Warm-up

1 Answer the questions.
1 What is the Highway Code?
2 Why is it important?
3 What kind of information can you find in the Highway Code?
4 What is the speed limit on a motorway in Italy?
5 What is the speed limit on a main road in a town in Italy?

Reading

2 Read the information in the text and check your answers to exercise 1.

Vocabulary

3 Find these words (1–6) in the text and match them to their correct translation (a–f).
1 ___ fine
2 ___ road sign
3 ___ equipment
4 ___ first aid
5 ___ pollution
6 ___ safety distance

a attrezzatura
b inquinamento
c distanza di sicurezza
d cartello stradale
e multa
f pronto soccorso

THE HIGHWAY CODE

Each country has an official road safety manual called the Highway Code. Its rules are for all road users: drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists, pedestrians and even horse riders! If you follow the rules of the Highway Code, roads are safer, and the number of accidents reduced. If you disobey these rules, you can get a fine, have points added on or taken off your licence, or in some cases, even lose your licence.

The Italian Highway Code has nine sections. These give information on:

- the classification of roads and vehicles;
- road signs;
- road traffic law;
- vehicle equipment;
- documents required for driving;
- road accidents;
- road safety/first aid;
- vehicle mechanics;
- environmental pollution.

The Highway Code also gives speed limits, the safety distance when driving, and explains the points system for driving licences. In Italy, the speed limit on the motorway is 130 km per hour and 110 km per hour in poor weather conditions. After you pass your driving test, the speed limit is 100 km per hour on the motorway for the first three years. The speed limit on a main road in a town is 50 km per hour.
Check
4 True or False? Write T or F. Correct the false sentences.
   1 ___ The rules of the Highway Code do not apply to people who ride horses.
   2 ___ There are no consequences if you don’t follow the rules of the Highway Code.
   3 ___ There are nine main parts to the Italian Highway Code.
   4 ___ The Italian Highway Code includes information on the driving licence.
   5 ___ You can drive at any speed limit as soon as you pass your driving test.

Project
6 Italy and the United Kingdom have point systems for driving licences. In Italy, you start with 20 points on your licence and points get taken off. In the UK, you start with zero and they get added on. Read the Highway Code or use the Internet to find out how many points are taken away from your driving licence in Italy for different driving offences. Then make a poster for your classroom wall listing each of the driving offences, and the points you get for each offence.

Say it!
5 (In pairs.) Cover the text on page 34 and answer the question from memory.
   What are the names of the sections in the Italian Highway Code?

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<th>Driving offence</th>
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