Italian Continuers – text types

# What are texts (text types)?

Texts (text types) are various forms of spoken and written language, such as articles, conversations, letters and so on. Each text type varies in its characteristics of format, style, and language. In the Italian Continuers HSC written examination, the following text types are specified for production:

1. article
2. diary entry
3. email
4. letter
5. message
6. note
7. notice
8. postcard
9. recount
10. report
11. script of an interview
12. script of a speech/talk.

Note: In the oral examination, you participate in a conversation.

In the written section of the HSC examination, you are required to produce 2 different styles of writing:

* the first style is informative or descriptive
* the second style is reflective, persuasive or evaluative, and could require you to explain or justify a point of view.

Using the correct text type and including the correct style of content is important.

# Sample tasks and practice questions

Past HSC papers can be downloaded from the [NESA website](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/resources/hsc-exam-papers). Some past HSC questions have been used as sample tasks in this document.

**For each task, identify the following:**

* **What is the purpose?**
* **Who is the audience?**
* **What is the context?**
* **What is the required text type?**
* **What is the style?**

## The texts (text types)

### 1 – article

#### Purpose

* to sustain an argument
* to describe
* to inform, persuade, amuse or entertain

#### Structure

* titles/headings (if appropriate)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* statement of conclusion or advice

#### Language features

* range of tenses (past, present, future, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the article)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. You have finished school and have been living away from home. Write an article for your Italian blog in which you evaluate your experiences.

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### 2 – diary entry

#### Purpose

* a personal reflection on a theme, place or situation

#### Structure

* date
* opening (*Caro diario*)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* concluding statement (for example *Ciao, Un bacio, A presto*)
* sign off with name (optional)

#### Language features

* written in the first person (keep the tone/perspective of the character from whose perspective you are writing)
* usually written in past tense (perfect/imperfect)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal register

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. As part of a research study, you recently had to spend two weeks without internet access. Write a diary entry in which you reflect on the experience.

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### 3 – email

#### Purpose

* to use technology-based methods of communication
* to send greetings
* to retell events
* to inform
* to seek a response

#### Structure

* email conventions (you are not usually required to write an email address in the exam)
* specific details without elaboration
* salutation (for example *Gentile Signor, Gentilissima Signora, Cara…, Caro…*)
* conclusion (for example *In attesa di una Sua risposta, Spero di sentirti presto, Distinti saluti, Cordiali saluti, Cordialità, Stammi bene! Saluti*)

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, imperfect, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the email)

#### Sample questions

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ITALIAN. You have a part-time job at your aunt’s shop. She expects you to work this coming long weekend. Write the text of an email to her, apologising and telling her why you cannot work that weekend.

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Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ITALIAN. Your best friend has asked to borrow your new laptop for the weekend. Write a brief email to talk about your concerns.

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### 4 – letter

#### Purpose

* to communicate in writing with acquaintances, friends, family or the public
* to inform, amuse, persuade

#### Structure

* town and date on the top right
* your name and address on the right side with the address to which you are writing on the left (formal)
* salutations (for example *Gentile Signor, Gentilissima Signora, Cara…, Caro…*)
* letter conventions (for example *La ringrazio della sua lettera del...*)
* ending (for example *Distinti saluti, A presto, Non vedo l’ora di sentirti, Un bacio*)

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, future, imperfect, conditional)
* descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example, letter to a friend or letter to a newspaper)

#### Sample questions

Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. Write a letter to a grandparent to persuade him/her to start using more modern means of communication.

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Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. An older friend runs a preschool. You feel strongly about the importance of young children learning another language. Write the script of a letter to persuade him/her to allow you to start teaching Italian at the preschool.

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### 5 – message

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type, such as voicemail message, text message, email, social media.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail
* frequent use of colloquial language if to a close friend/family member

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the message)
* frequent use of colloquial language if to a close friend/family member

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ITALIAN. Your friend did not turn up to your birthday party and has not given you an explanation. Write a message to him/her in which you express your disappointment.

