AP Italian Language and Culture study guide

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For all these themes and subthemes link them back to their cultural significance and their impact in Italian society

Unit 1-Familia e Società

Families and Communities

Unit 2-Identità privata e pubblica

Personal and public identities

Unit 3-Vita contemporanea

Contemporary life

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Unit 1-Familia e Società

Families and Communities

Essential questions

- Quali ostacoli si pongono per le famiglie italiane al giorno d'oggi?
 - Al giorno d'oggi è più difficile preservare queste usanze culturali perché molti genitori lavorano e i figli vanno a scuola rendendo difficile trovare un tempo dove tutti possono passare tempo insieme per creare queste relazioni e conservare la cultura.
- Quali sono gli aspetti che le famiglie nelle nazioni italiane valorizzano di più?
 - Le famiglie italiane valorizzano molto i pasti insieme, l'onestà l'uno con l'altro e le relazioni all'interno della famiglia.
- Come sono composte le famiglie nella società italiane?
 - Generalmente le famiglie nelle società italiane sono piccole e strette con solo uno o due figli in maggior parte.

Spiega come la cultura italiana ha creato e influenzato queste usanze, tradizioni e valori.

Unit 1 sub themes and keywords

Strutture familiari:

- Family structure in Italian societies does not just mean how many people, on average, live in one household in Italian speaking countries or the normal age gap between generations in families. The more cultural aspect of family structure means understanding the perceived roles of each family member and how these roles are particular to Italian societies.
- Whether or not most Italian families have pets in their house and how it relates to their culture/traditions

Important vocabulary for family structure:

- Il ruolo -- role, in this case, one's role and "duties" within a household and for the family
- L'animale domestico -- pet, literal translation is animal for the house

Rapporti generazionali:

- Generational relationships comprises the cultural significance of relationships between grandparents and grandchildren and parents and children. It also comprises interactions between teachers and students or coaches and athletes.
- Generational differences arising from the innovations of technology and communications

Important vocabulary for generational relationships:

- La generazione -- generation
- I nonni -- grandparents, usually very close with their grandchildren and babysit them when they are very young and parents are working. Italian grandmothers are known for being excellent cooks and always wanting to feed their grandchildren.
- I nipoti -- also sometimes "i nipotini," grandchildren, spend a lot of time with their grandparents especially grandmother, considering her a mentor

Rapporti personali:

• The traditions and characteristics of friendships in Italian speaking regions and how they are different than the United States/other communities.

- Dating life in Italian societies is another major part of personal relationships and to understand Italian culture, in particular contemporary life in Italian countries.
- An important aspect of culture in personal relationships is an acceptable age to have a first boyfriend/girlfriend in society and in families

Important vocabulary for personal relationships:

- L'allenatore/allenatrice -- coach and female coach
- Il ragazzo, il moroso, il fidanzato -- different terms to say boyfriend, moroso is least common, mostly used by older generations. Sometimes these words have -ino suffixes.
- La ragazza, la morosa, la fidanzata -- different terms for girlfriend.
- Migliore amico/amica -- best friend. Sometimes they will also use "best friend" as an italian word.
- Do not confuse fidanzato (boyfriend) with fidanzamento (engaged),
 fidanzato is used interchangeably for both but fidanzamento is only for getting engaged.

Cultura giovanile:

- Youth culture means cultural traditions involving the young generations
- The youth culture category comprises the types of activities most popular in Italian societies for example sports, video games, makeup, social media
 - Almost all the boys play soccer, the most popular sport in Italy and Italian speaking Switzerland. Teenagers also follow soccer games between big Italian teams (Inter, Juventus, Milan,...). The sport is a source of entertainment and something to talk about between teens but also with other generations which follow soccer as well. Italians take great pride in their hometown soccer team.

- Compared to the United States, very few Italian teenagers use Snapchat, as they prefer Instagram. Teens also use an online messaging platform, Whatsapp, as opposed to iMessages.
- Examples could be: which kind of phones youth mostly likes compared to the U.S.
 - As opposed to American teenagers, who almost always have Apple iPhones, Italian teenagers have other brand phones and rarely are Apple phones considered popular or prevalent. This shows a big cultural difference.

