

**AP/4H Italian Language and Culture
Summer Assignment 2026**

Auguri e complimenti! Congratulations on your choice to continue with your study of Italian at Oakland Catholic. I am very excited to be working with all of you. Improving your skills in any language other than English will help broaden your perspectives and opportunities in the future. Increasing your language abilities along with an increased cultural and global awareness and understanding will help prepare you all for college and the real world as you grow into young adults.

The AP Italian Language and Culture Exam is a ~3 hour skills-based exam designed to see how well you meet the skill levels that one would expect in a college course. Unlike many of your other AP courses, it is less of a knowledge-based exam. The exam is designed to assess speaking, reading, writing and listening as well as to assess your understanding of the Italian-speaking world.

I designed this summer assignment to give you a better idea of what to expect on the AP exam as well as to encourage you to practice the language over the summer. I encourage you all to utilize the websites provided (pg. 5) to read articles, watch television programs and movies in Italian more frequently than is required for the summer assignments. Doing so will improve your comprehension skills throughout the year and for the exam next May.

Here is what I need from you all:

- First, read through the summer assignment (pg 2)
- Then, read over the class syllabus (pg. 3-4), which will further explain what I am expecting of you in class beyond just the AP expectations.
- Please familiarize yourself with the AP Italian Language and Culture Exam Format by looking over attached sheets. (pg. 5-7) NOTE: The exam is changing format for the 2026-2027 school year, but the official format has not yet been released. Students will receive a copy in August.
- Look through the AP Grading Portfolio (only 1 week's worth of assignments because I am still in the process of completing this). (pg. 8)

You may email me at apazzaglia@oaklandcatholic.org if you have any questions. I am also willing to meet up online over Zoom or other resources to help with the assignment. This is not the only time you can meet with me, but it will be a set space so feel free to Join!

Buon' estate, e buona fortuna
-Ms. Pazzaglia

Please complete the following activities NO LATER than Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026:

Please organize and label your work. You will **HAND WRITE** an in-class essay on Thursday September, 3rd, 2026 about the following film. While watching the film, please consider the themes of the AP Exam, and the underlying parts to these themes, as it will help you further understand the main components of the Exam.

Watch an Italian movie

- This will help improve your listening and comprehension skills. You may utilize the English subtitles, however! Utilize the printed study guide as well.
 - Cinema Paradiso
 - Available on Amazon Prime, Philo, Paramount, MGM, YouTube, etc
 - Also available to rent on Apple, GooglePlay, etc
- Once you return to school, you will choose 1 of the following 4 prompts, each needing to be at least 200 words:
 - In the film, we move through three different life stages with Salvatore: childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.
 - How does Salvatore's view of his life, those around him, and Italian culture change through the different lenses of those three stages? What realizations does he have as an adult that differ from when he was a child.
 - Salvatore looks up to Alfredo as a mentor and someone he admires.
 - Comment on their relationship. Why is it important? What lessons does Alfredo teach Salvatore about cinema? What bigger life lessons are present?
 - In Italian culture, especially smaller towns, community is an important aspect of life.
 - What examples of community do we see in the film? Name at least three.
 - Create your own prompt! Is there something else you'd like to comment on instead. An analysis of gender portrayal, a commentary on post WW2 society, the inevitable ending of Salvatore and Elena's relationship? Think of something creative!

AP Italian 2026-2027 School Year Syllabus

General Oakland Catholic Expectations:

- Uniforms are to be worn at all times.
 - If students are violating the dress code, they will be written up and parents will be informed.
- ID's are to be worn at all times.
- Cell phones/Apple Watches may be in backpacks and taken out when instructed by the teacher to use during class.
 - If consistent use of devices persists, students will be written up and parents will be contacted.
- Students will come to class prepared with pencils, paper, laptops, etc.
- Laptops and iPads will be used for educational purposes only, and only for work pertaining to this class.
 - If a student is using their computer for other classwork/outside of school work (college applications, etc.) they will be asked to put their computer away.
- Students will not violate their privilege to go to the bathroom and use it as a time to socialize, be on their phone, etc.
- Students will not have outside conversations while in class.

My AP Class Expectations:

- Students will be speaking in the directed language unless given permission otherwise.
- Students will be respectful of everyone's opinions and thoughts.
 - We will have a couple of debates/ socratic seminars throughout the year and you should all be prepared to hear opinions that differ from yours.
- Students are expected to adhere to Oakland Catholic's Honor Code. Violation of the honor code will result in a 0 on the assignment
 - You are expected to complete your work individually. You may use wordreference.com as a dictionary, but you may not use translator sites for any portion of your work. This does not benefit you as a student. Remember! It is easy for me to tell when you use one.
- AP Italian does not have strict deadlines, but students must always be studying
 - Homework is never assigned as busy work, rather to help students better prepare for the exam.
 - Sometimes homework will be graded for accuracy/completion.
 - Sometimes homework is assigned so that students are prepared for class the following day. While this type of homework is not

checked by me, it is still required and important that it is completed.