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### 6 – note

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type such as voicemail message, text message, email.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example friend or boss)

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ITALIAN. Write a thank-you note to your teacher acknowledging how his/her support and guidance are helping you make decisions for the future.

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### 7 – notice

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to seek a response (for example looking for a roommate to share accommodation)

#### Structure

* heading/addressee
* specific details without elaboration
* statement of conclusion or advice (for example giving contact details)

#### Language features

* often written in the present tense
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ITALIAN. You are studying at a school in Italy and looking for a flatmate to move into your place to share the costs. Write a notice to be placed on the school noticeboard.

Adapted from 2018 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2018

### 8 – postcard

#### Purpose

* to provide information, amuse or entertain
* to retell events and experiences (for example who, where, what, when)

#### Structure

* salutations (*Cara…, Caro…*)
* brief description or message
* formulaic ending (*Ciao, A presto*)

#### Language features

* descriptive language
* personal impressions
* present or past tense, for example what it is like, or where you went, what you did, what you saw

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ITALIAN. You are on a homestay in Italy. Write a postcard to a friend describing how well you have settled in with your host family.

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### 9 – recount

#### Purpose

* to inform or entertain
* to retell past events or experiences
* to retell a series of events

#### Structure

* introduction/orientation (set the scene – who, what, where, when)
* events sequenced in chronological order
* closing statement

#### Language features

* often told in the first person
* descriptive language
* often told in past tense (imperfect, perfect)
* time words to connect events (for example *innanzitutto, poi, dopo, finalmente, nel frattempo*)
* words which tell us when, where, with whom and how
* linking words (for example *così, perché, ma, però*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. Write a recount of a significant event, reflecting on the impact it has had on your life.

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### 10 – report

#### Purpose

* to present information about a class of things (to classify) OR
* to describe the way things are
* to organise facts
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* general statement or classification
* series of paragraphs that describe
* logical progression
* concluding statement or summary

#### Language features

* supporting evidence, such as statistics, examples
* factual
* language specific to the topic
* objective language
* linking words (for example *però, perché, comunque*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. You recently completed a month of work experience. Write a report for the school newsletter evaluating whether the experience was beneficial.

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### 11 – script of an interview

#### Purpose

* to find out information (for example a story or a response)
* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* salutations
* clear idea of the purpose of the interview (*Vorrei parlare di…*)
* question and response sequence, initials followed by a colon, for example A: and B:
* use of filler expressions (*ma sì, ma no, naturalmente, in effetti*)
* conclusion (for example *Grazie per l'attenzione*)

#### Language features

* question forms (by the interviewer)
* register – use polite language (for example *Lei*)
* phrases to delve deeper (for example *Cosa ne pensa di…? perché*)
* transition strategies when switching topics (*Ora vorrei parlare di un altro argomento, di cui parliamo, di passare al prossimo argomento*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in Italian. You have interviewed an Italian exchange student for your school magazine. During the interview, the student reflected on his or her experiences at your school. Write the script of the interview.

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### 12 – script of a speech/talk

#### Purpose

* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to entertain
* to persuade
* to welcome
* to thank

#### Structure

* Salutations
* introductory statement of purpose (for example *Oggi parlerò..., ti parlo oggi perché...*)
* ideas and information organised and linked
* concluding remarks (for example *Per concludere, infine*)

#### Language features

* choice of expressions to engage the audience
* descriptive words
* range of tenses
* usually subjective language (this depends on the context)

#### Sample questions

Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. You have been asked to address the school assembly to help persuade students to develop a healthier lifestyle. Write the script of your speech.

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Write approximately 200 words in ITALIAN. You are mentoring a group of junior students in their first year at your school. As their mentor, you are going to present a speech at an assembly in which you provide them with suggestions for adjusting to their new environment. Write the script of your speech.

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