Important vocabulary for youth culture:

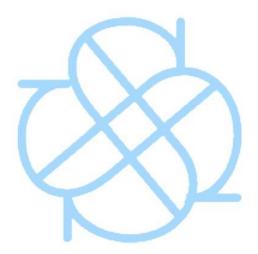
- Il calcio -- soccer, the most popular sport among young boys
- Il telefono/ il tel -- phone

Vita in città, periferia e campagna:

- People in Italian societies live in urban, suburban and rural areas, compare the reasons for living in these areas with the United States and find cultural/ traditional significance
 - O Sometimes rural houses with orchards and fields stay in the same family for generations because it has sentimental value but also because the younger generations carry along the culture and traditions of wine making and farming. This factor plays a role in the distribution of people in rural, suburban or urban homes. It is important to note that people might have a house in an urban area, which is beneficial for the economy and education but also might have a second home in the periphery.
- The amount of people living in urban, suburban and rural areas also depends on what region of Italy/Switzerland they live in.

Important vocabulary for urban, suburban and rural life:

- Il vigneto -- the vineyard, cultural significance because many rural houses have vineyards and sometimes even their own wine making business
- La campagna -- rural area, characterized by hills, trees and many farms/vineyards
- La vinificazione -- process of making wine
- La casa in campagna -- usually second house in a rural area



Unit 2-Identità privata e pubblica

Personal and public identities

Essential questions

• In che modo ha la lingua determinato la nostra identità culturale?

 Per rispondere a questa domanda e importante pensare a tutti i diversi dialetti in Italia e in Svizzera e considerare il fatto che per molte persone, questo dialetto fa parte della loro identità e carattere stesso.

• In che modo ha la tecnologia influenzato lo sviluppo dell'identità personale e pubblica?

 Lo sviluppo della tecnologia ha reso estremamente più facile la comunicazione tra Italiani che vivono lontani l'uno dall'altro, mettendo a rischio alcuni piccoli dialetti. Come ha influenzato lo sviluppo della tecnologia la cultura italiana.

• Come evolve la propria identità nel tempo?

 Considera come l'identità delle persone nelle società italiane sia cambiato col tempo, con le innovazione di tecnologia, e altri fattori. Come ha influenzato l'identità delle persone italiane la lingua e la cultura.

Unit 2 sub themes and keywords:

Lingua e identità:

• In Italia ci sono davvero tantissime diverse variazioni e dialetti della lingua italiana rendendoli una fonte di estremo orgoglio per coloro che li parlano. Per la

popolazione, parlare in un certo dialetto gli ricorda la loro patria anche se si sono trasferiti e dunque rende questi dialetti una gran parte della loro identità.

- Tutte le provincie hanno i loro dialetti e ce ne sono tanti altri piu piccoli
- To a certain extent the dialect you speak determines your social class/ economic status as people from the North frown upon people from the South.

Important vocabulary for language and identity:

- La patria -- homeland, strong cultural significance especially in the older generation.
- Il dialetto -- dialect

Uso personale della tecnologia:

- Consider how many people use technology and to what extent they do so, also consider the demography of it. Older generations generally use technology less than teenagers do. Teenagers use technology for:
 - Video Games, communication, music, social media, etc...

Important vocabulary for personal technology and communication:

- I videogiochi -- videogames
- Le cuffiette -- headphones
- Lo smartphone -- phone

Integrazione:

• Italian speaking countries have been home to many immigrants in recent history so it is important to understand the difficulties to fit in into the culture. Sometimes your accent defines your identity not to yourself but to others, indicating that one is not a native Italian speaker and sometimes making it difficult to transition into the new culture.

Important vocabulary for integration:

- L'immigrato -- migrant
- L'accento straniero -- foreign accent, sometimes meant with a negative connotation

Sesso e sessualità:

• Sexuality is another main aspect of identity an one must understand the social opinions on the topic to see how culture influences identity

Important vocabulary for gender and sexuality:

- Bisessualità -- bisexuality
- Omosessuale -- homosexual
- Eterosessuale -- heterosexual

Unit 3-Vita contemporanea

Contemporary life

Essential questions

• Che attività e aspetti della vita quotidiana sono presenti grazie alla cultura italiana?

Gli sport, la cucina e la lunga pausa di pranzo a scuola siccome nelle regioni italiane i pasti sono davvero importanti per le famiglie.

• In che modo gli aspetti della vita quotidiana influenzano e sono in relazione con la qualità della vita?

