

第 51 回日本語弁論大会
The 51st Japanese Language
Speech Contest Finals

1. CONTEST BACKGROUND

This year is the 51st year since the Australian speech contest was first held. The aim of the contest is to encourage learners who are studying Japanese to showcase their language skills in a challenging context.

2. AIM OF CONTEST

The speech contest enables participants to showcase the fruits of their Japanese language learning. It is an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas in Japanese, and the speech preparation process provides a valuable learning experience. The presentation of the speech before an audience develops their confidence in speaking Japanese.

3. CONTEST FORMAT

Winners from the state/territory contests from the following divisions will progress to the Australian final. Individuals are not eligible to apply. Contestants from New Zealand may be invited to participate in the High School Senior Division at the discretion of The Japan Foundation in consultation with the New Zealand Japanese National Advisor.

Divisions:

The National Final Contest has two categories. These are:

1. High School Senior Division
2. Open Division

Subject of Speech:

The subject, content and form of the speeches are left open to each contestant. Entrants who have competed in previous contests may not use the same speech (this includes title and content) presented in previous years.

Length of Speech (Time Limit):

High School Senior Division:	2.5 - 3 minutes
Open Division:	4.5 - 5 minutes

Q & A

The Q&A has been eliminated and will no longer be carried out following the 50th Japanese Language Speech Contest finals.

4. ELIGIBILITY

High School Senior Division

This Division is open to students in Year 11 and 12. Contestants must fulfil all the following conditions to be eligible for the High School Senior Division:

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a Language other than English (LOTE)
- Contestant has not spent more than 24 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner of a previous Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest in this division

Open Division

This Division is open to individuals' aged 17 or above who are no longer high school students. Contestants must fulfill all the following conditions to be eligible for the Open Division:

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a Language other than English (LOTE) at a tertiary institution or privately
- Contestant has not spent more than 36 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner of a previous Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest in this division

*The definition of 'background language' is based on the following by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA):

<http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Languages - Shape of the Australian Curriculum new.pdf>

<58 on Page 21> states "*Background language learners are those who may use the target language at home (not necessarily exclusively) and have knowledge of the target language to varying degrees (e.g. vocabulary, phonological accuracy, fluency, and readiness to use the language) and have a base for literacy development in that language.*"

5. JUDGING CRITERIA & JUDGES

The marking system is as follows:

Content	50% (structure development, originality and uniqueness, message impact, justification, engagement)
Language	30% (grammar and expression, language variety, pronunciation and intonation)
Presentation	20% (delivery, memorisation and fluency)

- The speech must be the original work of the contestant. The degree of assistance given by teachers or by Japanese native speakers should be limited to no more than correcting grammatical errors or making minor alterations for the sake of continuity
- Props (e.g. puppets, objects etc.) must not be used. A lectern will be provided for contestants to stand behind and on which to rest their notes. Use of the lectern is optional
- Microphone with a stand will be provided for contestants.
- Contestants should not read their speeches. Contestants may refer to their notes, however excessive consultation will result in marks being deducted
- Uniform is not compulsory, however neat presentation is encouraged
- Please be mindful of the speech time limit

Judges will be from the field of Japanese language education and members of the Japanese community, and will decide the winners. Aggregates of marks from all judges will determine the place allocated to each contestant in the order of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. In case of a draw, the judges will determine the outcome through discussion. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The content of the judges' discussion is not open to the public at any time.

6. PRIZES

TBC

7. DATE AND VENUE

The 51st National Speech Contest is planned to be held on October 2, 2021 in Sydney. (However there may be changes in date, location, or the contest style depending on the COVID-19 situation.)