

Assessment Schedule – 2021

Japanese: Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended written and / or visual Japanese texts (91556)

Assessment Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Demonstrating understanding</i> involves making meaning of relevant information and varied perspectives in the texts.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show an understanding of the general meaning (gist) of the texts.</p>	<p><i>Demonstrating clear understanding</i> involves selecting relevant information and varied perspectives from the texts and communicating them unambiguously.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show a clear understanding of the content of the texts. Information is selected and connected to provide responses supported by relevant detailed examples from the texts.</p>	<p><i>Demonstrating thorough understanding</i> involves expanding on relevant information and varied perspectives, and communicating meanings or conclusions implied within the texts.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show a comprehensive understanding of the content and underlying meaning of the texts, including nuance and meanings not obviously stated in the texts.</p>

Evidence

N1	N2	A3	A4	M5	M6	E7	E8
Shows very little understanding and does not communicate the general meaning of the text.	Shows little understanding and does not communicate the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates some understanding and communicates some of the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates understanding and communicates the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates clear understanding and unambiguously communicates some of the meaning by selecting and using relevant supporting detail from the text.	Demonstrates clear understanding and unambiguously communicates most of the meaning by selecting and using relevant supporting detail from the text.	Demonstrates thorough understanding and communicates some of the implied meanings by providing supporting detail from the text to justify conclusions.	Demonstrates thorough understanding and communicates most of the implied meanings by providing supporting detail from the text to fully justify conclusions.

N0 = No response; no relevant evidence.

Cut Scores

Not Achieved	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
0 – 6	7 – 12	13 – 18	19 – 24

Sample Evidence

What follows is not a complete list of all acceptable responses, nor is it an indication of the exact wording required.

Assessment judgments are based on the level of understanding shown, rather than knowledge of individual lexical items.

Quoting or direct translation alone are not sufficient evidence that the candidate understands the meaning of the text **clearly** or **thoroughly**.

The overall grade for a question must be judged after considering how much of the text as a whole has been understood, and to what depth. Refer to the Evidence statements above.

Question ONE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>(a) Possible evidence showing understanding of the advantages of travelling the way Yoshi did.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not crowded like famous tourist places. • You can avoid bullet trains, and trains that could be unsafe because they are crowded. • There are cycleways that enable you to get off the busy roads. • There are cycleways you can find on the internet. • You can travel a long way – 70km on the Shimanamikaido from Honshu to Shikoku. • There are handy maps. • You can see a lot of beautiful scenery of the blue ocean and the bridges. • It is not very expensive – you can hire a bike for between 1,100 and 15,000 yen. • There are places to stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you travel by bicycle you can sightsee in places that aren't crowded, because people don't usually go there. • You can get away from roads that have a lot of traffic. There are special pathways / roads for bicycles, which are safe. • Enroute there are art galleries, but you can just enjoy the blue ocean scenery, the beautiful bridges, and the islands. • You don't get lost because there are handy maps along the way. • You can easily rent a bike if you don't have one. • You can see things you don't normally get to see by car or train. • Because there is a lot of accommodation along the way, you don't need to book a place to stay in advance (<i>story about Yoshi in the bad weather</i>). • You make your own plans and make your own experience, because it is not the sort of travelling that other people think of. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It helps people with the anxiety of travelling during COVID-19 times. People are less worried about travelling when they don't need to travel to crowded places. • You discover new places that no one really knows about (get off the beaten track) because people don't usually go there. • It is much more flexible than other forms of travelling – you can decide when to stop and where to stay the night without booking in advance. • You end up creating a unique trip that no one else could have thought of, because you can stop where you like and you aren't going as fast. You can see things you can't see from a train or a car. • It is enough just to travel and look at the scenery when you travel by bike, you don't need to pay to go places like art galleries. • The advantage of travelling on the cycleway is that there is a lot of accommodation along the way, so even when the weather is terrible you can easily / quickly find a place to stay, which you don't need to book in advance.

<p><i>(b) Possible evidence showing understanding of how tourism has changed in recent times in Japan, and why.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People think they shouldn't travel to crowded places or use trains and bullet trains. • People have discovered that travelling in other ways, such as by bicycle, is fun. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has changed the type of transport people use to get to places for their holidays. • People are planning their own experiences. • Until now, tourism was about going to places that were popular and crowded, but now tourism has become more about finding fun in places people don't usually go. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are discovering that they can find their own fun by creating unique travelling plans to suit their needs, rather than following where everyone else goes. This can be more rewarding than ending up in crowded places with everyone else. • People are taking their travelling outdoors, to places away from the usual tourist crowds in art galleries, museums, and public transport, and just enjoying the scenery around them. • Due to COVID-19, people are concerned about travelling to places where there are a lot of people or taking public transport, which can be crowded. Instead, they are creating their own travel plans.
---	--	--	--

