

Assessment Schedule – 2024

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
0–7	8–13	14–19	20–24

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 Alex’s initial response to the message, and why.</i></p>	<p>Not happy because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He lost his chopsticks and spoon during camp two years ago. • He prefers plastic cutlery because it’s cheap, new, and clean, so it is safe for health. 	<p>Not happy because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He lost his favourite chopsticks and spoon during camp two years ago. • Plastic is cheap and because it is used once, not washed, and then thrown away, it is safe for health. 	<p>Not happy because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He lost his favourite chopsticks and spoon during camp the two years ago, so he doesn’t want to take his own this time because the same thing might happen again. • He prefers plastic cutlery because it’s cheap, new, and clean, so it is safe for health. It’s easy because it doesn’t need to be washed and can be thrown away.

<p><i>(b) Possible evidence showing understanding of what Alex will probably do as a result of his chat with Rumiko, and why. Support your answer with reference to the whole text.</i></p>	<p>Most likely take his own utensils because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He would have to buy many plastic utensils for camp because there are three meals a day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). • He found the idea of ‘my chopsticks’ in Japan interesting and thinks he could copy the idea and have ‘my knife and fork’. • He was not aware of how much plastic was produced. 	<p>Most likely take his own utensils because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He would have to buy many plastic utensils which become rubbish, which is not good for nature. • He understands that utensils made of wood are probably less polluting than plastic, so the idea of ‘my knife and fork’ copied from Japan’s idea of ‘my hashi’ is a sensible option. • He was not aware of how much plastic was produced. Data showed that last year, 500 million tonnes were produced, and predictions show in 2030 there will be 900 million tonnes and in 2050, 1,500 million tonnes. 	<p>Most likely take his own utensils because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He understands that utensils made of wood have become popular but thinks that because of climate change and flooding, having no trees on mountains is dangerous. • By taking his own cutlery, less plastic will need to be produced and hopefully the amount of plastic produced will decrease. He understands that copying Japan’s ‘my hashi’ idea, where people take their own chopsticks when dining out, which would be ‘my knife and fork’ in his case, is best. • Until Rumiko showed him some data, he was not aware of how much plastic was produced. More than 60% of all the plastic produced in the world has been made between 2000 and 2023. Last year, 500 million tonnes were produced, and predictions show in 2030 there will be 900 million, and in 2050, 1,500 million tonnes per year.
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Question TWO	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>(a) Possible evidence showing understanding of what Michiko discovered about Tāne Mahuta.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the tourist attraction Tāne Mahuta, which is in the forest in the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand, is a power spot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was feeling homesick and sad, and it was when she looked at Tāne Mahuta that her outlook got brighter and she had a feeling of power and energy and realised that Tāne Mahuta was a power spot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She discovered that Tāne Mahuta is a power spot by chance. She was feeling homesick and sad, and it was when she looked at Tāne Mahuta that her outlook got brighter and she had a feeling of power and energy. She thought that Tāne Mahuta, which is important in Māori history and that she knew as a tourist spot, was in fact a power spot.

<p><i>(b) Possible evidence showing understanding of how power spots have influenced Michiko's life in Japan, and how you know.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping her pass the university entrance exams because she climbed Mt Fuji before sitting the exams. • They help her reduce stress, because she can look at the photo of the sunrise from Mt Fuji. • Helping her relax when she is in a quiet, peaceful power spot. • Getting a part-time job at the information desk, because where she lives has a power spot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping her pass the university entrance exam, because she climbed Mt Fuji before sitting the university entrance exams and she thought it helped her get good results. • They help her reduce stress, because when she is stressed, she can look at the photo of the sunrise that she took on her phone from Mt Fuji. • There will be those who believe or don't believe (in power spots) but she relaxes when she spends time in a quiet and peaceful power spot. • Getting a part-time job at the information desk where she lives, because in the region where she lives the population is small, but the town has a power spot and so has become busier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping her pass the university entrance exam because she climbed Mt Fuji, Japan's most famous power spot, before sitting the exams where she felt a stronger determination to study and her exam results were good. • They help her reduce stress, because now when she is stressed, she can look anytime at the photo of the beautiful sunrise that she took on her phone from Mt Fuji. • She expects there will be those who believe or don't believe (in power spots) but it helps her to relax, because when she spends time in a quiet and peaceful power spot, she can think about the culture of the place that she is in. • Getting a part-time job at the information desk where she lives, which pleases her because the region in the countryside has a small population, but it has a power spot that has attracted tourists and so has become busier. • Starting a blog to share her experience of power spots because not everybody believes in power spots, and they might think 'power' refers to the English meaning of 'electricity'.
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Question THREE	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>(a) Possible evidence showing understanding of the benefits of having the poster that is discussed in the emails.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the future, people who have this poster will remember the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might be the last movie Miyazaki Hayao makes, and Kimiko wanted to buy it, but it sold out. • It will become a collector's item, not just for big fans but for anybody. • It will remind people in the future of the movie that was released without a trailer – only the poster and the title. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might be the last movie Miyazaki Hayao makes, and it was very popular at the time and even though Kimiko wanted to buy it then, it sold out. • If it is, in fact, the final Miyazaki movie, then it will be very valuable. • Kimiko thinks it is best to treasure it, because even though there are other posters and advertising now, this particular poster will remind people in the future of the movie that was released without a trailer – only this first poster and the title.

<p><i>(b) Possible evidence showing understanding of what movie companies could learn from the way 'The Boy and the Heron' was released.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a movie can be successful even if there is not a lot of advertising about what it is about, because this is how 'The Boy and the Heron' was released. • It was released without a trailer or any other kind of advertising. • The fact that there was not a lot of publicity before the release created a lot of talk about it on TV, in magazines, and online. • As a result, it became big news. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people in the movie company that produced it thought it would be more enjoyable for people to decide for themselves what kind of movie it was. • They thought that releasing it without a trailer or any other kind of advertising, only a poster and title, would be enough advertising. • This was a new idea that worked because the lack of publicity created a lot of talk about it on TV, in magazines, and online, so it became big news and good advertising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the movie can be successful even if there is not a lot of advertising about what it is about. • It was released without a trailer or any other kind of advertising. Because the people in the movie company that produced it thought it would be more enjoyable for people to decide for themselves what kind of movie it was. • They thought that a poster and title alone would be enough advertising, and this was a new idea that worked. Usually when there is not much publicity about a movie, there is a chance it will flop. • The fact that there was not a lot of publicity before the release created a lot of talk about it on TV, in magazines, and online. As a result, no news became big news, and that news became good advertising. • Miyazaki Hayao is very famous, and his fans worldwide as well as people who had never seen his movies, watched it. So probably the popularity of the movie was helped by the fact that Miyazaki Hayao is very famous. • The 'no publicity' idea might not work for a movie connected with a less famous person.
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