

ITALIAN

READING ADVICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Please find below some **further information** about the structure of the **Italian language course** for first year students, together with the most up to date reading list for students at different levels. This information supplements the list you were sent a few weeks ago.

Please refer to the original list for information about the first year literature papers. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to welcoming you to Somerville in October.

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ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Whether you have an A Level or equivalent in Italian, or you start as a beginner, language classes in your first year will give you a firm grasp of grammar, develop your vocabulary and language skills and prepare you for the Language Preliminary Exams at the end of Trinity Term. Students are asked to do an online test prior to coming to Oxford, and they are subsequently streamed into four different levels (Level 1 for Beginners, Level 4 for Advanced). Teaching in your first year will consist of 4 hours a week, comprising weekly classes of Grammar, Prose (Translation from English into Italian), Listening and Reading comprehension, and two fortnightly classes of Essay writing and Translation from Italian into English.

Those who applied to Beginners Italian (Levels 1 and 2), are advised to purchase a copy of:

- *The Ultimate Italian Review and Practice*, by David Stillman (McGraw-Hill, 2013)

Advanced Beginners and Post-A Level students (Levels 3 and 4) are advised to purchase:

- *Soluzioni: A Practical Grammar of Contemporary Italian*, by Denise De Rome (Routledge, 2015) (**NB: third edition**).

If you are unsure to which level you will be assigned, you may wait to buy the relevant grammar book/s after the language test and after the groups have been formed. Textbooks will be available at Blackwells Bookshop in Oxford. If you are

attending the Italian Pre-sessional course, you will be receiving separate information on how to prepare.

At a more Advanced level, we also recommend the following reference books:

- *A Reference Grammar of Modern Italian*, by Martin Maiden and Cecilia Robustelli (Routledge, 2007; second edition).
- *Using Italian Vocabulary*, by Marcel Danesi (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

You are strongly advised to acquire a good-sized bilingual Dictionary (such as Oxford-Paravia, Collins, Ragazzini), also available in libraries. You may also use the following online dictionaries. Whether using a paper or an online dictionary, we recommend you always write down the word or expression you've looked up in your own vocabulary notebook.

Bilingual dictionaries:

<http://www.garzantilinguistica.it>

Monolingual Italian dictionaries:

<http://www.treccani.it>

http://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_italiano/

Once at Oxford you'll have access to the language learning resources at the Language Centre Library (12 Woodstock Road) and the Taylor Institution, where you can find all of the above and much more.