

## ITALIAN LITERATURE first year

The **written test** will consist of the stylistic, metric and historic-literary analysis of a text from the Italian tradition or the writing of an argumentative essay starting from a title that, as a rule, poses long-term literary issues. Assessment will be made of the quality of the narrative and the knowledge utilised in the discourse. To have a more precise idea of the texts and topics proposed, reference may be made to the collection of **past test papers**.

The **oral test** will consist of reading, paraphrasing and commenting on some passages from the *Divine Comedy* and from other classics of the Italian literature and in a discussion of issues of literary history. The test is designed to assess not so much the cumulative possession of notions and information as the capability to analyse the text and to tackle the problems of a historical-literary nature.

Candidates must also demonstrate their knowledge of the most important moments in the Italian literary culture. For knowledge of the main authors and movements in their historical context, recourse to a good secondary high school textbook is advised. In addition to the indispensable preparation of a choice of 30 cantos of **Dante's Divine Comedy**, or of an entire cantica, they will need to study the biographical, critical and anthological aspects of at least the following authors: **Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Poliziano, Sannazzaro, Machiavelli, Guicciardini, Boiardo, Pulci, Ariosto, Tasso, Marino, Galileo, Metastasio, Goldoni, Parini, Alfieri, Monti, Foscolo, Leopardi, Manzoni, Verga, D'Annunzio, Pascoli, Svevo, Pirandello, Saba, Ungaretti, Montale, Primo Levi.**

The reading in their entirety and in-depth knowledge of some of the texts indicated in the list below will also be assessed (the reading is recommended of at least **three** of the following Italian classics):

- Dante, *Vita nova*
- Petrarch, *Canzoniere*
- Boccaccio, *Decameron*
- Poliziano, *Stanze per la giostra*
- Machiavelli, *Il Principe* o *La mandragola*
- Ariosto, *Orlando furioso* (selezione di canti) o *Satire*
- Tasso, *Gerusalemme liberata* (selezione di canti)
- Galileo, *Dialogo sopra i due massimi sistemi del mondo*
- Goldoni, *La locandiera* o un'altra commedia a scelta
- Parini, *Il giorno* o *Le odi*
- Alfieri, *Vita*
- Foscolo, *Le ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis* o *Dei Sepolcri*
- Leopardi, *Canti* o *Operette morali*
- Manzoni, *I Promessi Sposi*
- Verga, *I Malavoglia*
- D'Annunzio, *Il piacere* o *Alcyone*
- Pascoli, *Myricae* o *I canti di Castelvecchio*
- Svevo, *La coscienza di Zeno*
- Pirandello, *Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore* o *Il fu Mattia Pascal*

- Saba, *Antologia del «Canzoniere»*
- Ungaretti, *Allegria di naufragi*
- Montale, *Occasioni*
- P. Levi, *Se questo è un uomo*
- Morante, *L'isola di Arturo*
- Moravia, *Gli indifferenti*
- Calvino, *La trilogia degli antenati*

Also assessed will be the knowledge and direct reading of other texts, freely chosen from outside the list, and the capacity for personal critical reaction to the chosen texts.

Likewise assessed will be the reading of **two** critical essays, chosen from among those proposed below: these indications for reading should be intended as a stimulus for reflection on some literary issues rather than as part of the test proper.

- E. Auerbach, *Mimesis*, Einaudi 1956 (solamente: parte prima capp. I, II, VIII, IX e parte seconda capp. IV, VIII, X)
- L. Blasucci, *I tempi dei Canti*, Einaudi 1996
- G. Contini, *Un'idea di Dante*, Einaudi 1970 (solamente *Dante come personaggio-poeta della Commedia*, pp. 33-62 dell'edizione del 2001)
- C. Dionisotti, *Geografia e storia della letteratura italiana*, Einaudi 1967
- G. Folena, *L'italiano in Europa*, Einaudi 1983 (solamente il capitolo su Goldoni)
- D. Isella, *I lombardi in rivolta*, Einaudi 1984 (solamente *Foscolo e l'eredità di Parini*, pp. 79-102)
- G. Mazzacurati, *Pirandello nel romanzo europeo*, Il Mulino 1995
- P.V. Mengaldo, *La tradizione del Novecento. Prima serie*, Bollati-Boringhieri 1996 (solamente *Da D'Annunzio a Montale*, pp. 15-115)
- M. Santagata, *I frammenti dell'anima*, Il Mulino 1992
- A. Stussi, *Breve avviamento alla filologia italiana*, Il Mulino 2002