard, is forty-two years old. He is a mechanic. He likes playing the guitar and playing baseball with Jack.

In the morning, Jack gets up at a quarter to seven. He has breakfast at seven o’clock with hot milk and biscuits, then he brushes his teeth. He goes to school at a quarter to eight. His father takes him to school by car.

Lessons start at eight o’clock. Jack usually has lunch at a quarter past twelve at the school canteen.

Lessons finish at half past four and then he goes home. In the afternoon he does his homework and at seven o’clock the family has dinner. After dinner, Jack likes reading comics or watching films about pirates and super heroes. At a quarter past ten, he puts on his pyjamas and goes to bed.

On Mondays and Thursdays he plays baseball with his friends. On Sundays he goes to museums or theatres with his family. When the weather’s fine, they go to Central Park. In Central Park he can skate, ride his bike and see squirrels and ducks.
Cut up and re order the text
Students do in groups

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He likes playing the guitar and playing baseball with Jack.
Reading comprehension

Now answer the questions.
Ora rispondi alle domande.

B1. Who does Jack live with?
   A. His mother, his father and his brother.
   B. His father, his grandmother and his sister.
   C. His mother, his father and his sister.
   D. His father and his sister.

   Score: ___ / 4

B2. What does Jack’s father do?
   A. He’s a mechanic.
   B. He’s a teacher in primary school.
   C. He’s a musician.
   D. He’s an engineer.

   Score: ___ / 2

B3. What does Jack eat for breakfast?
   A. He eats bacon and eggs.
   B. He eats toast and jam.
   C. He eats bread and butter.
   D. He eats biscuits.

   Score: ___ / 4

B4. When does Jack play baseball?
   A. On Mondays and Wednesdays.
   B. On Thursday and Sundays.
   C. On Mondays and Thursdays.
   D. On Mondays and Tuesdays.

   Score: ___ / 4

B5. What kind of films does Jack like?
   A. He likes cartoons.
   B. He likes romantic films.
   C. He likes films about pirates and super heroes.
   D. He likes films about animals.

   Score: ___ / 4

B6. What does Jack do on Sundays?
   A. He goes to museums with his family.
   B. He goes to the seaside.
   C. He plays basketball with his friends.
   D. He plays football with his friends.

   Score: ___ / 4

Total score: ___ / 20
Task 1

A1. Listen and tick the right picture.
Ascolta e segna il disegno corretto.

What does Tom have for breakfast?

A: Tom, do you have milk for breakfast?
B: No, I don’t.
A: Do you have tea?
B: Yes, I do. I have tea for breakfast.
A: Do you have biscuits with your tea?
B: No, I don’t. I always have a piece of cake.

Audioscript

A: Tom, do you have milk for breakfast?
B: No, I don’t.
A: Do you have tea?
B: Yes, I do. I have tea for breakfast.
A: Do you have biscuits with your tea?
B: No, I don’t. I always have a piece of cake.
Task 9

A1. Listen and circle True or False.
    Ascolta e cerchia True (vero) oppure False (falso).

1. True / False
2. True / False
3. True / False
4. True / False
5. True / False

Score: ___ / 5
Task 19

A1. Listen and match.
Ascolta e abbina.

James  Betty  Carol  Sam  Larry  Olivia

Score: __ / 5
Task 1

Match questions and answers.
Abbina domande e risposte.

**C1.**

A. What's your name?  
1. I'm Italian.
B. What's your surname?  
2. At 8 o'clock.
C. What's your address?  
3. It's 06-9436576.
D. What's your telephone number?  
4. My name is Giovanni.
E. What nationality are you?  
5. It's 27, Via Verdi.
F. How are you?  
6. I'm fine, thank you!
G. Have you got a brother?  
7. I'm eleven years old.
H. What time do you go to school?  
8. Yes, I do.
I. How old are you?  
9. It's Rossi.
J. Do you like football?  
10. No, I haven't.

**C2.**

A. Where's the schoolbag?  
1. It's Monday.
B. How many boys are in your class?  
2. No, thank you.
C. Can you swim?  
3. It's June.
D. Is the teacher writing?  
4. It's on the desk.
E. Are there any cows on the farm?  
5. Yes, I can.
F. Would you like some cake?  
6. He's Mr Parker.
G. What's the weather like?  
7. No, she isn't.
H. What month is it?  
8. Yes, there are.
I. What day is it?  
9. It's sunny.
J. Who's he?  
10. There are seven boys in my class.

Score: __ / 10

Score: __ / 10

Total score: __ / 20
Task 2

Number the words in the correct order.
Numerà le parole nell'ordine corretto.

Leggi attentamente le istruzioni e guarda bene l'esempio.
Qui sotto ci sono alcune frasi le cui parti sono date in disordine. Rimettile in ordine scrivendo 1 nella casella sotto la prima parte, 2 sotto la seconda parte, ecc.

Esempio: 3 in 2 is 1 The teacher 4 the classroom.

Adesso continua tu.

C1. a red cap. The teddy bear is wearing

Score: _ / 2

C2. are The boots black.

Score: _ / 2

C3. orange is and purple. The bike

Score: _ / 3

C4. the elephant? What is colour

Score: _ / 3

C5. There are apples. four

Score: _ / 3

C6. ball My is in the garden.

Score: _ / 2

C7. old are How you?

Score: _ / 2

C8. and blue. is My jacket grey

Score: _ / 3

Total score: _ / 20

INVALSI Step by Step
Task 5

Read and answer.
Leggi e rispondi.

C1. Complete with the words in the box.

you • it • they • I • he • we • she • they

A. My name is Henry, _______ am a student.
B. This is my brother, _______ is a doctor.
C. Where is Anne? _______ is at school.
D. Look at those boys! _______ are from Madrid.
E. Carol and I are English. _______ are students.
F. What colour is your pen? _______ is blue.
G. How old are _______ ? I'm ten.
H. Where are your shoes? _______ are on the bed.

Score: ___ / 4

C2. Look and complete with the words in the box.

those • this • that • these

A. _______ is my bike.
B. _______ are my skateboards.
C. _______ is my scooter.
D. _______ are my books.

Score: ___ / 4

C3. Complete with a, an or the.

A. There is _______ kite in _______ sky.
B. _______ bananas are in _______ fridge.
C. There is _______ duck in _______ water.
D. He has got _______ old car.
E. _______ children are at _______ sea.
F. Look at all _______ stars in _______ sky!
G. That is _______ interesting book.
H. _______ teacher is French.

Score: ___ / 4

C4. Read and circle.

A. Rome is / isn't in Italy.
B. It is / isn't cold in July.
C. Zebras are / aren't yellow.
D. May is / isn't in winter.
E. The cooker is / isn't in the kitchen.
F. Carrots are / aren't vegetables.

Score: ___ / 4

C5. Complete with do or does.

A. _______ you like cheese?
B. _______ she study English?
C. _______ he have breakfast?
D. _______ they watch TV in the evening?

Score: ___ / 4

Total score: ___ / 20
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certificates, materials, archives, video tutorials, calendar of events
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