

JAPAN BOWL

National Japanese Language & Culture Competition for High School Students

25th Anniversary



2017 NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL® STUDY GUIDE

PREPARED BY

THE NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL COMMITTEE
OF THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC

© 2016 by The Japan-America Society of Washington, Inc.
Japan Bowl® is a registered trademark of The Japan-America Society of Washington, Inc.
The Japan Bowl name and logo may be used only with the permission of
The Japan-America Society of Washington, Inc.



The Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW) is proud to announce the 25th Anniversary National Japan Bowl®*, which will take place at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland in spring 2017. The tentative dates are April 6-7, 2017. However, these dates might change, depending on the timing of the 57th Annual Sakura Matsuri, the nation’s largest one-day Japanese cultural festival, which also is presented by JASW. The final dates for the 25th Anniversary National Japan Bowl and Sakura Matsuri will be announced in the fall.

This **Study Guide** describes the format, content, and rules of the 2017 National Japan Bowl competition. It also describes who is eligible to compete. The Study Guide’s purpose is to help students and teachers form teams and prepare for the April 2017 competition.

The **Administrative Guide** will be issued later in 2016 after all administrative arrangements for the 2017 competition have been made. The Administrative Guide describes the application process and provides information on lodging, transportation, and payment.

Please read this Study Guide carefully. Before the competition takes place, the National Japan Bowl Committee (NJBC) might make some changes to this guide. NJBC will inform all participants promptly of any changes that are made. Inquiries should be sent by email to japanbowl@jaswdc.org. The Director of the 2017 National Japan Bowl is Risa Kamio (rkamio@jaswdc.org) and the Deputy Director is Sanshiroh Ogawa (sogawa@jaswdc.org).

What’s New for 2017

- a. The total number of questions in the Preliminary Rounds has been reduced from 100 to 90, with 50 questions in Round One and 40 questions in Round Two. Because each question is worth 2 points, this change will reduce the total possible points in the Preliminary Rounds from 200 to 180.
- b. The Committee has clarified the two “Geography” categories, renaming them “Political Geography” and “Physical Geography” for years 2017 and 2018. See Section 4.2.
- c. The Committee has added “traditional Japanese games” to “Martial arts and sports” in the 2017 “Popular Culture” category. See Section 4.2. (The Wikipedia entry called “List of Traditional Japanese Games” has a list of possible topics.)
- d. The Kanji list now includes suffixes that are commonly used with place names and addresses, such as 都、道、府、県、市、町、区、丁目、号、室、etc. Most of these Kanji were included in previous National Japan Bowl Kanji lists. See Section 4.4.

- e. Current events questions will be asked only in the Championship Round. The “Current Events” category covers major events and developments in Japan’s politics, economy, international relations and society during the 12 months prior to the National Japan Bowl.
- f. For the individual questions in the Championship Round, the time limit within which each student must prepare his/her answer and say it has been reduced from 60 to 30 seconds.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. What is the Japan Bowl?

2. Participation

- 2.1. Levels
- 2.2. Team Formation
- 2.3. Student Eligibility

3. Competition Format, Rules, and Schedule

- 3.1. Draft Schedule for 2017
- 3.2. First and Second Rounds - Format and Rules
- 3.3. Conversation Round - Format and Rules
- 3.4. National Championship Round - Format and Rules

4. 2017 National Japan Bowl Topics and Questions

- 4.1. Japan Knowledge (Language Topics)
- 4.2. Japan Knowledge (Non-Language Topics)
- 4.3. Conversation Round Topics
- 4.4. Kanji – Reading and Writing
- 4.5. Topics, Family, and Place Names in Kanji
- 4.6. Katakana
- 4.7. Idiomatic Japanese
- 4.8. Onomatopoeic and Affective Expressions
- 4.9. Aisatsu

5. Sample Questions

1. What is the Japan Bowl?

The Japan Bowl® is a national Japanese language competition created by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC in 1992. Now celebrating its 25th year, the Japan Bowl tests the achievements of high school students throughout the US who are studying Japanese. But what makes the Japan Bowl unique is that it goes beyond language and asks students about their knowledge of Japanese culture, society, daily life, history, geography, and current events.

Students represent their schools and compete as members of 3-person teams, based on how many years they have studied Japanese. The Japan Bowl is not an exam; it uses a “quiz bowl” format. Students hear – and don’t read -- the questions and are given a timeframe, usually 30 seconds, within which to respond. The questions are asked and answered in a variety of ways.

The Japan Bowl was first held as a local competition for high schools in the Washington DC area. Within a few years, schools from other parts of the nation joined the competition in Washington, and it became the “National Japan Bowl.” In addition to the National Japan Bowl in Washington DC, there are Japan quiz bowl competitions held throughout the United States. The newest competitions are in Illinois, Wisconsin, Utah, and California.

The National Japan Bowl is a “total experience package” for students. In addition to the academic competition, over two days students get to watch Japanese cultural performances, meet with Japanese and American role models, take part in hands-on activities, learn about Japan-related study opportunities at American and Japanese universities, and meet other students from across the nation who share their passion for the Japanese language and culture. The National Japan Bowl is held just before the Japan-America Society’s Sakura Matsuri, which gives the students a chance to enjoy the largest one-day Japanese cultural festival in the country. The Japan-America Society also organizes a special two-hour meeting during the National Japan Bowl for teachers to share professional information.

The Japan-America Society of Washington DC organizes the National Japan Bowl and supports other Japan Bowls across the country to recognize and encourage students who have chosen Japanese as their foreign language. The Japan Bowl seeks to motivate students to higher levels of academic achievement and to impart the kind of real-world language, cultural knowledge, and motivation that will help them become future leaders of the US-Japan relationship. Students put in many hours of individual and group study to prepare for the Japan Bowl. Most Japan Bowl participants say they plan to continue to study Japanese during their college years; almost all hope to study abroad in Japan. Japan Bowl participants also say they hope to have a “Japan connection” in their adult lives, whether in business, academia, the arts, or public service.

