

Information and Details about the Nihongo Cup Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School Students

Theme

This contest has three categories: Key Stage 3 (KS3), Key Stage 4 & Key Stage 5 (KS4 & KS5) Pre-GCSE, and KS4 & KS5 Post-GCSE.

KS3 applicants should prepare a speech 2 - 3 minutes' duration with the title "My Ideal School". The theme may be interpreted in any way, and creativity is encouraged.

Applicants in the KS4 & KS5 pre-GCSE and KS4 & KS5 post-GCSE categories are free to choose their own theme. Although the speech can be on any topic, it needs to be very well planned with a few main points which you introduce, elaborate and then summarise. The speech should have a title. There will be two categories; one for those who have not yet taken the GCSE (or equivalent), and one for those who have already taken their GCSE (or equivalent). In the pre-GCSE category, the speeches should be 3 – 4 minutes long, and in the post-GCSE category the speeches should be 4 – 5 minutes long.

When judging the recordings, the judges will bear in mind the GCSE, AS and A2 vocabulary, topics and grammatical structures appropriate to that Key Stage.

Finals

Judges will listen to every recording and choose six finalists from each category. The finalists with some supporters will be invited to speak live at the Finals Day in London (Saturday 18th June 2016). The travel cost to the venue will be covered for the finalists and one accompanying adult (as a general rule, maximum £50). Finalists in the Key Stage 4 + 5 post GCSE category will also be asked to participate in a short question and answer session after their speech.

Closing Date

Submissions must reach the organisers by Thursday 31st March 2016. **Submissions must be sent by email; as a rule, we will not accept submissions by post unless agreed with the Japan Foundation well before the deadline.**

Prizes

The best speaker in each category will win a trophy, to be kept by their school for a year. Gold, silver and bronze medals will also be presented to the winner and two runners-up to recognise their achievements. The winner of the Key Stage 4 & 5 Post-GCSE category will also be invited to travel to Japan to take part in the Japanese Speech Award (JSA) Finals and Cultural Programme at the end of July 2016. The organisers are delighted to once again be working in partnership with the Japanese Speech Awards to facilitate this.

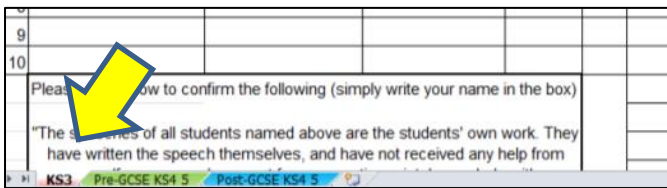
Rules and Eligibility Criteria

1. The judges' decisions on all matters will be final.
2. Only one entry per student will be accepted.
3. Those who have won first prize in previous contests cannot enter the same category twice, in principle.
4. The speech must be the student's own work.
5. The contest is only open to students of Japanese in the UK.
6. Those who have spent a total of 6 months or more in Japan since birth are not eligible.
7. Those for whom Japanese is a family language or language regularly spoken at home are not eligible.
8. The purpose of the Nihongo Cup Speech Contest for Secondary Schools is to promote and encourage the learning of Japanese as a Modern Foreign Language in the UK at the secondary school level. The judges reserve the right to exclude any entries that they find do not meet this purpose.

Please note that the organisers of the Japanese Speech Award (JSA), JOBA, have their own rules and eligibility criteria for JSA. According to their rules, to be eligible to participate in the JSA Finals in Japan, the entrant must be a Year 10 student or above as of June, and they must not be native speakers of Japanese or have a Japanese parent (first generation).

How to Submit Speeches

1. **Make an audio recording of the speeches and save them as separate mp3 files or wav files.** If you wish to use any different format, please contact Japan Foundation in advance of the deadline to make sure we can accept the file type. Your file name should be 'YOUR SURNAME_SCHOOL NAME'. For example, 'Smith_Brookes' if your name is M Smith and your school is Brookes Secondary School (For pupils with the same surnames, please add other identifying initials).
2. **Email the sound files to the Japan Foundation London at info.language@jpf.org.uk** as attachments. Sound files should be in .mp3 or .wav format; Using ZIP folders for multiple files is recommended but not essential. Use of DropBox or other file sharing sites is also recommended, provided no account is necessary in order for Japan Foundation to access the file. Postal entries, such as sending the files on a CD, will not be accepted unless there are special circumstances for doing so; this must be agreed beforehand with the Japan Foundation well in advance of the deadline, or it will be rejected. If you are unsure about anything regarding submitting the sound file, including formats and method of submission, please contact the Japan Foundation **well in advance of the submission deadline.**
3. **Email the scripts of the speeches to the Japan Foundation London at info.language@jpf.org.uk.** These can be typed Microsoft Word files, PDF files or a scan of a handwritten scripts. Both romanised Japanese or true Japanese script are acceptable. *Scripts must include students' names and school at the top for easy identification.*
4. **Please complete the Excel application form, completing the sheet(s) in the appropriate tab (KS3, KS4-5 Pre GCSE and/or KS4-5 Post GCSE) electronically.** Make sure you select the correct tab(s) for the appropriate category:



Email your completed form to the Japan Foundation London at info.language@jpf.org.uk. If you enter more than 10 students, please insert rows as necessary. You may type the signature electronically. Whether you are taught Japanese at your school or are learning independently, this must be signed by your teacher of Japanese.

Submissions must reach the organisers by Thursday 31st March 2016.

Please note: Your application will NOT be considered complete until we have received all three of the following items from you:

1. **Sound file of the speech(es)**
2. **Script of the speech(es)**
3. **Completed Excel application form**

You will receive a confirmation email within a few days of your application.

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the application process, please email the Japan Foundation London at info.language@jpf.org.uk or call 020 3102 5021.

For queries about the content of the speech or the eligibility criteria, please contact Sachiko Yamaguchi of the ALL Japanese Language Committee at sheffields10uk2000@yahoo.co.jp.