

2021 Nihongo Cup Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School Students

Information and Application

The Nihongo Cup Speech Contest aims to promote the learning of Japanese as a Modern Foreign Language in the UK at secondary school level. The contest is organised by the Japanese Language Committee of the Association for Language Learning, and The Japan Foundation, London.

1. Categories & Theme

<p style="text-align: center;">Key Stage 3: Open to students studying Japanese at Key Stage 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Key Stage 4 & 5 (Pre-GCSE): Open to students who have not yet taken GCSE Japanese (or equivalent exam qualification)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Key Stage 4 & 5 (Post-GCSE): Open to students who have already taken GCSE Japanese (or equivalent exam qualification)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Theme: "My Ideal School" The theme may be interpreted in any way and creativity is encouraged.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Theme: Any topic. The speech should have a title. The speech needs to be well planned with a few main points which the student introduces, elaborates on and then summarises.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Theme: Any topic. The speech should have a title. The speech needs to be well planned with a few main points which the student introduces, elaborates on and then summarises.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The speech length: 2 – 3 minutes long</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The speech length: 3 – 4 minutes long</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The speech length: 4 – 5 minutes long</p>

2. Eligibility Criteria

- The contest is only open to **students studying Japanese in the UK**.
- Those who have won first prize in previous contests **cannot enter the same category again**.
- Those who have spent a total of 6 months or more in Japan since birth are **not eligible**.
- Those for whom Japanese is a family language or a language regularly spoken at home are **not eligible**.

3. Judging /Screening Criteria

In general, the following criteria will be applied:

- Content, interest and structure (originality, creativity, sociality)
- Accuracy and fluency of speech
- Accuracy of grammar
- Range of vocabulary and expression
- Length and complexity of sentences
- Delivery of speech, presentation strategies (confidence, eye contact, gesture etc. on finals day)

Needless to say, the "content" criteria carry the most weighting.

Please note that speeches that are significantly longer or shorter than the allotted time limit will be penalised.

The judges will also bear in mind the GCSE and A-level syllabus.

4. Finals Day (on-line)

Six finalists in each category will be notified by **mid-May** and will be invited to present their speeches on finals day.

As the contest will be held online, the finalists will be asked to submit a digital video recording of their speech.

Additionally, each Key Stage 4&5 Post GCSE category finalist will take part in a short question and answer session with an interlocutor which will be pre-recorded prior to the finals day.

The 2021 Nihongo Cup Finals Day (online) will be held on **Saturday 10th July, 2021** in a secure environment. Advance booking is necessary to join this event. We encourage as many fellow students, parents, teachers and supporters as possible to join us. Details of Finals Day will be announced in due course.

5. How to Apply

The Rules:

- Only one entry per student will be accepted.
- The speech must be the student's own work.
- **The judges reserve the right to exclude any entries that they find do not meet the purpose of the contest and rules.**

To enter the contest, submit a sound file, a script and an application form to speechcontest@jpf.org.uk

1) **Sound file of speech** (1 file per 1 student)

Format: Mp3, Mp4 files, or Wav files

File name: 'YOUR SURNAME_SCHOOL NAME'

E.g. 'Smith_Brookes' if your name is M Smith and your school is Brookes School.

2) **Script of speech in Japanese** (1 file per 1 student)

Format: Microsoft Word files, PDF files, or Scan of a handwritten scripts

File name: 'YOUR SURNAME_SCHOOL NAME'

Script: Written in **Japanese**. For KS 3 and KS 4&5 Pre-GCSE categories, use of Roma-ji is allowed.

* Use ZIP folders for multiple files, or use DropBox or other file sharing sites. We will not accept postal submissions, such as sending the files on a CD unless there are special circumstances. In this case, contact the Japan Foundation before the deadline.

3) **Application form** (1 form per school)

- Download appropriate form.
- The form has three pages (tabs),
 1. General Information
 2. Declaration
 3. Entry

Please note: Entry to the NihongoCup is by the secondary school where the student is taught Japanese. If the student is taught Japanese outside the school, contact the secondary school that the student is attending to obtain the necessary information. Download 'Application Form P' and follow the instructions.

Application Closing Date: **Friday 23rd April 2021**
Submit your application to speechcontest@jpf.org.uk

6. Prizes

All finalists will receive certificates. The best speaker in each category will win a trophy. Gold, silver and bronze medals will also be presented to the winner and two runners-up to recognise their achievements. There will be also some fantastic prizes for finalists.

*Please note that until 2019, the winner of the Key Stage 4 & 5 Post-GCSE category was invited to travel to Japan to take part in the Japanese Speech Award (JSA) Finals and Cultural Programme. Unfortunately, in 2020 the event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The organisers are looking into the 2021 situation but have not yet committed to any concrete plans. We are closely monitoring the situation and any new developments will be announced as soon as is possible.

7. Contacts/Enquires

For the application process, please contact:

Email: speechcontest@jpf.org.uk Tell: 020 7492 6570 (The Japan Foundation, London)

For further advice on the content of the speech or the eligibility criteria, please contact:

Email: sachiko.yamaguchi@aquinas.ac.uk (Sachiko Yamaguchi: ALL Japanese Language Committee)