Gli aspetti della vita quotidiana per esempio gli sport, l'arte e il lavoro migliorano tutti la qualità della vita dando alle persone una distrazione e un divertimento. La scuola da ai bambini un modo di conoscere altre persone e di divertirsi migliorando la loro qualità di vita.

• Quale è l'influenza della cultura e lingua italiana sulla vita di tutti i giorni?

La cultura italiana ha parecchio influenzato l'identità della popolazione con l'esempio dei dialetti delle diverse regioni. La cultura cambia la scuola e le attività al di fuori della scuola (Esempio sport)

Unit 3 sub themes and keywords:

Feste, sagre e tradizioni:

- Italian speaking countries cherish celebrations dearly as it gives families a place and time to reunite. These celebrations, however small, are always subject to big family reunions and kids have days off from school
- Italy celebrates the Epiphany very much having advertisements all over for candy and baskets as gifts on that day. This holiday is Italian folklore and is a great representation of how their culture is present in technology and contemporary life.

The tale of the holiday is that a witch delivers candy and toys to the good children on January 6th. This holiday marks the end of Christmas celebrations and the return to school for children.

Important vocabulary for holidays and celebrations:

- La befana --witch who delivers candy, also can be used to refer to the Epiphany
- L'epifania -- the Epiphany, an italian tale and holiday which is significant to all the kids
- La sagra -- another word referring to a big celebration or party with some cultural significance to the community
- La vacanza -- used as vacation but also for being off from work or school (i'm on a holiday)

Istruzione, formazione e lavoro

- To understand italian culture it is important to understand the school system, rules and customs that are involved and the path to working. The customs around schooling and education and what is the most common path that leads to working and what does society praise the most
 - Kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, high school/other institutions that are specific to a work field, sometimes university but not always
 - After middle school, transitioning into high school people must take an exam and write a thesis on a topic that somehow involves all school subjects and must pass it to be admitted to high school.
 - The grades go to 10 (10 being the best A/A+ range) and there is something called 10 e lode which translate to extra credit in the U.S. system as it exceeds the grading scale

Important vocabulary for education and careers:

- La scuola -- school
- La nota -- grade
- Il diario -- planner, given by the school most times, to help students plan homework and test dates but also write their grades and schedule down

Sport e benessere:

- Soccer is the biggest sport among boys and also men, both for playing but also for entertainment. Sometimes there are even promotions in supermarkets where people can collect pictures of famous soccer players and trading these stickers at school is very popular especially in elementary and middle school.
- All sports are club sports and are completely independent from the school system
 resulting in less school spirit and less spectators at games and competition. Most
 girls compete in some kind of gymnastics or volleyball but no sports is as
 prevalent and popular like soccer is, however, it is not as socially acceptable for
 girls to play soccer as it is considered a men's sport

Important vocabulary for sports and well-being:

- Lo sport -- sports, any physical activity
- L'attività extrascolastica -- extracurricular activities, also meaning sports as they are independent from school system
- La ginnastica -- gymnastics but also used to talk about PE

Mezzi di trasporto:

• In contrast to the United States where everything is privately owned and most families have at least one car, Italian culture is strongly based on public transportation making it the common way of commutation. Many families in italian communities do not even own a car as they use busses and trains to get around. The public transportations system is much more developed and elaborate than the American one, making it more popular and used.

• Busses and trains are the most common public transportation but in big cities there are also underground metros.

Important vocabulary for transportation:

- Il mezzo di trasporto -- means of transportation
- I mezzi pubblici -- public transportation
- La macchina/ l'automobile -- car
- Il taxi -- cab or taxi, only present in very big urban areas to commute from train or bus station to home or hotel, very expensive and not popular in italian communities

Viaggi e tempo libero:

- A major center of tourism for Italians is Sicily and Sardinia, being close and affordable, but also extremely beautiful and affordable. Italians also like to visit northern Europe particularly Germany, the Netherlands, and often Switzerland although it is much more expensive.
- Many holidays and trips are also to visit family members which is an important feature of Italian culture.

Important vocabulary for holidays and leisure:

- La vacanza -- holiday and vacation
- Il mare -- the sea
- La montagna -- the hills/ periphery/mountainside, usually where grandparents live and referred to as if it were a city



In che modo le sfide ambientali, politiche e sociali hanno un impatto positivo e negativo sulle comunità?

