

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Japanese Level 1

- 90893 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken Japanese texts on areas of most immediate relevance**
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COMMENTARY

The 2011 Level 1 Japanese examination offered a variety of text types and contexts that encompassed a wide variety of language. Candidates generally responded well to all sections of the two standards as the contexts of the passages (reflecting the relationship between language and culture) should have been familiar to them.

Successful candidates showed they understood what they needed to do, followed instructions correctly, and wrote clear and comprehensible answers. There was also evidence that these students had proofread their answers for sense and relevance.

STANDARD REPORTS

90893 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken Japanese texts on areas of most immediate relevance

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- understood basic language
- showed understanding of the passages in general
- attempted to answer most questions
- attempted to give clear answers with some detail
- recognised some Japanese cultural references
- confused words that sound similar to English as loan words e.g. “hen” as “henna hair”.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- recognised basic words but did not construct full answers
- did not identify key information in the passages
- wrote illogical answers e.g. “went from Japan to New Zealand by train”
- showed evidence of having confused simple words such as “jitensha” and “densha”
- did not make use of the Listening Notes boxes.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- showed clear understanding of the passages
- made use of the listening notes boxes to note key information
- linked ideas and explanations/justifications together
- showed understanding of most of the cultural references.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- expanded on their notes to provide full answers
- demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of complex language
- gave details and explanations/conclusions supported by evidence from the passages
- interpreted cultural references correctly.

OTHER COMMENTS

Successful candidates followed instructions carefully when formulating their answers so that the requirements of the question were addressed. This was especially important when questions referred to only part of a passage (as in Question Two and Question Three).

Amongst students who wrote their answers in Japanese, only those who were able to manipulate the information and not copy straight from the passages achieved at the higher levels. Similarly, candidates who answered in English by simply translating did not achieve at Merit or Excellence levels because they did not 'select relevant' information.

90896 Demonstrate understanding of a variety of Japanese texts on areas of most immediate relevance

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- showed evidence of being able to read hiragana, katakana, and simple kanji
- understood most basic vocabulary e.g. colours, school subjects, and times
- provided answers that were generally logical
- recognised some cultural references.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- included some romaji in their answers
- gave irrelevant, illogical, or contradictory answers
- did not provide answers for some questions or parts of questions
- showed misunderstanding of high frequency vocabulary items.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- demonstrated competency in reading hiragana, katakana, and kanji accurately
- attempted all sections of the questions
- showed good recognition of cultural references
- showed very good understanding of most of the language used in the texts

- showed evidence of having proofread their work to ensure they avoided illogical or contradictory answers.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- read the questions carefully to ensure they knew exactly what they needed to do
- provided detailed answers with explanations/conclusions where required
- proofread their answers to ensure they provided high quality responses
- demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of complex language
- showed clear understanding of cultural references.

OTHER COMMENTS

Most candidates read the instructions and questions carefully and attempted all questions. Those who wrote their answers in English mixed with some Japanese gained Achievement but not above because such responses do not demonstrate 'clear' or 'thorough' understanding of the texts. The small number of candidates who answered in Japanese only, achieved – almost without exception – at high levels. Times and dates continue to trip up even high achieving candidates e.g. "10 to 9."

Some candidates performed well in Question Three despite struggling with the other questions that required shorter pieces of specific information. They provided the detail and explanation (linking back to the question) required for higher level grades e.g. "The house has a large garden so the children can play outside – which is what the family wants."