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OF WASHINGTON DC

2024

National Japan Bowl®

TEAM STUDY GUIDE



Japan Bowl 2023

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UNDERSTANDING THE JAPAN BOWL CURRICULUM

— A NOTE TO STUDENTS —

Welcome to the National Japan Bowl study guide! We'd like to tell you a little about our curriculum and why it is designed the way it is.

The National Japan Bowl covers two distinct but interconnected areas: Japanese-language proficiency and cultural content-area knowledge. It is this dual nature of the Japan Bowl curriculum that makes the Japan Bowl unique. We have designed it this way because we are strongly aware that the more familiar you are with Japanese culture, society, history, geography and the arts, the better you will be able to communicate in Japanese.

As you'll see in the study guide that follows, the content-knowledge curriculum is divided between those topics we consider basic, like geography and etiquette, which are covered every year, and others like history or culture that cover more specific content with topics rotating on a three-year cycle. The language curriculum gives you the chance to use your language skills in real-world situations that require level-appropriate knowledge of kanji, grammar rules, and interpersonal communication skills. It also aims to help you become comfortable with the kind of idiomatic and expressive Japanese that native Japanese speakers commonly use with each other.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See <http://www.japanbowl.org/resources/> to download a PDF version of the Study Guide and find the Competition Guide for Japan Bowl which will be released on September 1, 2023.

Quizlet Decks for all language topics will be released on August 1, 2023 and will be available on the Japan Bowl Resources page.

For more information on team and student eligibility requirements, competition rules and format, and preparing for the competition you can visit us at www.japanbowl.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the National Japan Bowl!

CHANGE LOG

What's New at the 2024 National Japan Bowl!

- We've adjusted our Nonlanguage topic categories! Geography and Seasons are now part of the "This Year's Special Topics" section
- We adjusted the regions sections! We switched up the regions a little bit. It makes a bit more sense this way.
- The common place names lists have been updated. Please review the new lists carefully.
- The Aisatsu section has been updated with a few new phrases



CONTENT AREAS

ALL LEVELS

EVERY YEAR: THE BASICS	
Manners, Daily Customs, and Home Life	Basic manners, etiquette, and daily customs including rites of life
Current Events	Newsworthy Japan-related events that occurred within the 12 months leading up to the 32nd National Japan Bowl (May 2023-April 2024)
US-Japan Relations	The relationship between the United States and Japan across all categories
THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL TOPICS	
	2024
Culture	Performing Arts & Film <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional Japanese performing arts including popular dance and theater genres, styles, authors, and examples.• Japanese cinema since 1899 including major movements, directors, genres, and examples in Japanese film, including but not limited to Japan Academy Film Prize winning films.
Geography	Natural Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major bodies of water, mountains, and regions• Native plant and animal species• Climate, weather, and common natural disasters
History Culture, arts, historical figures, and major events	Edo & Meiji Periods 1600-1912
Japan's Regions Regional Focus History, geography, regional products and foods, festivals, and cultural heritage sites	Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima Prefectures Referred to during the Edo period as Mutsu Province, these four prefectures make up the northeastern side of Tohoku

CONTENT AREAS

ALL LEVELS (cont.)

THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL TOPICS	
Seasons Seasonal motifs in literature and culture including national holidays and festivals	Winter
Society Japanese society and social issues	Trains Culture, geography, business, and vocabulary associated with commercial trains and train lines in Japan. When studying consider some of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture: Ekiben, Shinkansen Cleaning, Tetsukatsu, Commuter & Tourism Passes• Geography: Major lines, stations, and sightseeing trains + train statistics• Business: Major companies & organizations; crisis management• Vocabulary & Signage
Special Topic	Games & Gaming <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional and contemporary Japanese board and card games• Video games: major developers, companies, and examples. Focus on those games which have won the METI Japan Game Award



JAPANESE LANGUAGE

The Japan Bowl's Japanese language categories include those covered every year and those covered on a three-year cycle. In this section you will find the following lists to study:

Material covered every year

- Kanji (basic, practical, family names, place names)
- Measurement Terms
- Aisatsu and Body Language (greetings, useful phrases for social interaction, Gestures)

Material covered over a three-year cycle

- Affective Words
- Verbs with Multiple Meanings
- Yojijukugo
- Giseigo and Gitaigo
- Idioms with Body Parts
- Proverbs

LANGUAGE LISTS USED EVERY YEAR

Note: Level 2 students should study Level 2 items. Level 3 students should study Levels 2 and 3 items, and Level 4 students, the items in Levels 2, 3 and 4.