Le sfide a volte uniscono le comunità in quanto tutti devono concentrarsi sulla sfida e rimanere uniti, tuttavia spesso ciò provoca conflitti all'interno di una società, rendendo queste sfide la ragione per cui cade a pezzi. Pensa a come la società italiana affronta le sfide globali e come influenza la cultura.

• Quale ruolo giocano le persone nell'affrontare i problemi complessi della società?

Elabora l'aspetto culturale della domanda, ad esempio qual è il modo in cui la società affronta le sfide e come si collega alla cultura.

- In che modo le sfide impegnative influenzano la cultura di una società?

 Le sfide sono sempre difficili da affrontare ed è difficile non cambiare dopo
 l'esperienza. Concentrati e pensa a come le comunità italiane affrontano le sfide e
 come la cultura è cambiata di conseguenza
- In che modo gli aspetti della vita quotidiana influenzano e sono in relazione con la qualità della vita?

Le condizioni di vita influenzano direttamente la qualità della vita perché è la parte più importante. La nostra casa è ciò a cui torniamo di notte e ci svegliamo al mattino e se siamo infelici a casa nostra, influisce notevolmente sulla qualità della nostra vita

• Cosa influenza la propria interpretazione e le percezioni relative alla qualità della vita?

La cultura ha un forte impatto su ciò che si percepisce come una buona qualità della vita stabilendo degli standard, per comprendere la cultura italiana è necessario capire quali standard e confronti vengono fatti per quanto riguarda la qualità della vita.

Unit 4 sub themes and keywords:

Migrazioni e frontiere:

- Given its geographic location on the Mediterrenean Sea, Italy receives many immigrants from Southern countries. The borders and immigration policies are also accepting of immigrants.
- Sometimes it is hard for them to integrate in Italian societies and often are even discriminated against.
- There is also a lot of internal migration to the North in search of economic opportunities in big urban areas such as Milan.

Important vocabulary for migration and borders:

- L'immigrato -- male immigrant
- La dogana -- the border
- Lo straniero -- foreign person
- L'integrazione -- integration
- La cittadinanza -- citizenship

Politica:

- Italian society takes great pride in their political beliefs and it often causes disputes when they do not coincide.
- Especially in older generations, politics are very important and almost everyone has strong political beliefs. They are always a topic of conversation and on the news.
- Children and teenagers pay less attention to politics except when their parents are talking about it, in which case they will listen as it is interesting for them.

Important vocabulary for politics:

- La politica -- politics, common topic of conversation in Italy however, much less in Italian speaking Switzerland as Switzerland's main government is in the German speaking part making them less involved
- Il presidente -- president
- Il politico -- male politician
- La legge -- the law

Alimentazione:

- The main nutritional sources vary from region to region however Italians take great pride in their food and cooking as it has cultural significance. Grandmothers are usually great cooks and they make homemade pasta for the family reunions.
- In southern Italy it is common for older generations to start their own pizzeria and make homemade dough with a secret recipe. Their food is a huge part of their culture and pride
- Their culture has diffused all across Europe and the Western Hemisphere making Italy famous especially for their homemade food with recipes that have been in the family for decades.

Important vocabulary for nutrition:

- Il cibo -- food
- Il pasto -- meal
- La colazione -- breakfast
- Il pranzo -- lunch
- La cena -- dinner
- La pasta -- pasta, usually made from scratch
- La pizza -- pizza, Naples is the hearth and is supposedly the best pizza ever as all the Northern restaurants try to imitate its taste

Ambiente:

- Italians love their environment, especially the sea and lakes, and try to preserve as best they can since they attract a lot of tourism from all around the world. They aim to preserve their beaches and their periphery to attract tourism and consequently income from all the attractions.
- However, older Italian generations don't think of climate change as an urgent problem and are usually fairly skeptical about the topic.

Important vocabulary for environment:

- L'ambiente -- environment
- Il cambiamento climatico -- climate change
- Il clima -- climate

Difficoltà economiche:

- There are many economic difficulties arising in Italy challenging society to overcome them. First, there is a big difference between the North and the South, the North being the richer more prosperous part and the South being in economic difficulty. This difference has been the same for centuries ever since the governing rich families were prevalent in the North.
- This not only causes bad blood and competition but also internal migration towards the North where families search for economic opportunities and prosperity.

