

Caleidoscopio Italiano

Words: Veronica de Felice - London Academy of Excellence Tottenham

Caleidoscopio Italiano is a six-unit course covering aspects of Italian culture and language and is suitable for B1 - C1 learners. The book could be a great resource for Italian teachers delivering courses at advanced levels, especially A-level, as it covers all the main topics required by the new Edexcel specification.

The book is based around various literary texts written by well-known Italian authors, with genres ranging from detective and comic novels to autobiographies.

Each unit covers a specific topic, for example, the Italian language, the landscape, the people, tastes and habits and immigration. Units and texts can therefore be covered

independently, which allows a good deal of flexibility for teachers and students. Units open with a small paragraph about the author, followed by an activity to introduce the literary text, often focused on the lexicon.

Learners are invited to analyse literary extracts through various activities aimed at improving grammar and language as well as developing critical understanding of the topics, which is an important skill to foster in our advanced learners.

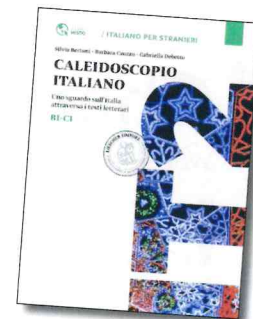
There is also a useful website www.loescher.it/italianoperstranieri that teachers can refer to in order to enrich their lessons with extra material, videos and mp3 resources.

MORE INFORMATION

Silvia Bertoni, Barbara Cauzzo and Gabriella Debetto, Loescher Editore,

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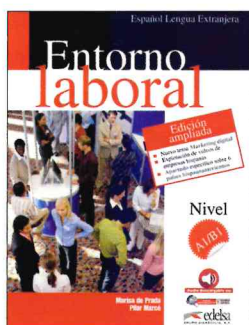
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Book Review

Entorno laboral (edición ampliada)

Words: Sarah Lloyd - London Academy of Excellence Tottenham



In my North London 6th form college we are keen to provide practical MFL options for those students who wish to study a foreign language post-GCSE but who are put off by the challenges of the new A-level specifications. The Level 2 Certificate in Languages for Business, accredited by the Chartered Institute of Linguists, seems to be a good fit for our needs and we're offering this course this year. You can read more on that here: <https://www.ciol.org.uk/clb>

With this in mind, it was timely that I was invited to review the 'Entorno Laboral' coursebook, a vocational

course focussing on the world of work, covering levels A1 to B1 of the CEFR.

Themed units cover a range of scenarios, for example discussing details of an office set up or sharing details about a business trip. There is a strong focus on oral communication, as well as grammar and vocabulary practice. Each chapter closes with a glossary and there are activities to consolidate the module content and reinforce speaking skills. Useful cultural insights are woven throughout the book, for example commentaries on working hours in different countries or notes on lexical differences according to geography – Mexico's 'computadora' compared to Spain's 'ordenador', for example. The 2-page spreads dedicated to aspects of working life in Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Peru, Chile and Argentina are particularly interesting.

As the book covers levels A1 to B1, teachers delivering a post-GCSE business course such as the CIOL Level 2 Certificate may find that some of the early chapters serve as revision or reinforcement, and they

may progress fairly quickly through these initial chapters but they will still enjoy a rich diet of grammar including the subjunctive and they will enjoy accessing the audio and video resources attached to the book. Students can access digital extension work using a code provided in the book.

At a time when GCSE and A-level MFL entries are diminishing in the UK it's important to consider different ways in which we can appeal to our students and make the case for languages. An alternative approach, such as an MFL for business route could appeal to students who would otherwise abandon languages completely, and it may open doors to exciting possibilities in the future.

MORE INFORMATION

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