Please Turn Over(PTO)

BASIC KANJI

Level 2: Study the following kanji not only singly but, as parts of words such as 週末, 父母, 米, 国, 休日, and 何本.

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	百	千	万	円	日	月	火	水	木
金	土	曜	先	昨	週	年	今	毎	何	時	間	午	前	後	分	半	回	末
上	下	左	右	人	男	女	父	母	子	家	族	自	姉	兄	妹	弟	友	本
語	学	校	小	中	大	走	生	話	書	見	言	休	行	来	出	入	口	会
外	国	駅	山	川	島	花	草	米	田	文	空	名	止	正	立	私	彼	英
代	広	明	教	室	牛	犬	表	主	力	洋	堂	工	皿	声	茶	枚	早	

Level 3: Study the following kanji (as well as those listed for Level 2) not only singly, but as parts of words such as

気持, 着物, 物語, 生活, and 帰国.

朝	昼	夕	夜	春	夏	秋	冬	天	気	雨	雪	風	南	北	東	西	方	都
県	市	町	区	丁	村	海	港	所	帰	寺	電	車	衣	食	住	活	品	物
着	飲	料	理	紙	店	屋	切	魚	肉	起	飯	耳	目	手	足	頭	体	心
持	思	元	病	強	弱	同	和	親	昔	員	供	以	台	売	買	安	高	低
新	古	色	赤	青	白	黒	好	銀	払	勉	試	験	運	動	聞	音	楽	歌
絵	芸	術	院	読	結	婚	野	真	発	的	服	授	貸	館	宿	様	計	忘
研	究	内	絶	对	信	経	配	重	記	守	若	幸	両	々 (kanji repetition symbol)				



BASIC KANJI

Level 4: Study the following kanji (as well as those listed for Levels 2 & 3) not only singly but as parts of words such as

便利, 歩道, 近代, 最高, and 都市化.

世	界	地	図	鉄	道	旅	場	線	階	門	戸	次	当	歩	通	遅	引	開
閉	始	終	番	号	待	考	急	決	使	寒	暑	遅	近	遠	建	由	多	少
最	悪	全	部	用	知	果	作	化	死	卒	業	仕	事	映	画	医	者	神
社	農	産	漢	字	科	興	味	習	特	別	有	不	無	非	常	便	利	未
長	短	意	働	連	度	留	注	転	借	歳	題	痛	残	説	案	顔	情	悲
怒	変	比	笑	相	横	調	査	違	感	答	質	問	続	府				

PRACTICAL KANJI

The following kanji are often used on signs in public places in Japan. It is useful to know what these kanji mean when you see them, even if you cannot pronounce or write them.

LEVEL 2	終 as in 終日(しゅうじつ), 終点(しゅうてん) 非 as in 非常口(ひじょうぐち), 非売品(ひばいひん)
LEVEL 3	危 as in 危険(きけん), 危ない(あぶない) 禁 as in 立入禁止(たちいりきんし), 厳禁(げんきん) 災 as in 震災(しんさい), 災害(さいがい)
LEVEL 4	不 as in 不燃物(ふねんぶつ), 不要不急(ふようふきゅう) 可 as in 可燃物(かねんぶつ), カード決済可(けっさいか)



COMMON FAMILY NAMES

These names turn up so often that you should be able to pronounce them correctly on sight.

LEVEL 2	田中(たなか), 山田(やまだ), 山口(やまぐち), 中村(なかむら), 木村(きむら), 林(はやし), 本田(ほんだ)
LEVEL 3	高橋(たかはし), 山本(やまもと), 松本(まつもと), 松下(まつした), 井上(いのうえ), 小林(こばやし), 吉田(よしだ)
LEVEL 4	佐藤(さとう), 渡辺(わたなべ), 伊藤(いとう), 野村(のむら), 清水(しみず), 鈴木(すずき), 佐々木(ささき)

COMMON PLACE NAMES

These place names commonly appear on signs and in maps, websites, news stories, manga -- every kind of reading material. It is useful to know where these places are located and how they are pronounced.