Important vocabulary for economic difficulties:

- I soldi -- money
- Le monete -- coins
- Il ricco -- a rich male
- La povertà -- poverty

Unit 5-Arte e bellezza

Art and beauty

Essential questions:

- In che modo gli ideali di bellezza ed estetica influenzano la vita quotidiana? Gli ideali di bellezza influenzano parecchio la vita quotidiana, in particolare le bambine piccole che si paragonano a questi ideali di bellezza e diventano tristi se non li raggiungono. Questo cambia la vita quotidiana perché tutto ciò che una persona fa, sta pensando agli ideali di bellezza e a come raggiungerli. Questo peggiora la qualità di vita perché una persona si concentra più sulla bellezza che a vivere nel momento.
- In che modo l'arte sfida e allo stesso tempo riflette prospettive culturali?

 L'arte sfida prospettive culturali perche l'arte moderna spesso ha un significato meno culturale e a volte pure polemico rendendolo una sfida per le idee culturali contrarie. Allo stesso tempo l'arte e un modo di esprimersi e a volte esso riflette prospettive culturali aiutando la cultura a sopravvivere nell'era moderna e a sfidare l'arte con idee polemiche.
- In che modo le comunità apprezzano la bellezza e l'arte?

La comunità apprezza l'arte e la bellezza parecchio, tanto che tutte le persone sperano di raggiungere l'ideale di bellezza della loro società. Le scuole apprezzano l'arte e portano i bambini in gita a musei e parchi in modo che anche i bambini possano apprezzare quest'arte.

• Come viene utilizzata l'arte per documentare la storia?

Nel passato l'arte veniva usata per raccontare storie o momenti storici come battaglie antiche. Questo fa vedere come l'arte ha un significato culturale e aiuta le persone al giorno d'oggi a vedere il passato della loro società.

Unit 5 sub themes and keywords:

Ideali di bellezza:

• In Italian culture there are very specific beauty standards that cause people to go to great lengths to achieve them. It is considered beautiful to be very thin causing a recent exponential increase in eating disorders in Italy alone. These beauty standards are unhealthy but still praised and worshipped in Italian society because they are deeply embedded in culture and portrayed in art.

Important vocabulary for beauty standards:

- Gli ideali di bellezza -- beauty standards
- La bellezza -- beauty (external)
- Il corpo -- body
- La pelle -- skin
- La faccia/ il viso -- face

Letteratura:

- Literature is also a big part of Italian culture as all kids in school ever since middle school, read literature masterpieces and are explained the cultural significance.

 The literature is mostly classics written in the last centuries and it shows culture to a great extent. Literature is a good insight on the historical aspect and how it has influenced culture to how it is today. Schools also make children learn and read italian poetry which is a big cultural component. (ex. La ginestra)
- Literature is a huge element of Italian culture

Important vocabulary for literature:

- Il libro -- book
- La letteratura -- literature
- Leggere -- to read
- La scuola -- school

Musica:

 Many small Italian artists are prevalent and most teenagers listen to italian music rather than American. This music has cultural significance and the lyrics are meaningful making it the most listened to genre in Italy.

Important vocabulary for music:

- La musica -- music
- Il ritmo -- rhythm or beat
- Le parole/ il testo -- lyrics of the song
- La poesia -- used to refer to a song script that has cultural meaning and implicit metaphors
- Il suono -- sounds or noise

Architettura:

- Architecture is a main part of Italian culture as it is present in churches and other
 historical buildings with religious and cultural meaning. Churches have extremely
 complex architecture and continue to be restored even though they were built
 many years ago. These churches are very significant to the community because
 Italy has been the hearth of their religion for centuries and therefore the religion is
 a huge part of their culture.
- Italian houses and buildings also have unique architecture that attracts tourism from around the world. The Italian houses are colorful and usually built with concrete and/or wood.

Important vocabulary for architecture:

- La chiesa -- church, cultural significance
- L'affresco -- wall painting representing cultural event in the past, usually in churches or cathedrals
- La cattedrale -- cathedral
- La casa -- house
- L'edificio -- a building
- L'architettura -- architecture
- Il dipinto -- painting

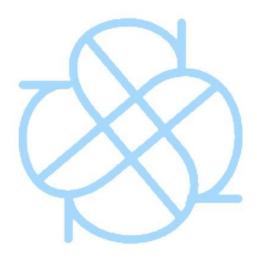
Arti visive:

• Visual arts are a popular entertainment in Italian culture, whether it is opera or theatre the population loves this type of art. These arts are usually of some cultural

significance making them a means by which the culture is preserved. These performances are sometimes field trips for elementary and middle schools.

