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## Post-A'level Italian

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Below you will find a reading list and some preparatory work that you should complete before coming to Cambridge in October. You can find out more about the different strands of the first-year course [here](#). If you have any questions about preparing for the course, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Scott Annett ([sa410@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sa410@cam.ac.uk)).

### Language work:

You are encouraged to do whatever you can to develop your Italian language skills over the summer. Using a variety of methods will help: use web-based language-learning resources, read (online) magazines and newspapers, listen to podcasts or internet radio, and watch Italian-language films and series. It is a good idea to revise and consolidate the grammar you have learned so far before starting the course in October, as it will proceed at a fast pace.

### Reading:

As well as language work in the first year, you will also study literature, film, and linguistics in [Paper IT1: Italian Texts and Contexts](#). **You should read at least the core texts before arriving in Cambridge in October**, and you are strongly advised to do some of the preparatory reading outlined on the website as well.

### 2. Commentary

It is useful for us to have an idea of your current skills in practical literary criticism. Please write a critical commentary on Dante's *Inferno*, *canto* 5, lines 70-142. You may use a parallel text to aid your comprehension of the Italian (the particular translation that you use is not important, though you may also find the notes in the [Penguin edition](#) helpful). Some useful guidelines on writing commentaries can be found [here](#). You might also find it helpful to read some general criticism on Dante to inform your thinking: some suggested reading is listed below. Aim to write between 600 and 1000 words. This work should be emailed to [Dr Scott Annett](#) as soon as you arrive at Robinson in October.

General reading on Dante's *Commedia* (suggestions only). We do recognise that access to books may be difficult in the present circumstances, and there is no pressure to buy any of the items on this list. If you are unable to access them, please don't worry.

- Jacoff, R. (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Dante* (Cambridge: CUP, 1993)
- Kirkpatrick, Robin. *Dante's 'Inferno': Difficulty and Dead Poetry* (Cambridge: CUP, 1987, repr. 2008)
- Scott, J.A. *Understanding Dante* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2004)