

Japanese Level 2 – Sample 2009 Examination Questions

90487: Read and understand written language in Japanese in less familiar contexts

Note: These sample questions are based on the texts and questions in the 2007 paper

TEXT ONE: AN EXCITING DAY

Your friend, Risako, has sent you an email. Read the email below and answer the questions, in **English**.

こんにちは。げん気ですか。今日は十一月十五日で そぼと おじと おぼと 私は 七才の
いとこの まりこさんを じんじゃにつれて行きました。今日は 七五三という 七才と五才と三才の
子どもたちの とくべつな日だから じんじゃは こんでいました。いとこは きれいなき物を きて、とても
よろこんで いました。あねも 来たかったですが かぜを ひいて しまいましたから 家でゆっくりしました。

いとこが きていた き物は 私も 七才の時に きました。私は 今 その き物を きることが
できませんから いとこに あげました。このき物は 私たちの そぼが 作った とくべつなき物です。

午後の天気は かぜがふいて 少しさむかったですが はれでしたから きれいな しゃしんをたくさん
とることが できました。しゃしんをとった後で 子どもたちは じんじゃで「ちとせあめ」という
おかしをもらって、うれしそうでした。

じんじゃから 帰ってきて 私たちは そぼの 家へ 行きました。そぼは りょうりが 上手ですから きのうから
すしやてんぷらや魚など 色々な 食べ物をたくさん じゅんび して いました。ぜんぶ おいしかったですから
私は 食べすぎて、気分がわるくなりました。まりこさんは き物が 大好きでしたから き物を よるまで
ぬぎたくなかったです。

あなたは き物をきている人を見たことがありますか。外国人は「まちに行くと よくき物を きている日本人を
見ることが ある。」と 思っていますが それは ちがいます。ほとんどの 日本人は だれかが
けっこんする時や だれかがなくなった時 など とくべつな日だけ き物を きます。私は 日本人が あまり
き物を きなくて、ざんねんだと 思います。

き物はあたらしい車と おなじくらい 高いから 今は 買うことができませんが 来週の 土曜日に
そぼと あねと 私は デパートに き物をみに行くと きめました。みんなは
楽しみにしています。

じゃ、またね。
りさこより。

Question One

- What is the date of the email, and what does this date signify for Japanese people, and for Risako?
- Describe what Mariko was wearing, and how she felt about her outfit.
- Explain what Risako's sister had planned for today, what she did instead, and why.

Question Two

- Explain why Mariko's outfit was special.

- (b) What was the weather like, and how did it affect activities?
- (c) What made the children happy?
- (d) How did their grandmother contribute to the day?

Question Three

- (a) Explain the expectation that foreigners have about Japanese people wearing kimonos, and what the reality is. What does Risako think about this situation?
- (b) About how expensive is a kimono?

TEXT TWO: MANGA

Japanese manga is known all over the world. Read the text below and answer the questions, in **English**.

Glossary:

アニメ animation

日本のまんがを 読んだり、 見たりしたことが ありますか。 日本のまんがは 色々な国で 読むことが できて、そして とても 人気があります。 読書が きらいな 人も まんがは え と ことば が いっしょにありますから ふつうの 本と くらべると まんがの ほうが 読みやすいでしょう。

まんがが アニメになって テレビで見ることが できる 国も たくさん ありますね。 私が外国を りょ行した時、 テレビで 日本の アニメが 日本語ではなく ちがうことばで話しているのを見て とても おもしろいと思いました。 また 外国人の友だちが 日本のアニメの うたを その人の国の ことばでうたっているのを聞いた時 とても うれしくなりました。

日本では 電車の中で まんがを読んでいる 学生や サラリーマンを よく見ます。 電車が こんでいて すわるところがなくて 立ちながら まんがを 読んでいる 人も います。 まんがは 子どもだけではなくて、 大人の女の人にも 男の人にも 人気があつて、まんがが好きな人は 月に 二千元も まんがのために つかうそうです。

まんがを かくことが上手な日本人は 私のまわりに たくさんいますが、 さい近、 まんがのかきかたを勉強できる大学があると聞いて びっくりしました。 プロで まんがを かいている人は三千人も いるそうです。 でも 人気がある まんがを かいている人は 三十人より 少ない です。 まんがを かいて ゆうめいになることは かんたんじゃなさそう ですね。

Question Four

- (a) What is it about manga that makes it popular?
- (b) What has helped to make manga more widespread overseas? Give an example of the writer's experience with this.
- (c) Describe the popularity of manga in Japan and overseas.

Question Five

- (a) Explain the writer's thoughts on the chances of succeeding as a professional manga writer in Japan.
- (b) How could a prospective manga writer improve his / her chances of succeeding?

Assessment Schedule

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Notes for Assessors

Formatting of the schedule

Responses at Merit level are underlined.

Responses at Excellence level are **bolded**.

The Achievement column contains achievement level responses only.

The Merit column contains the achievement level responses and underlined merit level responses.

The Excellence column contains the achievement level responses, underlined merit level responses, and **bolded** excellence responses.

In order to arrive at a final grade, assessors are to:

- make a judgement for each Question using the shaded 'Judgement' row; the judgement will be A or M or E or N
- make a judgement for the standard as a whole using the 'Overall Judgement Statement' at the end of the schedule.

Editing / altering the schedule

The shaded 'Judgement' rows and the 'Overall Judgement Statement' are provided as a guide.

Assessors may alter them to ensure that learners are awarded the grade that their responses indicate is appropriate against the requirements of the standard.

