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BOOK REVIEW

ILA ARABIC CERTIFICATE TRAINING TESTS with audio CD. A1 Level

Hocine Benchina and Nadia Rocchetti

Milano: Istituto di Cultura e di Lingue Marcelline, Jouvence, 2015, 62 pp., ISBN
9788869770593

ILA ARABIC CERTIFICATE TRAINING TESTS with audio CD. A2 Level

Hocine Benchina and Nadia Rocchetti

Milano: Istituto di Cultura e di Lingue Marcelline, Jouvence, 2015, 102 pp., ISBN
9788869770630

The development of students' abilities to use a foreign language as an instrument of communication in the dialogue of cultures and civilizations becomes very topical especially nowadays, and the appearance of ILA ARABIC CERTIFICATE TRAINING TESTS is both relevant and appropriate for students not only from Italy but also from other European and non-European countries.

The two volumes of the ARABIC CERTIFICATE TRAINING TESTS abbreviated as ILA (ikhtibār al-lugha al-'arabiyya) are structured and designed in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and other international language standards. They are divided into two parts corresponding to levels A1 and A2 of the CEFR, or to an elementary level of communication skills in Modern Standard Arabic. Furthermore, both volumes of the ILA focus on basic speaking skills considered to be one of the four macro skills necessary for effective communication in any language.

It is reasonable that the first part of the ILA addresses issues related to personal information concerning name, surname, origin, residence, profession and so on, and the second part covers some simple topics that are useful for work and everyday life. As for the exam, it is structured in three sections, including presentation, interaction and listening, and each section is separately timed.

Moreover, the ILA has a balanced composition and consists of various samples and types of practical exercises and dialogues based on different viewpoints and perspectives. They are accompanied by audio texts and key words and expressions that enable students to evaluate their comprehension level by themselves and improve their active listening skills. Besides this, the ILA editions provide students with thematic and lexical diversity of the texts, and their comprehensiveness is revealed even in the titles used, such as *Taxi driver*, *Dentist*, *Peasant*, *Faculty of Political Sciences*, etc.

Although the ILA volumes are designed as the first certificate of Modern Standard Arabic in Italy, their relevance and practical importance are evident in a wide context. Their multiple exercise options are topical not only for students who want to get their ILA certificates but also for people who are generally interested in learning Arabic and evaluating their competence in the language.

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