

ITALIAN  
 B1  
**Inform oneself about language course**

## Description of Test Task\*

The task described here was provided by the renowned test institution telc (Germany). Telc test tasks have been subject to the ALTE auditing procedures. In the MERLIN project, all written learner productions were re-rated by especially trained telc raters who used the MERLIN rating grid. It should be noted that the descriptions below refer to these post hoc rating procedures, not to the original marking inside the test institutions.

Report on analysis of	<b>Writing</b>
Target language of this test	<b>Italian</b>
Target level (CEFR) of this test	<b>B1</b>
Task number/name	<b>Espressione scritta (lettera)</b> <b>1365-S10-050401</b>

### General Information - the whole original test

1	Total test time	Ca. 165 minutes + a 20 minute break
2	Purpose	General proficiency

#### 3 Examination background

High stakes test developed by telc.

#### 4 Candidature

Adult language learners

#### 5 Structure of the test

Language Elements, Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking

\*The task analysis is based on the "[CEFR Grid for Writing Tasks v. 3.1 \(presentation\)](#)". The original template for this grid was developed by ALTE members: [www.alte.org](http://www.alte.org). For explanations of the numbered items in the grid please refer to "Notes on the task descriptions".

## General Information - the writing component

6	Number of tasks in the writing paper	1
7	Total component time	30 minutes
8	Integration of skills	Reading and writing
9	Channel	Handwritten
10	CEFR level of this component	B1

### 11 The writing component format

Open writing task

### 12 Specific Information - example task

Candidates receive a short description of a contextualised communicative task such as writing a formal letter to a language school in which they express interest in a particular course and ask for further information about course and accommodation fees. Four additional points help candidates structure their text.

### 13 Mark distribution in MERLIN

n.a.

### 14 Task rating in MERLIN

The test was rated on the basis of the MERLIN rating grid which is directly related to the CEFR levels. The grid is available on the MERLIN platform.

### 15 Effective level

Telc test tasks have been subject to the ALTE auditing procedures. The test publisher is a member of ALTE.

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## 16 Sample task:

**4** **Espressione scritta (lettera)**

*Lei ha letto il seguente annuncio*

**Piazza Italia**  
via Bixio 99  
00185 Roma  
Tel/fax 06/333834

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Il Centro di Lingua e Cultura **Piazza Italia** organizza corsi di lingua e cultura italiana tutto l'anno.

**CORSI A ROMA:** Corsi da una a quattro settimane, in piccoli gruppi. Lezioni individuali.

**CORSI ESTIVI AL MARE:** In collaborazione con il **Comune di Pisciotta (Salerno)** nel periodo dal **3.7.** al **22.9.** la scuola organizza delle vacanze-studio di 2 e 4 settimane. Questi corsi possono essere abbinati ai corsi a Roma. Oltre all'apprendimento dell'italiano si offre la possibilità di una splendida vacanza in una delle zone più belle del Sud Italia: il Cilento.

**PROGRAMMA DI NATALE:** Dal **26.12.** al **6.1.** la scuola organizza un corso speciale che permette di combinare lo studio della lingua con una vacanza a Roma.

**ALLOGGIO:** La scuola offre diverse possibilità di alloggio: camere singole e doppie in hotel, in pensione, in case private o in appartamenti con altri studenti.

Scriva una lettera

- spiegando perché ha deciso di rispondere all'annuncio.
- dicendo che tipo di corso Le piacerebbe frequentare.
- dicendo che tipo di alloggio vorrebbe.
- informandosi sui prezzi dell'alloggio e del corso.

i) Task input/prompt		
17	Language of input/prompt	Italian
18	CEFR level of input/prompt	B1
19	Time permitted or suggested for this task	30 minutes
20	Control/guidance	Semi-controlled
21	Content	Specified
22	Genre	Letter (business)
23	Rhetorical function(s) of input	Describing, explaining, persuading, suggesting
24	Imagined audience	Employee of a language school
25	Mode of input/prompt	Written
26	Topic or theme of input	Education, language
27	Integration of skills for input	Reading

ii) Response (description of written response elicited by the prompt(s)/input)		
28	Number of words expected	n.a.
29	Rhetorical function(s) expected	Introducing oneself, explaining, giving opinions, expressing wishes, asking for further information
30	Text purpose	Referential, conative, metalingual, phatic
31	Register	Formal
32	Domain	Educational
33	Grammatical competence expected	B1
34	Lexical competence expected	B1
35	Discoursal competence expected	B1
36	Authenticity: situational	High
37	Authenticity: interactional	High
38	Cognitive processing	Reproduction of known ideas

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39	Content knowledge required	General/non-specialised knowledge areas
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iii) Rating of Task in the MERLIN project		
40	Known criteria	MERLIN rating grid
41	Task rating method	Analytical scale
42	Assessment criteria	Grammatical accuracy, lexical range & accuracy, coherence/cohesion, orthography, sociolinguistic appropriateness, task fulfilment
43	Number and combination of raters	Each test was rated by a trained rater; 10% of the tests were double-rated. The double-ratings serve as a link to calculate a fair average, i.e. to adjust test results to rater severity/lenience. Please note that telc generally provides double-ratings.