Today the Japan Bowl is widely recognized as the premier national academic competition for high school students of Japanese. It has enjoyed support over the years from the United States-Japan Foundation; the Embassy of Japan; the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; the Japan Foundation; and the American Association of Teachers of Japanese. In 2007 Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado kindly became the Honorary Patron of the Japan Bowl, and she meets each year with the National Championship Team during their trip to Japan.

2. Participation

2.1 Levels

The National Japan Bowl is open to full-time students who are currently enrolled in Levels II, III, and IV Japanese language classes at a high school in the United States, whether in regular or block schedule classes. These levels correspond to the equivalent level of high school Japanese language study:

Level II	Students enrolled in second year high school-level Japanese language study
Level III	Students enrolled in third year high school-level Japanese language study
Level IV	Students enrolled in fourth year high school-level Japanese language study or in AP Japanese

These levels are based on the course level, and not the number of years that a student has studied Japanese in high school. For example, a high school sophomore who began Japanese language study in elementary or junior high school might be studying with high school seniors in Level IV and therefore would be eligible for the Level IV team. However, that student could not participate as a member of a Level II or Level III team, because that is below his/her current level of study. The student's teacher must certify that the student is competing at the proper level.

2.2 Team Formation

- a. Each school may send only one team at each level.
- b. All team members must be formally studying Japanese at the same high school.
- c. A team must consist of two or three students. One student is not a team. NJBC strongly encourages schools to form a team of three students instead of two.*

2.3 Student Eligibility

The following rules about Japanese language education and experience govern eligibility:

- a. Students who are native speakers of Japanese or who use Japanese at home are not eligible to compete.
- b. Students who have spent a cumulative total of three months or more in Japan for language study or a home-stay, including with relatives, are not eligible to compete. Students who have had significant exposure to Japanese language and/or culture outside the high school curriculum are not eligible to compete. The determination whether a student's outside exposure is significant will be made on a case-by-case basis, according to the information the student and teacher provide. The eligibility of students who have lived in Japan on US military bases or who have studied at international schools in Japan will be determined on a case-by-case basis, based on each student's circumstances.
- c. Participation is permitted at a level higher than the student's current high school level of Japanese study, but is not permitted at any level lower than his/her current level.

* A Japanese kotowaza says, "Sannin yoreba, Monju no chie / Three people together have the wisdom of Monju."

- d. If a student participates in the Japan Bowl at a level higher than the one at which he/she is currently enrolled, that student will not be eligible to compete in a future Japan Bowl at the same or a lower level.
- e. Students taking the AP Japanese Language and Culture course are eligible to compete in the 2017 competition at Level IV.

3. Competition Format, Rules, and Schedule

3.1 Draft Schedule for 2017

This is a draft schedule and is subject to change. It is provided early to assist you in planning your visit to the 2017 National Japan Bowl. We will notify participants of any changes.

Thursday, April xx

3:00-5:00 p.m.	Japan Bowl Registration
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Dinner, <i>Clover Cafe</i>
5:45-6:45 p.m.	Opening Ceremony, <i>Auditorium</i>
6:45-7:00 p.m.	Break (move to the competition rooms)
7:00-8:30 p.m.	First Preliminary Round – All Levels
8:30-9:30 p.m.	Evening Get-together

Friday, April xx

7:00-8:15 a.m.	Breakfast, <i>Clover Cafe</i>
8:00-10:30 a.m.	Conversation Round – All Levels
8:00-10:30 a.m.	Teachers' Breakfast Meeting
10:45-11:15 a.m.	Second Preliminary Round – All Levels
11:15 a.m.-12:10 p.m.	Lunch
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Cultural Event(s)
1:45 p.m.	Announcement of Finalists, <i>Auditorium</i>
1:50 p.m.	National Championships, Introductions and Explanation of Rules
2:00-2:45 p.m.	National Championship Round – Level II
2:45-3:30 p.m.	National Championship Round – Level III
3:30-4:15 p.m.	National Championship Round – Level IV
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Awards Ceremony and Closing Remarks

3.2 First and Second Preliminary Rounds - Format and General Rules

- At the 2017 National Japan Bowl, there will be two Preliminary Rounds. The First Round is on Thursday evening, April XX, and the Second Round is on Friday morning, April XX.
- Each team will be placed at a table in one large room and compete with all other teams at the same level.
- The First and Second Rounds are closed to the general public, except that teachers, chaperones, and others who have pre-registered will be admitted, based on available space.
- Fifty questions will be presented in the first Preliminary Round, and 40 in the second, for a total of 90 questions. Each question is worth 2 points, for a total of 180 points.
- Visuals for all questions will be projected, using PowerPoint slides, on a large screen.
- American and Japanese moderators (native speakers) will read the questions.

- Each question will indicate how the answer should be given: in English, in *hiragana*, in *kanji*, etc. (See the list of answer icons below.)
- Halfway through each round, teams will shift tables, so no team is disadvantaged by distance from the screen. In other words, teams will sit in four different locations in the room during the 2-day competition.
- After each set of questions is read, students **MUST** put their pens down and stop writing when told to do so by the moderator. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the competition.
- Correct answers will be given at the end of each round in order to reinforce the learning experience of the National Japan Bowl. Students and teachers are encouraged to take notes during the answer review session. It is alright for students and teachers to talk about the questions with others studying Japanese at their school. But under no circumstances should anyone – student or teacher - make any of the questions or the answers known to the public over the internet or any other kind of communications network. If that happens, then that team's score **might** be invalidated.
- The National Japan Bowl follows the SAT rules regarding electronic devices. All devices capable of recording, photographing, or transmitting must be turned off and put away. This rule applies to everyone in the competition room – students, teachers, and guests.

