

Italian

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SAT® Subject Test in Italian

In this document, you will find detailed answer explanations to all of the Italian practice questions from *Getting Ready for the SAT Subject Tests*. By reviewing these answer explanations, you can familiarize yourself with the types of questions on the test and learn your strengths and weaknesses. The estimated difficulty level is based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the easiest and 5 the most difficult.

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- Difficulty: 2**

The correct answer is choice (C) *comodi*, meaning “convenient.” Jeans are *comodi* especially while traveling, *specie in viaggio*, because you do not have to worry about ruining their creases (*non ci sono problemi di piega*) as you do with pants. None of the other choices — (A) *colorati* (colored or dyed), (B) *costosi* (expensive) or (D) *stretti* (tight) — makes sense in this context.
- Difficulty: 3**

The correct answer is choice (A) *utili*, meaning “practical.” The narrator says that jeans are worn *anche per bellezza* (also because they look good) but then introduces the next clause with *ma* (but), establishing a contrast with the first part of the sentence. The only choice that works effectively as a contrast to *per bellezza* is *utili*.
- Difficulty: 4**

The correct answer is choice (A) *rinunciare*. The narrator says that because he had gained weight (*perché ero ingrassato*), for several years he has had to do something (*da parecchi anni avevo dovuto ...*) regarding *questo piacere*, “this pleasure,” of wearing jeans. The only verb that makes sense in this context is *rinunciare*, “to give [them] up.”
- Difficulty: 5**

The correct answer is choice (C) *chili*. The narrator reveals that recently he has lost a sufficient number of something (*avevo perso quel numero di ___ sufficiente*) in order to be able to *riprovare un blue-jeans*, “to try on a pair again.” It is clear from this context that the narrator has lost weight, and the only choice that gives us a noun indicating weight is choice (C) *chili*, “kilograms.”
- Difficulty: 3**

The correct answer is choice (B) *volta*. The narrator tells us that he tried on a dozen pairs of blue jeans in a store and that the saleswoman repeatedly made the same unhelpful comment. It is clear from the context that she comments *ogni volta*, “every time,” he tries on a pair. None of the other choices makes sense as following *ogni* in the sentence.
- Difficulty: 4**

The correct answer is choice (D) *adattano*. As the narrator tries on each new pair of jeans, the saleswoman says “*Stringa*,” meaning “squeeze” or “tighten up,” which in context means to suck in his belly (*tirare indietro la pancia*); she then assures the narrator that he will see something happen as a result (*Vedrà che poi ...*). The only verb that makes sense in the sentence is *si adattano*, meaning that the jeans will then fit him.
- Difficulty: 2**

The correct answer is choice (B) *begli*. In order to know which form of the high-frequency adjective *bello* correctly fills the blank, you need to know that a masculine plural noun beginning with *sc-* must be preceded by the form of *bello* ending with *-gli*.
- Difficulty: 2**

The correct answer is choice (A) *Le*. The word that correctly fills in the blank is the one that agrees with the word *camicie* in gender and number. That word — *Le*, meaning “them” — is used as a direct object pronoun substituting for *queste camicie* in the second sentence: “I bought them for Gianna.”
- Difficulty: 1**

The correct answer is choice (B) *una medicina*. The advertisement for Cebion states explicitly that it is a *un medicinale*, a synonym of *una medicina*.
- Difficulty: 2**

The correct answer is choice (D) *con cura*. The advertisement states explicitly that Cebion should be used *con cautela*, “with caution.” The phrase *con cura* is synonymous with *con cautela*. Though it might be common for medicines and supplements to be taken (A) *ogni giorno*, “every day,” or (C) *prima dei pasti*, “before meals,” the advertisement does not discuss this. It would not make sense for Cebion to be taken (C) *con la vitamina C*, because according to the advertisement it is vitamin C.
- Difficulty: 2**

The correct answer is choice (C) *Un impiegato*. The writer is sympathetic to the cause of strikers and identifies himself as a regular employee like them, calling himself *un lavoratore dipendente*, a phrase synonymous with *un impiegato*.

12. Difficulty: 4

The correct answer is choice (B) *Che sono qualche volta giustificati*. The writer refuses to complain about strikes in general — *non voglio lamentarmi degli scioperi* — and indeed defends them: *so che è giusto farli*. This means that he believes that strikes are “sometimes justified.”

13. Difficulty: 2

The correct answer is choice (D) *rassegnazione*. The writer accepts that strikes are sometimes justified but also knows *per esperienza* that train service in Italy has remained unreliable. He argues that one has simply to accept things the way they are: *Bisogna accettare ciò che passa il convento e rassegnarsi*. He therefore looks upon strikes “with resignation.”

14. Difficulty: 1

The correct answer is choice (A) *non aspettare più alla stazione*. The question is about what the author decided to do 10 years ago. The author says that he used to wait for relatives arriving at the train station. But now he says, *da almeno dieci anni, non lo faccio più, per non passare ore a vuoto in attesa di treni che non sono mai puntuali* — he no longer wastes time at the station waiting for trains that are never on time.