LEVEL 2	東京(とうきょう), 京都(きょうと), 大阪(おおさか), 名古屋(なごや), 本州(ほんしゅう), 四国(しこく), 九州(きゅうしゅう), 沖縄(おきなわ), 太平洋(たいへいよう), 日本海(にほんかい)
LEVEL 3 +compounds in Level 2	神奈川(かながわ) 福島(ふくしま), 横浜(よこはま), 川崎(かわさき) 東北(とうほく), 関東(かんとう), 中部(ちゅうぶ), 北陸(ほくりく), 関西(かんさい), 中国(ちゅうごく)
LEVEL 4 +compounds in Level 3	長崎(ながさき), 神戸(こうべ), 銀座(ぎんざ), 新宿(しんじゅく), 原宿(はらじゅく), 上野(うえの), 秋葉原(あきはばら), 浅草(あさくさ)

MEASUREMENT TERMS

These are units of measurement commonly used in everyday conversation in Japan. Familiarity with them helps with everything from shopping to making plans to participating in ordinary conversations in Japanese.

LEVEL 2	Temperature -- Celsius (°C)
LEVEL 3	Weight -- gram (gm), kilogram (kg)
LEVEL 4	Length -- centimeter (cm), meter (m), kilometer (km)

PTO



AISATSU

The following expressions are good to know for smooth social interaction.

<p>LEVEL 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• おやすみなさい• 行ってきます• 行ってらっしゃい• ただいま• おかえりなさい• ごめんなさい• おげんきですか• はじめまして• よろしくおねがいします
<p>LEVEL 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ご入学、おめでとうございます• ごそつぎょう、おめでとうございます• おつかれさまでした• よくいらっしやいました• おじゃまします• どうぞお入りください• 先日はありがとうございました• しつれいしました• おだいじに(してください)• お気をつけて• たのしんできてください
<p>LEVEL 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• おかげさまで• お先にしつれいします• ごぶさたして<u>います</u> (おります)• 無理しないで• もうしわけありません• いつもお世話になって<u>います</u> (おります)• かしこまりました• お待たせしました• それでは、しつれいします• しょうちしました• ご連絡(れんらく)をお待ちして<u>います</u> (おります)• ~によりしくお伝(つた)えください



LANGUAGE LISTS ON A THREE-YEAR CYCLE

Note: Level 2 students should study Level 2 items. Level 3 students should study Levels 2 and 3 items, and Level 4 students, the items in Levels 2, 3, and 4.

AFFECTIVE WORDS

Emotions are expressed differently in different languages. Short words like the ones below can convey all sorts of emotions if used properly.

L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• うっかり• かなり• すっかり• なんとなく
L3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• そのうち• ばっちり• どうやら• とっさに• なんとか
L4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• あたかも• たいして (~ない)• そっと• ひよっとしたら

VERBS WITH MULTIPLE MEANINGS

The following are examples of common words with multiple meanings that are sometimes differentiated with homophonous kanji. There are many such words in Japanese.

L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>かさ</u>を<u>さす</u> (差す)
L3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 西日 (にしび) が<u>さす</u> (差す)
L4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 人を指 (ゆび) で<u>さす</u> (指す)• 将棋 (しょうぎ) を<u>さす</u> (指す)

YOJIJUKUGO

Yojijukugo are idioms of four kanji arranged in a meaningful way.

L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 一石二鳥 (いっせきにちょう)• 日進月歩 (にっしんげっぽ)
L3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 一部始終 (いちぶしじゅう)• 有言実行 (ゆうげんじっこう)
L4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 前代未聞 (ぜんだいまもん)• 完全無欠 (かんぜんむけつ)

GISEIGO AND GITAIGO

Giseigo refers to animal and human sounds (e.g., chirping, laughing) while gitaigo are used to describe a certain state (e.g., facial expression, atmosphere).

All levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• うきうき• うっとり• おろおろ• くっきり• ごろごろ• さらさら• ときどき• どんどん• ぱっと• はっきり• もぐもぐ• よれよれ
-------------------	--

IDIOMS WITH BODY PARTS

Many Japanese idioms like these refer to body parts and are used in everyday conversation.

L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 気が短い (きがみじかい)• 耳が痛い (みみがいたい)• 目を丸くする (めがまるくする)
L3 and L4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 足が棒になる (あしがぼうになる)• 頭が上がらない (頭があがらない)• 肩を持つ (かたをもつ)• 腰が重い (こしがおもい)

PROVERBS

Ciseigo refers to animal and human sounds (e.g., chirping, laughing) while gitaigo are used to describe a certain state (e.g., facial expression, atmosphere).

L2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 鬼に金棒 (おににかなぼう)• 月とすっぽん (つきとすっぽん)
L3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 石の上にも三年 (いしのうえにもさんねん)• 好きこそものの上手なれ (すきこそもののじょうずなれ)• 縁の下の力持ち (えんのしたのちからもち)
L4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 雨降って時固まる (あめふってじかたまる)• 言わぬが花 (いわぬがはな)• 帯に短し、たすきにながし (おびにみじかし、たすきにながし)• かわいい子には旅をさせよ (かわいいこにはたびをさせよ)• 光陰矢のごとし (こういんやのごとし)• 鉄は熱いうちに打て (てつはあついうちにうて)• 所変われば品変わる (ところかわればしなかわる)• 逃がした魚は大きい (にがしたさかなはおおきい)• 喉元過ぎれば、熱さを忘れる (のどもとすぎれば、あつさをわすれる)



CONVERSATION ROUND


Participation in the Conversation Round is required.

.....

Level 2 Conversation Round

Level II students will participate in a group interview with their team members where Japanese judges will ask each team member open-ended questions. Students should be prepared to give a short jikoshoukai which includes their name and main academic and extracurricular interests.

Topics from the follow list may be used in the interview:

- 
- Daily life and favorite pastimes
 - Food
 - Home and community
 - Self, family, and friends

Level 3 & 4 Conversation Round



Each student will be randomly paired with another student of the same level from a different team to interview each other about the following:

Level 3 – personal aspirations, future plans

Level 4 – current issues relevant to Japan

Students will take turns interviewing each other for two minutes each. The interviewer must be able to start an interview appropriately, ask relevant questions as well as follow-up questions in response to the interviewee's answers, and close the interview properly at the end of the allotted time.

Students' individual performance will be scored as either GOOD or EXCELLENT. Prizes will be given to exceptional performers.

EXCELLENT interviewers tend to do the following in order to achieve their aim of learning about the other person:

1. Be an active listener showing enthusiasm and compassion
2. Ask questions using the 5W (who-what-when-where-why) questions effectively
3. Avoid simple yes-no questions
4. Use familiar words and expressions to ensure that the interviewee understands the questions
5. Ask follow-up questions to take the interview to the next level
6. Use aizuchi (interjections and fillers used in Japanese conversation) appropriately to ensure that the interview flows smoothly
7. Be positive, empathetic, and humorous to make the interview a joyful experience

EXCELLENT interviewees tend to do the following in order to achieve their aim of helping the other person get to know them better:

1. Answer the questions sincerely and appropriately
2. Use familiar words and expressions to ensure that the interviewer understands the answers
3. Use aizuchi appropriately to ensure that the interview flows smoothly
4. Be positive, empathetic, and humorous to make the interview a joyful experience



Expectations

Level 2 students should be able to:

- understand and use basic expressions to express themselves
- interact simply but clearly
- use complete sentences to sustain coherent conversation during their interview

Level 3 students should be able to:

- understand and use expressions frequently used in daily life
- exchange information accurately
- describe matters with the appropriate information, in simple terms
- sustain coherent and meaningful conversation

Level 4 students should be able to:

- understand and express points regarding various topics
- describe issues clearly
- express opinions fairly and clearly
- sustain coherent and meaningful conversation
- take the conversation to the next level





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**The 32nd National Japan Bowl will tentatively be
held on April 11 & 12, 2024.**

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