- Students must be studying any grammar points they still don't know or vocab they feel they haven't mastered.
 - If students feel they are lacking in any area, they may ask me for extra worksheets or help, but should also take advantage of online resources that are available with a little bit of research.

Grades:

- Grades will be point based and be in one of the following categories
 - Participation
 - Homework
 - Socratic Seminars/Debates
 - AP Test Practice
 - Essays
 - Vocab Quizzes
 - A Midterm and Final Project

Italian News Sites

www.corriere.it

www.rai.it

www.italica.it

www.repubblica.it

www.skuola.it

<http://www.storiebrevi.it>

<http://www.lastampa.it/>

Helpful Study Sites

Duolingo

Babbel

<https://onlineitalianclub.com/where-are-all-the-good-sites-to-learn-italian-free/>

<https://www.italian-verbs.com/>

<http://www.wordreference.com/>

<http://www.treccani.it/>

AP Italian Exam Format

Section 1: Multiple Choice

65 Questions | 1 Hour 35 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Part A: 30 questions, 40 minutes

-Interpretive Communication: Print Texts (4 sets)

Part B: 35 Questions, 55 minutes

-Interpretive Communication: Paired Print and Audio Texts – new type of task where students interpret thematically aligned print and audio texts together (2 sets)

Interpretive Communication: Audio Texts (3 sets)

Section 2: Free Response

4 Tasks | ~ 1 Hour 28 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Part A: Written Tasks | ~70 minutes

-Interpersonal Writing: Email reply (1 prompt, 15 minutes)

-Presentational Writing: Argumentative Essay (1 prompt, 15 minutes to review materials plus 40 minutes to write)

Part B: Spoken Responses | ~ 18 minutes

-Interpersonal Speaking: Conversation (5 prompts, 20 seconds for each response)

-Presentational Speaking: Cultural comparison (1 prompt; 4 minutes to prepare, 2 minutes to respond)

Themes and Topics On The Exam

I. Sfide globali (Global Challenges)

- a. Economy / Mercato del lavoro
- b. Education / Scuola ed istruzione
- c. Environment / Ambiente
- d. Food and Nutrition / Alimentazione
- e. Human Rights / Diritti umani
- f. Migrations and Borders / Migrazioni e frontiere
- g. Politics / Politica

II. Bellezza ed estetica (Beauty and Aesthetics)

- a. Architecture / Architettura
- b. Conservation and Restoration / Tutela dei beni artistici e culturali
- c. Fashion and Design / Moda e design
- d. Ideals of Beauty / Ideali di bellezza
- e. Literature / Letteratura
- f. Music / Musica
- g. Performing Arts / Il mondo dello spettacolo
- h. Visual Arts / Arti visive

III. Famiglia e società (Families and Communities)

- a. Family Structures / La famiglia attraverso i tempi
- b. Generational Relationships / Rapporti generazionali
- c. Individualism and Solidarity / Individualismo e solidarietà
- d. Personal Relationships / Rapporti personali
- e. Social Benefits / Stato sociale
- f. Urban, Suburban and Rural Life / Vita in città, periferia e campagna
- g. Youth Culture / I giovani oggi

IV. Identità privata e pubblica (Personal and Public Identities)

- a. Gender and Sexuality / Genere e sessualità
- b. History and Geography / Storia e geografia
- c. Identity and Integration / Identità ed integrazione
- d. Italians in the World / Gli italiani nel mondo
- e. Language and Identity / Lingue ed identità
- f. Political Views / Politica attuale e prospettive
- g. Societal Beliefs and Personal Values / Credenze diffuse e valori personali

V. Vita contemporanea (Contemporary Life)

- a. Education and Career / Istruzione e formazione
- b. Holidays and Celebrations / Feste, sagre e tradizioni
- c. Housing and Shelter / Abitazioni
- d. Leisure, Travel and Tourism / Viaggi e tempo libero
- e. Mass Media / Mezzi di comunicazione
- f. Sports and Fitness / Sport e benessere
- g. Work / Il mondo del lavoro

VI. Scienza e tecnologia (Science and Technology)

- a. Alternative Resources / Fonti ed energie alternative
- b. Discoveries and Inventions / Scoperte ed invenzioni
- c. Ethics / Scelte etiche e morali
- d. Health and Medicine / Salute e medicina
- e. The Internet and Its Social Impact / La rete ed il suo impatto sociale
- f. Personal Technology and Communication / Uso personale della tecnologia

(This is just an example to give you a feel of the week)

Week #1

Unit #1: Families in Different Societies

Topic: Scopriamo e valorizziamo il ruolo paterno nelle relazioni familiari

Day:	Lesson/Task:	Assignment:
Monday, September 9th	Vocab to help with topic	Write 10 sentences using the new vocab words- highlight the words in the sentences
Tuesday, September 10th	Videos that relate to the topic	Video discussion board to help reinforce what we discussed
Wednesday, September 11th	Family Listening Activity	None :)
Thursday, September 12th	Italian Family Reading	Finish reading and annotate
Friday, September 13th	AP Practice- Reading	None :)