ANSWER ICONS

EN	English
JP	Any combination of Japanese (<i>kanji</i> , <i>hiragana</i> , <i>katakana</i> – but <u>not</u> <i>romaji</i>)
ひら	<i>hiragana</i>
カナ	<i>katakana</i>
漢	<i>kanji</i>
ABC	Multiple choice
RO	<i>romaji</i> for Japanese names*
123	Western numerals

*Any commonly-used variant of romaji can be used. For example, Tokyo can be written as “Tokyo” or “Toukyou.” A newspaper can be “shinbun” or “shimbun.” A map can be “chizu” or “tizu.”

Specific Rules for the First and Second Rounds

1. Questions will be read only once, except for Japanese comprehension questions, which will be read twice.
2. Conferring among team members is allowed.
3. All teams must write their answers clearly and legibly in pen on the team answer sheet. Any member of a team may write the answer(s) to the question. As described above, the slide will give the “answer icon,” and the moderator also will state in which language form the answer should be written. If there is a discrepancy between the answer icon on the screen and what the moderator says, ask for clarification. Because the moderator knows the correct answer, he/she will be able to tell you how to answer.

4. There is a 30-second time limit for answering each question. However, 60 seconds will be allotted for questions that require writing a complete Japanese sentence. The clock begins when the moderator has finished reading the question. The timekeeper will call a "10 seconds" warning. At the end of the allocated time, the timekeeper will call "time," and the slide will advance to the next question. Although you may keep working on questions after the time has expired, you will run the risk of missing the next question.
5. There is no partial credit for partially correct or incomplete answer. (See the box below for examples of incomplete answers.)
6. There is no penalty for an incorrect response or an incomplete answer.
7. When answering in full sentences in Japanese, teams must use the polite forms (です・ます), unless otherwise instructed.
8. As noted in #3 above, all teams must write their answers clearly and legibly in pen on the team answer sheet. Any answers that are difficult or impossible for the judges to read may result in an incorrect answer. Therefore, be sure to write your answers large and clearly.

Examples of Incomplete or Partial Answers

Japanese Moderator: 兄は黒いオートバイを買いました。

English Moderator: What did the older brother buy? Answer in English.

Answer: The correct answer is "a black motorbike, black motorcycle, black motor scooter, etc. - something that indicates that it is propelled by a motor. If you say or write just the word "bike," your answer is incomplete, because the English word "bike" can also mean a pedaled bicycle. You also must include the color of the bike (black) to make it a complete response.

English Moderator: In the Japanese calendar, what year is this? Answer in Japanese.

Answer: If you only give the number, your answer is incomplete. A correct answer must include "Heisei," the number, and "nen," to demonstrate that you know not just the number of the year but also the name of the reign (Heisei) and the standard term ("nen") used in Japanese when expressing the year.

Key point: Be as specific, accurate, and complete as you can !

3.3 Conversation Round - Format and Rules

On Friday morning, NJBC judges will hold a Conversation Round with each team to judge the speaking ability and the communication and presentation skills of team members.

1. Each team will be assigned a pre-determined time to meet with two NJBC judges, one Japanese and one American (who is fluent in Japanese), for a Japanese-language conversation. The Japanese judge will conduct the conversation. The sessions will be closed; no teachers, chaperones, or members of the public will be allowed to observe. **Students should not tell the judges what school they are from.** Each team will be allotted 5-6 minutes for a conversation in Japanese, including the time allotted for self-introductions.
2. Students at Level II will be asked to do a presentation of one minute or less. Students at Level III will be asked to do a presentation of 30 seconds or less. Students at Level IV **will not** be

asked to do a presentation. Students should not tell the judges what school they are from. For Level II: Tell your name, age, grade, and describe your family situation and favorite foods. For Level III: Tell your name and what you think about Japan and the Japanese language. The judges then will ask each team member open-ended questions about himself/herself. Both the self-introductions and the judges' questions are based on the subjects listed in Section 4.3 (Conversation Round Themes and Topics). Questions will be geared to the team's language level, following the guidelines in Section 4.3. The judges will consider both the self-introduction and the replies to their questions in determining how many points to award.

3. Team members will be awarded between 1 and 5 points each, based on his/her ability to communicate clearly, accurately, and concisely in Japanese, while still providing sufficient information and detail. Judges will consider the students' language competence (vocabulary, language control, pronunciation) and language performance (fluency, confidence, comprehension) when awarding points.
4. A student whose spoken Japanese is far below the expected level will receive 1 point; below the expected level, 2 points; at the expected level, 3 points; above the expected level, 4 points; and far above the expected level, 5 points.
5. Points will be added and multiplied by 2 to produce the team score, so the maximum number of points is 30. If the team has only two members, their scores will be averaged and multiplied by 3 and then, multiplied by 2 to produce the final team score.

Because the same topics will be used for all teams at the same level, students should maintain the secrecy of the topics and questions and not discuss them with anyone until all teams have completed the Conversation Round.

3.4 National Championship Round - Format and Rules

1. The combined scores from the First, Second, and Conversation Rounds will determine which three teams at each level advance to the National Championship Round. The combined scores also will determine the 4th and 5th place winners.
2. If there is a tie for any of the top five positions, the judges will review the teams' answers to five pre-determined questions, covering both language and non-language topics, to determine the top five teams.
3. After lunch on Friday, April XX, a National Japan Bowl Committee representative will announce in the auditorium the names of the three teams at each level that will compete on stage in the National Championship Round.
4. If all members of a team qualifying for the National Championship Round are not present at the time of announcement, the next runner-up team will replace the team that is missing its member(s).
5. The National Championship Round will be conducted on stage before an audience, using a "live" quiz show format with a buzzer system.
6. The scores from the First, Second, and Conversations Rounds will not be carried over to the National Championship Round. Final results will be determined solely by the team score in the Championship Round.
7. The National Championship Round is open to the public, so students, friends, and family are welcome to attend.

Types of Questions

The National Championship Round will focus on Japanese language communication skills and knowledge of Japan, using three types of questions:

1. **Toss-Up Questions** - 15 questions, 5 points per question, total possible points 75. Two of the 15 toss-up questions will have bonus questions attached, each worth 5 points. The total possible score from the Toss-Ups therefore is 85 points.
2. **Individual Communication Questions** - One question per student, 5 points each. The total possible team score therefore is 15 points. If there are only two students on the team, their average score will be multiplied by three.
3. **Team Questions** - 10 questions, 10 points per question, total possible points is 100.

