

# 2020 Nihongo Cup Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School Students

## Information and Application

Nihongo Cup Speech Contest aims to promote and encourage the learning of Japanese as a Modern Foreign Language in the UK at the secondary school level.

### 1. Categories & Theme

**Key Stage 3:** Open to students studying Japanese at Key stage 3

- Theme: "**My Dream**"  
The theme may be interpreted in any way and creativity is encouraged.
- Length: The speech should be **2 – 3 minutes** long.

**Key Stage 4 & 5 (Pre-GCSE):** Open to students who have not yet taken GCSE Japanese (or equivalent exam qualification)

- 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.
- Length: The speech should be **3 – 4 minutes** long.

**Key Stage 4 & 5 (Post-GCSE):** Open to students who have already taken GCSE Japanese (or equivalent exam qualification)

- 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.
- Length: The speech should be **4 – 5 minutes** long.

### 2. 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

### 3. 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. Judgement/Screening Criteria

Please note that speeches that are significantly longer or shorter than the allotted time limit will be penalised. The judges will bear in mind the GCSE and A-level syllabus.

In general, the following criteria are applied. Needless to say, the "content" criteria carries the most weighting.

- 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 the contest day)

#### 4. Application and Submission

You have to submit a sound file, a script and application form.

##### 1) Sound file of speech (1 file for 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 for 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.

##### 3) Excel application form (1 form per school)

- Complete the application form. Make sure you use the appropriate sheet for each category.
- When entering more than 10 students, insert rows as necessary.
- You may insert the signature electronically.

NOTE: Whether a student is taught Japanese at your school or is learning independently, this must be signed by a language teacher at the student's school.

##### 4) Submission: Application must be sent by email by a teacher to the address below.

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

Closing Date: **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

The Japan Foundation, London: [speechcontest@jpf.org.uk](mailto:speechcontest@jpf.org.uk)

#### 5. Finals Day: six finalists in each category present their speeches on the finals day.

Date: **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

Venue: **Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford**

- Finalists may bring notes (not a script).
- No props such as photos or pictures are allowed.
- The travel cost to the venue will be covered for the finalists and one accompanying adult (a maximum of £50 each)
- For the Key Stage 4 & 5 – Post GCSE category finalists, there will be a short question and answer session following their speech.

#### 6. Prizes

The best speaker in each category will win a trophy, to be kept by their school. 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 2019. The organisers are delighted to once again be working in partnership with the Japanese Speech Awards to facilitate this.

\*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 2020, and they must not be native speakers of Japanese or have a Japanese parent (first generation).

#### 7. Contacts

For the application process;

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

For the content of the speech or the eligibility criteria;

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