Dot points may be added, deleted or edited as above to ensure that learners are awarded the grade that their responses indicate is appropriate against the requirements of the standard.

Making the overall judgement

Higher level judgements are to be based at all times on qualitative (not quantitative) grounds that revolve around recognition of detail and higher level structures, and inference. Typically:

- achievement level responses will give relevant information
- those at merit will contain more specific details
- those at excellence will show in depth understanding / the ability to infer meaning.

That is, the learner's ability to extract and interpret information from the text(s) will determine the grade awarded.

Evidence statement

Question	Achievement	Merit	Excellence
One			
(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 November, it's a festival they went to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 November, <u>it's the date of the 7-5-3 festival</u> <u>Risako went with her cousin.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 November, <u>it's the date of the 7-5-3 festival</u> which is a special / important day for children aged 7, 5, and 3 <u>Risako went with her cousin, Mariko and her family / parents</u>
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She was happy / pleased about wearing a pretty kimono 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She was happy / pleased about wearing a pretty kimono 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She was happy / pleased about wearing a pretty kimono
(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she didn't go, she stayed at home because she was sick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she wanted to go (to the shrine too), but she stayed at home <u>and rested because she had caught a cold</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> she wanted to go (to the shrine too), but she stayed at home <u>and rested because she had caught a cold</u>
Judgement	2 dot points	4 dot points, 2 <u>underlined</u>	5 dot points including: 1 bolded and 2 others, <u>underlined</u> or bolded
Two			
(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their grandmother made it it used to belong to Risako 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their grandmother made it it used to belong to Risako <u>Risako wore it when she was seven</u> <u>she gave it to Mariko</u> <u>their grandmother made it</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their grandmother made it it used to belong to Risako <u>Risako wore it when she was seven</u> <u>she gave it to Mariko</u> because Risako can't fit in it now <u>their grandmother made it</u>
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the weather was fine so they could take good photos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>it was windy and a little bit cold</u> <u>but sunny / good weather</u> so they could take good photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>it was windy and a little bit cold</u> <u>but sunny / good weather</u> so they could take good photos
(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They received / were given / got lollies (at the shrine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They received / were given / got lollies (at the shrine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They received / were given / got lollies (at the shrine)
(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She made food, such as tempura, sushi, fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She had been making food, such as tempura, sushi, fish <u>since yesterday</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She had been preparing food, such as tempura, sushi, fish <u>since yesterday</u>
Judgement	2 dot points	5 dot points, 2 <u>underlined</u>	5 dot points including: 1 bolded and 3 others, <u>underlined</u> or bolded

Question	Achievement	Merit	Excellence
Three			
(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They think Japanese people wear kimonos a lot, but they don't 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They think that a lot of Japanese people wear kimonos <u>but they actually only wear them for weddings OR funerals OR special days</u> <u>Risako thinks it's a shame</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They think that if they go to town they will see a lot of Japanese people wearing kimonos, <u>but they actually only wear them for weddings and funerals, and other special days.</u> <u>Risako thinks it's a shame</u> that Japanese people don't wear kimonos very often
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's (about) the same as a new car 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's (about) the same as a new car 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's (about) the same as a new car
Judgement	1 dot points	2 dot points, 1 <u>underlined</u>	1 dot points including: 1 bolded and 1 others, <u>underlined</u> or bolded
Four			
(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are pictures with the words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> having pictures with the words <u>makes them easier to read than books</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> having pictures with the words <u>makes them easier to read than books</u>
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being made into animated movies (anime) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being made into animated movies (anime) <u>The writer saw Japanese anime in another language OR</u> <u>His friend(s) sang a song from anime in another language</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being made into animated movies (anime) <u>The writer saw Japanese anime in another language OR</u> <u>His friend(s) sang a song from anime in another language</u>
(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people read them on the train people spend 2000 yen on manga they are popular with men and women they are popular with children and adults you can get manga overseas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you can often see <u>students and company employees</u> reading manga on the train <u>some</u> people spend 2000 yen <u>per month</u> on manga they are popular with men and women they are popular with children and adults as well you can get manga in <u>many different</u> countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> you can often see <u>students and company employees</u> reading manga on the train even when it's crowded and they can't get a seat apparently <u>some</u> people spend 2000 yen <u>per month</u> on manga they are popular with men and women they are popular not only with children but adults as well you can get manga in <u>many different</u> countries
Judgement	4 dot points	5 dot points, 3 <u>underlined</u>	6 dot points including: 1 bolded and 3 others, <u>underlined</u> or bolded

Question	Achievement	Merit	Excellence
Five			
(a)	<i>Not good, because:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are a lot of people writing manga it would not be easy there aren't many jobs 	<i>Not good, because:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are a lot of <u>Japanese</u> people <u>who are good</u> at writing manga <u>thinks</u> it would not be easy <u>to become famous writing manga</u> there are (about) <u>3000 professional manga writers</u> <u>about 30 work on popular comics</u> 	<i>Not good, because:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are a lot of <u>Japanese</u> people <u>who are good</u> at writing manga all around him <u>thinks</u> it would not be easy <u>to become famous writing manga</u> there are (about) <u>3000 professional manga writers</u> fewer than 30 work on popular comics
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrol in the university where they can study how to write manga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrol in the university where they can study how to write manga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrol in the university where they can study how to write manga
Judgement	2 dot points	3 dot points, 2 <u>underlined</u>	5 dot points including: 1 bolded and 2 others, <u>underlined</u> or bolded

Overall Judgement Statement

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
3 A or M or E	2 M 1 other A or M or E	2 E 1 M 1 other A or M or E