Important vocabulary for visual arts:

- Il teatro -- theatre
- L'esibizione -- performance
- L'arte visiva -- visual arts
- La musica -- music
- L'attore -- actor
- L'esibizionista -- performer



Unit 6-Scienza e tecnologia

Science and technology

Essential questions:

Quali fattori guidano l'innovazione e la scoperta nei campi della scienza e della tecnologia?

I politici hanno un sacco di potere per quanto riguarda l'estensione dell'innovazione della tecnologia perché possono dare o trattenere dei fondi per questi progetti. Gli italiani però sono molto interessati in queste ricerche siccome vogliono una fonte per l'economia quindi solitamente è piuttosto facile ricevere i fondi dal governamento.

• Quale ruolo gioca l'etica nel progresso scientifico?

L'etica gioca un ruolo importante nello sviluppo della scienza perché l'etica diventa come una regola che le persone non infrangono. C'è anche la coscienza che guiderà le persone ad agire con integrità e moralità

• Quali sono le conseguenze sociali dei progressi scientifici o tecnologici

A volte le comunità non approvano dei progressi scientifici e tecnologici perché pensano che siano futili oppure cattivi per il clima. In aggiunta, se queste ricerche non portano a nessuna nuova scoperta a volte la popolazione vota per dare i soldi ad altri campi.

Unit 6 sub themes and keywords:

Scoperte e invenzioni:

- There are many new inventions in italy that influence culture and society.
 Consider how these inventions and new discoveries will affect the economy and society itself in the process. Italians are doing cutting edge research in many different fields because they are able to receive sufficient funds.
- Many researches are being conducted at Italian universities which lead to more funding and money flow and different ideas and behavior in society as a result of them

Important vocabulary for discoveries and inventions:

- Il pioniere -- pioneer
- La scoperta -- discovery
- L'invenzione -- invention
- La scienza -- science
- La tecnologia -- technology

Scelte etiche e morali:

- Ethics greatly impact the manner in which people study technology and science as it pushes researchers to find sustainable ways to make discoveries. Morality also pushes them to do what is right. Ethical decisions come from a cultural aspect because the societal values push people to act with integrity and good intentions
- There are big consequences for unethical decisions and researches which is also incentive to be ethical and moral

Important vocabulary for ethical and moral choices:

- La scelta -- choice
- L'etica -- ethics
- La moralità -- morality
- L'integrità -- integrity
- La coscienza -- conscience

Salute e medicina:

- The italian health care system is very good and well organized giving people the option and opportunity to seek medical attention when necessary without having to worry about the cost of it. Societal values promote this health care because they want everyone to be healthy and have equal chances to live and succeed.
- Once again here we can see how societal and cultural values influence modern life and medicine and health.
- In fact many people are healthy because of this type of health care

Important vocabulary for health and medicine:

- La salute -- health
- L'ospedale -- hospital
- L'elicottero -- helicopter
- L'ambulanza -- ambulance
- L'assistenza sanitaria -- health care

Fonti di energia alternative:

- Almost every city and town is using some form of renewable energy because they believe it is important to support their land and environment. They use sustainable energy sources including
 - Solar energy
 - Hydro power
 - Geothermal

 They have many windmills in areas that are flat and where the wind picks up because they want to use as much renewable energy as is possible to keep a clean environment and sustainable energy

Important vocabulary for alternative energy resources:

- L'energia idroelettrica -- hydropower
- L'energia solare -- solare energy
- Il pannello solare -- solar panel
- Il mulino a vento -- wind mill
- L'energia sostenibile -- sustainable energy

La rete e il suo impatto sociale:

- The internet helps many people from different italian speaking areas interact and share ideas. This helps promote local culture and preserve it as well as preserving the language.
- It impacts society also negatively because sometimes teens will spend time on social media rather than interacting with people around them
- However generally the impact of social media and local culture is good and beneficial in preserving it

Important vocabulary for the network and its social impact:

- La rete -- the internet
- I social -- social media
- Il telefono cellulare -- phone
- La lingua -- language

Sources:

https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-italian-language-and-culture-course-and-exam-description.pdf?course=ap-italian-language-and-culture