Question TWO	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<i>(a) Possible evidence showing understanding of why Hiromi is seeking advice.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their school is in the city. They sit all day and study on computers, which is boring and stressful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because their school is in the middle of the city, the students think mostly about using computers rather than going outside. • He is looking for other interesting methods of learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is looking for methods of learning that will get the students outside, as they prefer to stay inside on their computers rather than going outside.
<i>(b) Possible evidence showing understanding of the benefits of each type of school.</i>			
<i>Toshio's school</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students get to listen to talks by people who work in the forest. • Twice a month they go outside to learn and do things you can't normally do at school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forest becomes a classroom. • They learn directly from the people working in forestry, and learn about the resources and things you can't learn about at school. • The students learn about an industry that is important to their region, and one that not many of them were intending to work in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It inspires students and gains their interest, because it is hands-on learning. The students learn from the experts themselves in the place where the work is done. • It may help to prevent the forestry industry from dying out in his region, by encouraging young people who weren't intending on working there, to enter that profession when they leave school. • It can help students to discover what they might do in the future.
<i>Michiko's school</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students farm the fields and grow rice themselves, rather than sitting in a classroom. They make the rice into mochi. • They eat the vegetables in the school cafeteria. • Rice planting was a tradition in Japan, but it is their first experience planting rice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They farm unused land and rice fields. • They give the vegetables to the elderly in the neighbourhood. • The rice they grow in autumn is made into mochi in January. • The teacher says that students understand the connection between nature and people more. • It gives the children the experience of rice planting. Most of them have never done it (it is their first experience), even though it used to be the centre of traditional Japanese life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students are keeping Japanese traditional culture alive, by planting rice and making it into mochi, and looking after the elderly. • Because students are gaining really good knowledge about their connection to nature, they will grow up to protect the environment as people did in the past.

<p><i>Yuuko's school</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every day, the children play freely in the forest and have fun learning various things about nature. They also go when it rains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because the children get to play freely in nature and come back having played energetically, even when it is raining. • The teachers say if you gain an interest in nature when you are a child, you will probably continue to see nature as important when you are an adult. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By letting children play freely in nature, they gain an important connection to the natural world, which continues into adulthood. This will ensure they continue to look after the natural world in the future (<i>link to how they could use this in their adult life</i>). • They get energised from being in the forest.
------------------------------	--	--	---

Question THREE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<i>(a) Possible evidence showing understanding of the purpose of Masao's presentation.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is talking about how he enjoys watching the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony as a way to have fun in his busy life. • He is introducing the Ig Nobel Prize and how it is presented compared to the Nobel Prize. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is talking about the Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony as a way to relax and have fun in our serious lifestyle. He thinks it is important to laugh and think about things sometimes. • He explains that after work he does various things to relax, such as reading and watching unusual things. One of the things he particularly loves to do is watch the Ig Nobel prize ceremony. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He wants people to realise that when they are busy in their jobs all day it is important to laugh sometimes. Watching the Ig Nobel Prize gives you an opportunity to laugh but also learn at the same time.
<i>(b) Possible evidence showing understanding of why Masao and other people like the Ig Nobel Prize.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ceremony is funny, strange, but interesting. • There are interesting presentations about biology, maths, and technology. • People study / research strange topics and make presentations about them. • You have to explain your topic in one minute. • It is funny, because a five-year-old girl tells you to stop talking because it is boring. • It is essential to laugh sometimes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masao likes the Ig Nobel Prize because he does various things to relax, such as reading and watching unusual things, and one of the things he particularly loves to do is watch the Ig Nobel prize ceremony. • It is the opposite of the serious, famous Nobel Prize. It is very funny / strange. • Every year, Japanese people present. • You find out about interesting topics in biology, maths, and technology, because people who research / study really hard in these areas are chosen for the prizes. • One of the entertaining things in the ceremony is the strange rule that if you talk longer than a minute, a five-year-old girl comes out and says, "Stop, that is boring" and you have to stop. • Although it is fun, relaxing, and strange, it is popular because you can think a lot about interesting topics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although it is fun, and it makes you laugh, it has meaning to it. It makes you think about topics that you might not have thought about, which gives you a break from your busy lifestyle. • You end up laughing and thinking at the same time.

<p><i>(c) Possible evidence showing understanding of whether it's possible to learn useful ideas from the presentations.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topics are so strange, they are not very useful. • The topics are interesting and strange, so they could be useful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research could have a practical use. For example, finding out that music relaxes animals, or that naming a cow could encourage it to produce more milk, or inventing an electric appliance to stop people talking too much because you don't like it. • The intention is to make you laugh, but the topics are so strange, so no, you won't learn anything. • Yes, you will learn, because although the topics are strange, you can always learn something new. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the topics are really strange and make you laugh, they are still researched by people who work with all their effort in the areas of maths, biology, and technology, so they must still be useful / important topics <i>(with examples from the text showing how the topic could be useful)</i>. • The writer asks you to look up more about the topics, so they must have some serious content. • Links topics to examples that could be used. E.g., if music relaxes animals, you could leave music on while your dog is at home all day; farmers could make use of the suggestion that naming a cow encourages it to produce more milk. <i>(Need more than one example.)</i> • You are only given a minute to speak, so it is unlikely that even researchers are able to explain much that is of any use.
--	--	---	--