**Theme 1**

**FAMILY**

**The evolution of the Italian family.**

The stereotyped image of the [large and traditional Italian family](https://www.lifeinitaly.com/video/italian-americans), with more than six children, is just an old memory. In fact, in the last thirty years the structure of the Italian family has dramatically changed from the traditional model we were used to see in old movies. In the past, Italian families, especially those of the South, were made up of a lot of children and they were patriarchal units where women usually didn’t work. In the last 100 years, the evolution of the country from an agricultural system into an industrial system brought many changes to the culture, mentality, and habits of Italian society – and families have changed as a result. However, heirlooms of the traditional model of family can still be found in the modern system.

**Changes in the Italian family**

Though Italian families tend to be smaller now, they continue to spend a lot of time together and their members typically try to gather to eat together at least one meal each day where they share their days’ events. Moreover, there are still strong ties among family members even when they create new family units or if they live far from their original families, and most still join their parents or relatives during festivities like Christmas or Easter.

**Gay Marriage**

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) condemned Italy on Thursday for failing to recognise same-sex marriages, a ruling that will result in a token financial compensation for the plaintiffs and more negative publicity for the country.

Italy’s refusal to allow same-sex couples married abroad to register their union, either as a marriage or under any other form, deprives them of legal protection and results in a breach of their rights to have a family, the Strasbourg-based court ruled.

The ECHR accepted that Italy’s choice not to allow same-sex marriages could not be condemned under human rights law, but the crux of the case was that the couples had not been able to obtain any kind of legal recognition for their unions

(The European Court of Human Rights: La Corte Europea dei diritti umani)

**EDUCATION**

1. Later this week, the principal will meet families to discuss this year’s exams.
2. School uniforms should be required in order to ensure safety at school.
3. In some high schools of the United States uniforms would solve the problem of intruders.
4. Without uniforms schools have no ability to determine who is or is not a student. Intruders could mix in with students.
5. This will create a safer atmosphere at schools, allowing teachers and students to focus more on education.
6. It will also decrease the risk of violence at school.

**WORK**

**Less manufacturing, more domestic workers and carers**
From the radiography of the sectors, the last ten years have seen the weight of employment decrease in manufacturing activities , in construction , in the public administration and in defense.

 Employees in hotels and restaurants , in health care and social assistance and the share of domestic workers and carer are increasing . «These last figures - underlines Michele Pasqualotto, have almost doubled in weight over the total number of workers, reaching 3.3% in 2017 with an increase of over 350 thousand workers».

**Jobs in Italy**

While Italy has the eighth largest economy in the world according to the 2018 International Monetary Fund, it is still feeling the effects of the global financial crisis and has the second highest level of public debt in Europe.

The majority of the country's 60 million inhabitants reside in the north, and ambitious graduates are more likely to find work in large northern towns and cities.

The contrast between the north and the south is quite stark - northern Italy is more industrialised and developed and known for its abundance of private companies, while the south relies heavily on agriculture and farming. Unemployment in the southern regions is as high as 29%

(International Monetary Fund: Fondo Monetario Internazionale)