The total possible points for the Championship Round therefore is 200.

Rules for the Toss-Up Questions

1. There will be 15 questions, plus two bonus questions. (See Rule #11 on bonus questions.)
2. Conferring among students is not allowed. (Exception: bonus questions. See #11 below.)
3. Any student on the team may answer a toss-up question. A student must ring the buzzer to signal, and only that student may answer.
4. A student must wait to be called on before answering. The moderator can see the order in which students rang in, and she will call on the first student who signaled. Answers given prior to being called on will not be accepted.
5. If a student signals before the moderator finishes reading the question, the moderator will stop reading. The remainder of the question will not be read. If the student who rang in early answers incorrectly, his/her team will be penalized 5 points. (See #13 on scoring below.)
6. The student may answer only once and may not change his/her answer. Each judge will record what he/she heard, and the decision whether to declare the answer correct will be based on what a majority of the judges heard. The judges will not ask the students to repeat their answer, unless there is a technical problem. Students therefore should answer in a clear and strong voice so the judges can hear them.
7. If there is a discrepancy between the answer icon on the screen and how the moderator says the answer should be given, the judges will accept a correct answer in either format.
8. If a team member gives an incomplete or partial answer, the judges will say that it is "not correct." They will not say that it is "incomplete," as that would give a hint to the other teams.
9. If no team signals 10 seconds after the question has been read, the moderator(s) will read the questions again.
10. If no team answers correctly, the moderator will provide the answer.
11. There will be 2 bonus questions during the Toss-Up Round. The moderator will give advance notice when a question has a bonus question attached to it. If a team member answers the first (main) question correctly, his/her team will be given the bonus question, which is worth an additional 5 points. Team members may confer, and the team captain must answer within 30 seconds. If the team's answer is incorrect, other teams cannot answer the bonus question.
12. When answering in full sentences in Japanese, students must use the polite forms (です・ます), unless otherwise instructed.
13. Scoring:
 - (1) Each correct answer is worth 5 points.
 - (2) There is no partial credit for partially correct or incomplete answers.

- (3) A team will not receive credit for a correct answer if its members conferred. (Exception: bonus questions.)
- (4) If a student signals after the moderator has read the entire question, there is no penalty for an incorrect response.
- (5) If a student signals before the moderator has completed reading the question and then answers incorrectly, his/her team will be penalized 5 points. If a student from a second team also signaled before the moderator completed reading the question and then answers incorrectly, his/her team also will be penalized 5 points.

Rules for the Individual Communication Questions

1. Each team member will select a numbered envelope, 1 to 9, drawn at random. Students should not open the envelope until told to do so.
2. Students then will be called on to answer in numerical order. A PowerPoint slide will appear for each number, with a Japanese idiom or gitaigo/giongo/ kasane kotoba that is from the list in this Study Guide. The team member must use that expression in a sentence or two to demonstrate that he/she fully understands its meaning.
3. Conferring among students is not allowed.
4. Each student will have a total of 30 seconds within which to prepare his/her answer and to say it. If a student has not started to speak after 20 seconds have passed, the timekeeper will say, "10 seconds."
5. The student should speak clearly and loudly into the microphone. The judges may not ask the student to repeat.
6. A panel of special judges, all native speakers of Japanese, will decide whether the student has clearly and accurately communicated his/her sentence in Japanese. The special judges will use a *maru-batsu*, yes or no decision, with the majority decision to prevail.
7. Each question is worth 5 points, so there are 15 possible points per team. If the team has only two members, the average of the two scores will be multiplied by 3 to determine the team score.

Rules for the Team Questions

1. There will be 10 team questions. Each question is worth 10 points.
2. The same question will be asked to all teams simultaneously.
3. Questions, including the Japanese language part, will be read only once.
4. Conferring among team members is allowed.
5. All teams must provide their answers in writing on the white boards that are provided. Any member of the team may write the answer(s) to the question.
6. There is a 30-second time limit to answer each question. The clock begins when the moderator has finished reading the question. The timekeeper will call a "10 seconds" warning. At the end of the allocated time, the timekeeper will call "time," and teams must show their white boards.
7. There is no partial credit for partially correct answers. There is no penalty for an incorrect response.
8. When answering in Japanese, students must use the polite forms (です・ます), unless otherwise instructed.
9. Any answers that are difficult for the judges to read may result in an incorrect answer. Therefore, please be sure that your handwriting is large and clear.
10. If there is a discrepancy between the answer icon on the screen and how the moderator says the answer should be given, the judges will accept a correct answer in either format.

11. For the benefit of the teams and the audience (who cannot see the whiteboards from a distance), the moderator will provide the correct answer for all questions.

12. Scoring:

- a. Each correct answer is worth 10 points. There is no penalty for an incorrect answer.
- b. There is no partial credit for partially correct or incomplete answers.

2017 National Japan Bowl Topics and Questions

The Japan Bowl tests both language and non-language topics. In 2017, the National Japan Bowl will challenge students on the topics described in this section.

4.1 References for Japan Knowledge (Language Topics)

To write and fact-check the 350 questions it creates each year, the National Japan Bowl Committee uses the Japan-America Society's library, which has over 1,400 books on Japan and the Japanese language. The committee also checks authoritative sources on the internet.

Some recently-published books are good resources for the special language topics covered each year. We recommend them because they provide good English explanations of common Japanese expressions, which are often hard for students to grasp.

Dorling Kindersley (DK) publishes an attractive and “fun” Japanese English Bilingual Visual Dictionary in paperback, which is currently available from Amazon for \$11.75. It has a wealth of vocabulary, arranged by topic.

