

**Subject:** Japanese

**Level:** 2

**Standards:** 91133 and 91136

## Part A: Commentary

Candidates who understood the context and the requirements of the questions showed higher-level thinking. Unpacking these requirements enabled them to select relevant information and show higher-level thinking skills, not just produce content-based answers. Those who could see the implied meaning and understood the nuances of the texts could gain Excellence.

Candidates need to actively look for connections and attempt all parts of a question to construct a detailed and comprehensive answer justified with selected information. Candidates who linked relevant information in each section and used all sections to draw conclusions provided stronger answers.

Candidates who gave relevant examples from the texts to support their understanding achieved higher grades than those who gave conclusions without specific examples and explanation from the texts.

## Part B: Report on standards

### 91133: Demonstrate understanding of a variety of spoken Japanese texts on familiar matters

#### Examination

The examination included three questions drawn from listening passages. The passages contained information, ideas, and opinions about events, people, places, and experiences that were familiar to candidates. To achieve well, candidates were required to express understanding of the passages beyond straightforward translation. They needed to include relevant evidence, rather than every detail, to support their interpretations of ideas and information. Candidates needed to have a strong knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar associated with Level Seven of the NZC.

#### Observations

Candidates who could grasp the contexts of the texts and relate to them in some relevant way, were successful.

Candidates did well when they listened for language features such as つもり and used these in their answers.

Successful candidates used their knowledge of both Japanese and New Zealand cultures and considered the differences between the two countries to answer the questions, but were also guided by the spoken texts.

Candidates who used the listening notes boxes effectively generally gave well informed and detailed answers.

### **Grade awarding**

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- gave generic answers without specific details selected from the texts.
- showed some understanding of Level 1 and Level 2 vocabulary and language features.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- gave parts of answers which showed little or no understanding of the passages
- did not communicate the general meaning of the passages
- gave irrelevant and incorrect information.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- answered the questions directly and clearly
- used relevant supporting detail from the texts
- gave specific examples from the texts
- showed clear understanding of Level 1 and Level 2 vocabulary and language features.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- answered the questions directly and fully
- justified conclusions with supporting detail from the texts
- showed understanding of implied meaning and nuance
- made connections between parts of the texts
- showcased a range of skills to produce well-crafted and insightful answers.

---

## **91136: Demonstrate understanding of a variety of written and / or visual Japanese text(s) on familiar matters**

### **Examination**

The examination included three questions drawn from three written texts and accompanying visual stimulus. The texts contained information, ideas, and opinions about events, people, places, and experiences that were familiar to candidates. To achieve well, candidates were required to express understanding of the texts beyond straightforward translation. They needed to include relevant evidence to support their interpretations of

ideas and information. Candidates needed to have strong knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar associated with Level Seven of the NZC.

### **Observations**

Candidates who used their knowledge of Japanese culture to help them identify nuance and implied meaning, were successful.

Candidates who did not select relevant evidence from the texts to justify their responses did not achieve high grades. Therefore, it is beneficial for candidates to ensure they are connecting their answers to the texts and give as much relevant and accurate information as they can from the texts to support their answers.

### **Grade awarding**

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- supplied brief responses that indicated some understanding
- communicated the general meaning of the texts
- identified key factual information only.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- gave responses that indicated limited understanding
- did not connect responses to the texts and relied on personal knowledge about Japan
- showed knowledge of only some key words or phrases and missed the gist of the texts.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- gave developed answers that indicated a clear understanding of the texts
- provided relevant details from the passages to support their responses
- clearly connected ideas with some justification.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- selected relevant details to fully justify their answers
- showed understanding of nuance and deeper meanings
- included all the relevant evidence needed to support their ideas.