

Italian Beginners

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High School. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High School and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.

Italian Beginners - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

What will I be doing in the course?

In the Preliminary and HSC courses, students will develop the linguistic intercultural knowledge and understanding, and the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to communicate in Italian.

Topics studied through two interdependent perspectives, the *Personal World* and the *Italian-Speaking Communities*, provide contexts in which students develop their communication skills in Italian and their knowledge and understanding of language and culture.

Students' skills in, and knowledge of, Italian will be developed through tasks associated with a range of texts and text types, which reflect the topics. Students will also gain an insight into the culture and language of Italian-speaking communities through the study of range of texts.

The course introduces students to the language and culture of contemporary Italy and gives an appreciation for other Italian speaking communities in the world. In addition to language training in the four basic skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – various aspects of varied Italian speaking communities' society and culture will be introduced through audio and video extracts and short texts. The emphasis throughout will be on communicative skills, both oral, aural and written and students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to spoken and written Italian as well as demonstrate cultural awareness.

Main topics covered

There are two main prescribed areas: the *Personal World* and the *Italian-Speaking Communities*. The two perspectives will enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of and skills in the Italian language, linked to cultural values, attitudes and practices.

Through their study of the *Personal World*, students will develop their ability to use Italian to express and share ideas about experiences and activities relating to daily life and transactions in their own world.

Through their study of the *Italian-Speaking Communities*, students will come to inquire about and to express ideas in order to undertake activities and transaction appropriately in one or more communities where Italian is spoken.

The following are the sub-topic areas:

- Family life, home and neighbourhood
- People, places and communities
- Education and work
- Friends, recreation and pastimes
- Holidays, travel and tourism
- Future plans and aspirations

Learning activities will include structured and unstructured oral exercises, grammar and vocabulary exercises, role-play activities, translation, dictation, oral presentations, listening activities using authentic online materials, and compositions. Students will make use of online resources that include practice of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and that further cultural awareness in which Italian customs, culture, and everyday life aspects are also highlighted.

Particular course requirements

Eligibility rules apply to the study of this subject. Check with your teacher or the Board's *Assessment Certification Examination (ACE) Manual* (Section 8.2.2.3).

How will I be assessed in the course?

Students will be expected to undertake the following types of assessment and/or exam tasks.

- Oral assessments and/or examinations: Conversation in Italian (5 minutes)
- Written assessments and/or examinations: Listening (Italian Comprehension), Reading (Italian Comprehension), Writing in Italian.

Activities, tasks and homework undertaken throughout the Year 11 and Year 12 course will better prepare students to complete the assessment components.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

On the completion of the Italian Beginners course students should be able to:

- Understand the basic structures of the Italian language and use these in writing and in speech.

- Demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of Italian vocabulary to communicate in everyday situations.
- Recognize basic structures and vocabulary in written and spoken materials, and thus be able to read and listen to articles/news items/ short stories in Italian.
- Understand and analyse aspects of Italian and Francophone society and culture.
- Communicate information, ideas and opinions in Italian, in both spoken and written modes.

What will I be doing in this course?

Italian is the official language of Italy, San Marino and the Vatican City. It is one of the four official languages of Switzerland and one of the eleven official languages of the European Union. Extensive migration from Italy during the last 150 years has resulted in Italian being spoken in many other countries in Europe, in North and South America, Africa and Australia.

The history of Italian settlement in Australia can be traced to the First Fleet in 1788 and the place of Italian-speaking communities in Australia continues to play a significant role in Australia's culturally diverse society. Italians and the Italian language make a distinctive contribution to politics, art, architecture, music, science, literature, film and theatre. All students of Italian have much to gain by acquiring knowledge of the language and cultural heritage of Italy. Students of Italian origin have the opportunity to learn the language and deepen their understanding of the traditions and cultural of the country of their antecedents.

Italy is one of the most industrially and economically advanced nations in the world and ranks amongst Australia's top international trading partners in a mutually supportive trade relationship. People with a good knowledge of Italian are needed to provide support for the significant commercial links that exist between Australia and Italy. Italy remains a strong buyer of Australian primary products, while Australia has been a consistent buyer of Italian technology and design. A significant number of Italian companies currently have branches in Australia, which provide employment opportunities for Australians with skills in Italian. Competent speakers of Italian are also increasingly needed in the areas of tourism and social services, trade relations and foreign affairs, international banking and finance, music, literature and journalism, cuisine, catering and the hospitality industry, textiles, fashion and design.

The study of Italian also enhances the enjoyment and appreciation of Italian culture through literature, art, film and music.

How will this course help me in the future?

Knowledge of Italian may be an advantage in seeking employment in many fields such as the arts, banking and international finance, commerce, cuisine and catering, diplomacy, education and research, fashion and cosmetics, government, hospitality (e.g. hotels and restaurants), law, media (e.g. journalism), science and technology, tourism (e.g. airlines), translation and interpreting and wine-making.