

Guidance for Teachers Who Are Completely New to GCSE

What you need to do when you are asked to teach GCSE Japanese:

Step 1: Get the GCSE Japanese specification from Edexcel (Edexcel is the name of the exam board). You can buy one or download it for free from their website. Some documents may not be free; in that case you have to ask your school to buy them.

Please note that the specification for the GCSE exam will be changing over the next few years. Please contact Edexcel directly for more information about the exam schedule. Depending on the specification, please go to one of the following Edexcel webpages:

Current specification:

<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gcse/mfl/gcse/1752/>

New draft specification:

<http://www.edexcel.com/gcse2009/mfl/japanese/Pages/Overview.aspx>

First examination 2010; Draft – subject to accreditation and change

Step 2: Get past papers and mark schemes. Study them.

Please go to the following Edexcel webpage. Some documents may not be free, in which case you have to ask your school to buy them. If you look at the FAQ, you can find answers about use of dictionaries, etc.

Past papers and mark schemes based on the current specification:

<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/gcse/mfl/gcse/1752/>

Draft papers and mark schemes based on the new draft specification:

<http://www.edexcel.com/gcse2009/mfl/japanese/Pages/Overview.aspx>

Step 3: Decide if you want to include 'speaking' or not. (3 skills or 4 skills – look out for the different exam entry code)

Step 4: Talk to your head of department or exam officer at your school about how to enter your students for the exam.

Support from the JFLLC for Teaching of GCSE:

1. In terms of teaching materials, the JFLLC can offer CHIKARA resources, which cover all the grammar points within the five topics for GCSE (based on the current specification). You can download these resources for FREE here:
http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_resources.php

Alternatively, the resources are available on CD-ROM. Please send an A5 stamped addressed envelope with 36p postage for 1st class and 27p postage for 2nd class to Christopher Shone, JFLLC, Russell Square House – 6th Floor, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5EH.

Other recommended resources for GCSE Japanese are listed here:

http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_resources.php#05gcse

2. You can join jle-UK, our email discussion list for teachers of Japanese, so that you can ask any questions/exchange ideas with teachers in the UK:
http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_jle.php
3. Attend CPD for Teachers at the JFLLC (teacher training workshops, free of charge):
http://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_diary.php#cpd

(You could also look at the GCSE specification and past papers in our library, but these items are available for reference only).

Gambatte kudasai!

If you have any more questions, please contact the JFLLC on info.language@jpf.org.uk or call 020 7436 6698. To contact Edexcel directly, please go to <http://www.edexcel.org.uk/about/contact/>.