An excellent reference on **Japanese idioms and especially kotowaza** is 101 Japanese Idioms, by Michael L. Maynard and Senko K. Maynard. A revised edition was published by McGraw-Hill in 2009 and is available from Amazon.com. It includes a 90-minute CD with dialogues.

An excellent reference for **四字熟語 (yojijukugo)** is Kanji de Manga's Yojijukugo,

An excellent reference for onomatopoeia is Jazz Up Your Japanese with Onomatopoeia, by Hiroko Fukuda, published by Kodansha International in 2003 and sold by Amazon.com.

Unfortunately, the only reference that we have found for affective expressions is out of print, although it is available from used book sellers. It is Ronald Suleski and Masada Hiroko's Affective Expressions in Japanese (日本語感情表現の手引), which was published by The Hokuseido Press in 1982. Amazon.com lists a number of used copies for sale.

4.2 References for Japan Knowledge (Non-Language Topics)

The chart on the page 13 lists the categories from which *non-language questions* will be drawn over the next three years. These categories should act as a curriculum guide for students to develop their knowledge of Japan over a three-year period. In 2017 non-language questions will come from the column marked “**Year 1 (2017)**,” which is highlighted in yellow.

Note to students and teachers: NJBC encourages students to pursue the study of the non-language topics with their team-mates and to learn from a variety of reliable sources. That is what the most successful National Japan Bowl teams have done over the years.

NJBC suggests that students familiarize themselves with the material on Web-Japan (<http://web-japan.org>). Another good source of information on Japan is Nipponia Magazine, which is available on-line at <http://web-japan.org/nipponia/archives/en/index.html>. Daily reports on current events in Japan can be found at <http://www.newsonjapan.com>.

Some useful reference books are:

- Kodansha’s *Japan at a Glance*: 日本まるごと事典
- The JTB series *The Illustrated Guide to Japan* and *Japan in Your Pocket* (available through www.jptrading.com)
- *Are Japanese Cats Left-Handed?* and *Who Invented Natto?*, written by Yoko Toyozaki, Stuart Varnam-Atkin, and Sawada Gumi (IBC Publishing)
- *Shikitari: Unfolding Japanese Tradition*, available through Amazon.com
- *Annual Events in Japan* (2 volumes), by Noriko Takano and translated by Reiko Matano and Margaret Breer (Ehon House Publishing)
- *Fodor’s Japan: Full Color Travel Guide* (2016)

Non-Language Topics and Categories: Three-Year Cycle

	Year 1 (2017)	Year 2 (2018)	Year 3 (2019)
History	Classical/Medieval Era 794-1603: the Heian, Kamakura, Muromachi, and Azuchi-Momoyama periods: well-known events, people, and terms	Edo/Tokugawa Era 1603-1868: well-known events, people, and terms	The Modern Era (Meiji, Taisho, Showa and Heisei) 1868-present : well-known events, people, and terms
Arts and Culture (both traditional and modern)	Performing Arts , including kabuki, bunraku, noh, kyogen, theater and drama, traditional music, tea ceremony, etc.	Visual Arts , including painting, prints, sculpture, ceramics, ikebana, handicrafts, classic films, and architecture (including landscape architecture)	Literary Arts , including famous authors and novels, Japanese literary forms, folk tales and children's stories
Social Sciences	Political Geography: Names and locations of regions, major islands, prefectures, major cities, mountains, seas, lakes, rivers, etc.	Physical Geography: Nature and the environment, flora and fauna, agriculture and fisheries, climate, natural phenomena and disasters	Japan's political and economic systems: government, politics, foreign affairs, business and industry, transportation, national symbols, famous companies and products
Daily Life and Society	Rites of life (birth, school, marriage, death, etc.); religion and religious practices	Festivals, holidays, seasonal events, celebrations	Manners and etiquette in Japan, Japanese gestures and body language
Popular Culture	Martial arts, sports, and traditional Japanese games	Japanese popular culture , with a focus on youth culture, including anime, manga, pop music, iconic foods, etc.	Food, drink, clothing, houses, things in and around Japanese homes
Current Events	Major events and developments in Japan's politics, economy, international relations and society during the 12 months prior to the National Japan Bowl. Note: Current events questions will be asked only during the Championship Round.		
US-Japan relations	The US-Japan connection: interaction between the two countries in the topics listed above		

Non-Language Topics and Categories: Three-Year Cycle

	Year 1 (2017)	Year 2 (2018)	Year 3 (2019)
歴史	794-1603 年 平安 / 鎌倉 / 室町 / 安土・桃山時代: 期間/人物/出来事など	1603 年-1868 年 江戸/徳川時代: 期間/人物/出来事など	1868 年 - 現在 明治、大正、昭和、平成時 代: 期間/人物/出来事など
芸術と文化 (伝統的および現代的)	舞台芸術 歌舞伎、文楽、能、狂 言、劇場、演劇、古典 音楽、茶道などを含む	視覚芸術 絵画、出版物、彫刻、陶 磁器、生け花、工芸、古 典映画、建築を含む	文芸 有名な作家や小説、文学の 表現形式、民話、童話を含 む
社会科学	政治地理学：地域、地 方、主要な島、県、都 市、山、海、湖、川な ど	自然地理学：自然、環 境、動植物、農業、漁 業、気候、自然現象、災 害	日本の政治と経済：政府、 政治、外交、ビジネス、産 業、交通機関、国章、有名 企業、商品
日常生活と社会	儀式や祭式（誕生、入 学、結婚、葬式な ど）、宗教と儀式	祭、祝祭日、年中行事、 祭式	日常のマナーとエチケッ ト、身振り、ジェスチャー
ポップカルチャー	武芸、スポーツ、日本 の伝統的なゲーム	ポップカルチャー：若者 文化、アニメ、漫画、ポ ピュラー音楽、伝統的料 理など	飲食物、衣服、住居、日本 の家で見られるもの
時事	大会当日から過去 1 年間の日本の出来事や発展：政治、経済、国際関係、社会 注意：時事問題は決勝戦に限り出題される		
日米関係	上記のトピックにおける日米関係		

4.3 Conversation Round Topics

The following list describes the themes and topics that students are expected to be able to talk about, **as they relate personally to each student**:

Level II

- Clothes
- Daily life
- Food
- Home and community
- Self, family, and friends

Level III

All content from Level II, PLUS:

- Holidays and annual events
- Leisure, hobbies, and sports
- School and education
- Shopping
- Travel and vacations

Level IV

All content from Levels II and III, PLUS:

- Body and health
- Future plans
- Weather and climate
- Work and career

4.4 Kanji – Reading and Writing

Students should be able to **read and write** these *kanji* and give their meanings in English. Note: Some *kanji*, but **not all**, used in the Japan Bowl will come from these lists. Students should also be able to read and write *kanji* compounds formed by *kanji* in this list.

Level II:a. the following *kanji*

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	每
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

b. *kanji* compounds composed of those in the above list, including, for example:

しゅうまつ 週末	ふぼ 父母	でぐち 出口	べいこく 米国	きゅうじつ 休日	なんぼん 何本
-------------	----------	-----------	------------	-------------	------------

Level III:a. the following *kanji* as well as those in the Level II list:

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

b. *kanji* compounds composed of *kanji* in the Level II and III lists, including, for example:

きもち 気持	きもの 着物	せいかつ 生活	ものがたり 物語	きこく 帰国
-----------	-----------	------------	-------------	-----------

Level IV:

a. the following *kanji* as well as the Level II and Level III lists:

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

b. *kanji* compounds composed of the *kanji* in the Level II, III, and IV lists, for example:

べんり 便利	ほどう 歩道	きんだい 近代	さいこう 最高	としか 都市化
-----------	-----------	------------	------------	------------

4.5 Topics, Family, and Place Names in Kanji**4.5.1 This Year's Topics in Kanji**

The following *kanji* compounds are words that relate to some of this year's non-language topics (see the chart in Section 4.1).

Level II should be able to read, pronounce, and know the meaning of the following words and concepts:

へいあん 平安	かまくら 鎌倉	じだい 時代	ぶし 武士	てんのう 天皇	ぶつきょう 仏教	とうだいじ 東大寺	ゆみ 弓	けん 剣	かたな 刀
------------	------------	-----------	----------	------------	-------------	--------------	---------	---------	----------

Level III should be able to read, pronounce, and know the meaning of the following words and concepts, plus those in the Level II list:

むろまち 室町	あづち 安土	ももやま 桃山	きぞく 貴族	ぼくふ 幕府	げんこう 元寇	まくらのそうし 枕草子	げんじものがたり 源氏物語	ちゃ 茶	ゆ 湯	しゃみせん 三味線
------------	-----------	------------	-----------	-----------	------------	----------------	------------------	---------	--------	--------------

Level IV should be able to read, pronounce, and know the meaning of the following words and concepts, plus those in the Level II and III lists:

かぶき 歌舞伎	ぶんらく 文楽	のう 能	きょうげん 狂言	にんぎょうじょうり 人形浄瑠璃	おおずもう 大相撲	じゅうどう 柔道	やきゅう 野球	いご 囲碁	しょうぎ 将棋
------------	------------	---------	-------------	--------------------	--------------	-------------	------------	----------	------------

4.5.2 Family Names in Kanji

These are some of the most common Japanese family names. Based on their knowledge of these names, students will be expected to understand other common family names that are written with these same Kanji.

Students in Level II should be able to read and pronounce the following family names:

Tanaka	田中	たなか
Yamada	山田	やまだ
Yamaguchi	山口	やまぐち
Nakamura	中村	なかむら
Kimura	木村	きむら
Hayashi	林	はやし
Honda	本田	ほんだ

Students in Level III should be able to read and pronounce the following family names, in addition to the family names listed for Level II:

Takahashi	高橋	たかはし
Yamamoto	山本	やまもと
Matsumoto	松本	まつもと
Inoue	井上	いのうえ
Kobayashi	小林	こばやし
Yoshida	吉田	よしだ
Matsushita	松下	まつした

Students in Level IV should be able to read and pronounce the following family names, in addition to the family names listed for Levels II and III:

Sato	佐藤	さとう
Watanabe	渡辺	わたなべ
Ito	伊藤	いとう
Kato	加藤	かとう
Sasaki	佐々木	ささき
Shimizu	清水	しみず
Suzuki	鈴木	すずき
Nomura	野村	のむら

4.5.3 Place Names in Kanji

Students at Level II should be able to read and pronounce the following place names:

Major Cities of Japan

Tokyo	東京	とうきょう
Kyoto	京都	きょうと
Osaka	大阪	おおさか
Yokohama	横浜	よこはま
Nagoya	名古屋	なごや

Major Islands of Japan

Honshu	本州	ほんしゅう
Kyushu	九州	きゅうしゅう
Shikoku	四国	しこく
Hokkaido	北海道	ほっかいどう
Okinawa	沖縄	おきなわ

Oceans and Seas

Pacific Ocean (Taiheiyo)	太平洋	たいへいよう
Sea of Japan (Nihonkai)	日本海	にほんかい

Students at Level III should be able to read and pronounce the following place names, in addition to the place names listed in Level II:

Cities of Japan

Fukuoka	福岡	ふくおか
Sapporo	札幌	さっぽろ
Hiroshima	広島	ひろしま
Sendai	仙台	せんだい

Regions of Japan

Kanto	関東	かんとう
Kansai	関西	かんさい
Tohoku	東北	とうほく
Chubu	中部	ちゅうぶ
Chugoku	中国	ちゅうごく

Students at Level IV should be able to read and pronounce the following place names, in addition to the place names listed for Levels II and III:

Cities of Japan

Kobe	神戸	こうべ
Kawasaki	川崎	かわさき
Nara	奈良	なら
Nikko	日光	にっこう
Nagasaki	長崎	ながさき

Prefectures of Japan

Kanagawa	神奈川県	かながわ
Aichi	愛知	あいち
Hyogo	兵庫	ひょうご

Mountains, peninsulas, seas

Mt Fuji	富士山	ふじさん
Alps	日本アルプス	にほんアルプス
Izu	伊豆	いず
Inland Sea (Seto Naikai)	瀬戸内海	せとないかい

Airports

Narita	成田	なりた
Haneda	羽田	はねだ

Well-known areas of Tokyo

Ginza	銀座	ぎんざ
Shinjuku	新宿	しんじゅく
Ueno	上野	うえの
Shibuya	渋谷	しぶや
Akihabara	秋葉原	あきはばら
Harajuku	原宿	はらじゅく
Asakusa	浅草	あさくさ

4.6 Katakana

Teams will be asked to give the English equivalent of Japanese words written in *katakana*. Here are some examples:

アルバイト	Part-time work
ウィンカー	Turn signal (on a car)
メキシコ	Mexico
チャンネル	Channel (on a TV)
ボタン	Button or peony

Students also will be expected to write some English words in katakana, as the Japanese commonly use and write them. Here are some examples:

France	フランス
Television	テレビ
Germany	ドイツ
Taxi	タクシー

4.7 Idiomatic Japanese

The Japan Bowl includes idiomatic Japanese as a language enrichment topic. The National Japan Bowl Committee selects idiomatic expressions that are used frequently in Japan; have some cultural and historical interest; and/or express a common English idiom, but in a different way.

During each three-year period, the Japan Bowl rotates idiomatic expressions from the following categories. The yellow box highlights the topics for 2017.

	2017	2018	2019
Idiomatic Japanese	Expressions using the names of parts of the human body, such as <i>me</i> 目, <i>te</i> 手, etc.	Language of feelings: expressions using <i>ki</i> 気 and <i>kokoro</i> 心	Japanese idioms, proverbs, and <i>yojijukugo</i> (四字熟語)

Under each expression is the literal English translation and also an English idiomatic equivalent. The National Japan Committee consults a number of reference books to choose the English equivalents, but these are not the only possible English meanings for these expressions. Be sure to check and understand other possibilities, as well as the nuances between the Japanese and English equivalents.

Level II students should learn the following:

鼻が高い to be proud of or haughty	はながたかい (lit. have a high/prominent nose)
腕がいい to be skilled or able	うでがいい (lit., one's arm is good)
耳が痛い to be uncomfortable about or made painfully aware of misdeeds or mistakes the truth hurts or remarks strike home	みみがいたい (lit., have an earache)
足が重い to be reluctant to move, act, or go feet feel like lead	あしがおもい (lit., have heavy/tired legs)
顔が広い to know many people, have a large circle of acquaintances, or be well connected	かおがひろい (lit., have a broad/wide face)
頭が固い to be thickheaded, obstinate, inflexible, stubborn or set in one's ways	あたまがかたい (lit., have a hard head)
胸がいっぱい to be overwhelmed with emotion have a lump in your throat	むねがいっぱい (lit., one's chest is full)
目を通す to scan, look through, or look over	めをとおす (lit., pass eyes through something)
手をかす to help or lend a hand	てをかす (lit., to lend a hand)
腹が立つ to get angry, take offense, lose temper or be furious	はらがたつ (lit., belly stands up)

Level III students should learn the following in addition to the above:

首を長くして待つ To look forward to or wait for something eagerly, impatiently or expectantly	くびをながくしてまつ (lit., to lengthen one's neck and wait)
---	---

口が滑る
let something slip, say something
thoughtlessly or slip of the tongue

くちがすべる
(lit., the mouth slips)

頭にくる
get mad, angry, be highly offended or
lose your cool

あたまにくる
(lit., to come to your head)

口に合う
to be palatable, to suit one's taste

くちにあう
(lit., to fit or suit the mouth)

顔を出す
to show up / put in an appearance

かおをだす
(lit., to stick your face out)

腕が落ちる
to lose one's touch or skills

うでがおちる
(lit., arms fall down)

頭が下がる
to admire greatly or to take one's hat off to

あたまがさがる
(lit., one's head goes lower)

歯が立たない
to be in over one's head, to be beyond
one's depth or unable to compete with

はがたたない
(lit., teeth don't stand up)

Level IV students should learn the following in addition to all of the above:

胸をはる
to throw out one's chest or
be puffed up with pride

むねをはる
(lit., to stretch one's chest)

腰が低い
to be humble, modest, or courteous

こしがひくい
(lit., have a low waist)

口を出す
to interrupt a conversation, to interfere or
meddle

くちをだす
(lit., to put one's mouth out)

二の足を踏む
to hesitate, to think twice,
to shy away from or flinch, or have misgivings

にのあしをふむ
(lit., put a second foot down)

目にあまる
to be intolerable, unpardonable,
be too much, or beyond endurance

めにあまる
(lit., surplus/ too much in the eyes)

足を引っ張る

あしをひっぱる

to drag someone down, hold someone back, (lit., to pull someone's feet)

cause trouble for someone or to surreptitiously thwart someone's efforts or success

4.8.1 Gitaigo/Giongo (Onomatopoeic Expressions)

Gitaigo and giongo (onomatopoeic expressions) are an important part of the Japanese language, and because the words repeat, they are also fun to hear and say. The onomatopoeic expressions used in the 2017 National Japan Bowl will come from the following lists. In some cases the moderator will read the expression in Japanese, and the team must give the English translation or explain when and how it might be used. As the questions become more challenging, students might be given an expression or shown a picture and asked to complete a sentence using the most appropriate expression. They might be asked to make their own sentence using the expression.

Level II students should learn the following:

ふらふら いらいら だぶだぶ だろどろ がたがた
ぶかぶか ふわふわ きよろきよろ ごちゃごちゃ ぴりぴり

Level III students should learn the following in addition to the above:

ぎりぎり ぐるぐる さらさら だらだら
もじもじ ばらばら じろじろ べたべた

Level IV students should learn the following in addition to all of the above:

きらきら つるつる めそめそ
ずるずる そわそわ ぎゅうぎゅう

4.8.2 Affective Expressions

Level II students should be able to understand and use the following affective expressions:

きっと せっかく まず やはり さすが

Level III students should be able to understand and use the following affective expressions, in addition to those at Level II:

ついでに どうせ つまり まさか じつは

Level IV students should be able to understand and use the following affective expressions, in addition to those at Levels II and III:

むしろ けっきょく あくまで とにかく いかにも

4.9 Aisatsu

Aisatsu are polite and generally “fixed” phrases that the Japanese use in particular situations. For example, when a Japanese person leaves the house, (s)he will say 行ってきます. The person who remains behind in the home will send them off by saying, 行っていらっしゃい. Knowing when to use and how to respond to these polite aisatsu phrases is an important part of interpersonal communication in Japan, and is integral to Japanese culture and society. .

Students learn some of the most elementary aisatsu during their first year of Japanese study. The Japan Bowl therefore expects that Level II students will have learned the following phrases during their first year of study:

Level I Aisatsu phrases:

おはようございます
 こんにちは
 こんばんは
 おやすみなさい
 行ってきます - 行っていらっしゃい
 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
 ありがとうございます / ました - どういたしまして

Level II students therefore are expected to know how to use and respond to the Level I aisatsu listed above, as well as to the following phrases:

いただきます - ごちそうさまでした
 おかわりはいかがですか
 おだいじに
 しつれいします
 おたんじょうび おめでとうございます
 もしもし
 ごめんください
 おひさしぶりです
 ようこそ

Level III students are expected to know how to use and respond to the following phrases, in addition to those at Levels I and II:

ご入学 おめでとうございます
 ごけっこん おめでとうございます

ごしゅっさん 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
 ごくろうさまでした
 おつかれさまでした
 よくいらっしゃいました
 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す
 よい旅を

Level IV students are expected to know how to use and respond to the following phrases, in addition to those at Levels I, II, and III:

ごしゅうしょうさまでした
 おかげさまで
 お先にしつれいます
 何もございませんが
 つまらないものですが
 ごぶさたしています/おります
 先日はしつれいしました
 長い間お世話になりました
 おそれ入ります
 つまらないものですが
 申しわけございません

5.0 Sample Questions

The following are actual questions that were used during the Preliminary Rounds at Level III in a past National Japan Bowl. They show the wide range and style of questions used during the Japan Bowl Rounds, as well as the way in which the questions are posed.

ON THE SCREEN: Picture of something wrapped in a furoshiki.
MODERATOR: The Japanese often wrap gifts in a square cloth, like this.
 What is the name of this cloth? Write your answer in hiragana.
ANSWER: ふろしき

ON THE SCREEN: A. Rice 1. Shizuoka
 B. Tea 2. Hokkaido
 C. Dairy 3. Niigata
MODERATOR: Match the Japanese product with the region that is famous for producing it:
ANSWER: A3, B1, C2

ON THE SCREEN: Woodblock print of the Satsuma Rebellion
MODERATOR: Who was the leader of the Satsuma Rebellion of 1877? Write your answer in Romaji.
ANSWER: Saigo Takamori

ON THE SCREEN: Picture of a Shinto priest doing "ohara"
MODERATOR: This priest is performing a common ritual. What does it signify? Write your answer in English.
ANSWER: Purification / driving out evil spirits

ON THE SCREEN: Show a picture of ひなだん
MODERATOR: March 3 in Japan is a special day for girls. What is the name of this holiday? Write your answer in hiragana.
ANSWER: ひなまつり or もものせつく

ON THE SCREEN: A. 今年日本へ行きました。
 B. 来年日本へ行くほうがいいです。
 C. まだ日本へ行ったことはありません。
MODERATOR: Choose the sentence closest in meaning to the following:
 来年日本へはじめて行きます。
ANSWER: C

ON THE SCREEN: "Listen Carefully"
MODERATOR: Please listen carefully and then write this sentence in English.
 まどのそばにすわっている学生はけんじさんです。
ANSWER: The student who is sitting by/near the window is Kenji.

ON THE SCREEN: ひさしぶりに鈴木さんからメールが_____。
 A もらいました。
 B きました。
 C くれました。
MODERATOR: What word should go in the blank?
ANSWER: B

ON THE SCREEN: ぼうしを_____とあたたかくなりますよ。
MODERATOR: In hiragana, fill in the blank with the appropriate verb.
ANSWER: かぶる

ON THE SCREEN: Picture of one dog and three cats
MODERATOR: 絵を見て犬と猫の数を数えてください。ひらがなでこたえてください。

ANSWER: いぬがいつぴきと、ねこがさんびきいます。

ON THE SCREEN: Student arriving back home

MODERATOR: When Japanese children come back home in the afternoon from school, what is their mother likely to say? Write your answer in hiragana.

ANSWER: おかえりなさい

ON THE SCREEN: Picture of someone swimming

MODERATOR : Please listen carefully. 「山本くんは水泳部なので、学校のプールで練習しています。月曜日から金曜日まで一日 2000 メートル泳ぎます。山本くんは一週間に何メートル泳ぎますか。」

ANSWER: 10000 (メートル)

ON THE SCREEN: volunteer

MODERATOR: This English word has become part of the Japanese vocabulary. How do the Japanese write it? Write your answer in katakana.

ANSWER: ボランティア

ON THE SCREEN: 色

MODERATOR: In *kanji*, write the names of any three colors.

ANSWER: Possible answers include: 黒白赤青

ON THE SCREEN: わたしのなまえは、田中さんです。

MODERATOR: What is wrong with this sentence? Answer in English.

ANSWER: You should not call yourself "san."

ON THE SCREEN: 気

MODERATOR: Using the kanji on the screen, write an expression which means "be particular about, worry about, bother about, be concerned about."

ANSWER: 気にする、気になる

ON THE SCREEN: 番

MODERATOR: How many strokes are in this kanji?

ANSWER: 12