

Japanese A-Level Content & Assessment

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Japanese (listening, reading and writing) consists of three externally-examined papers that assess listening, reading and writing skills.

- These assessments will be set and marked by Pearson.
- Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year.
- Students are not permitted access to a dictionary during the examination or any other documentation.

Paper 1: Translation into English, reading comprehension and writing (research question)

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes - 40% of the qualification - 80 marks

Section A: Translation into English (20 marks)

- An unseen passage to be translated from Japanese to English.

Section B: Reading (20 marks)

- A reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres. Students must respond to a series of comprehension questions.

Section C: Writing (research question) (40 marks)

- A reading and writing question based on an aspect of the student's chosen research subject. Students read a text and then answer a question, incorporating information and ideas from both the text and their research findings.

Paper 2: Translation into Japanese and written response to works

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes - 30% of the qualification - 110 marks

Section A: Translation into Japanese (20 marks)

- Students translate an unseen passage from English into Japanese.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (45 marks)

- Students write an extended response on one or two of the literary texts studied.
- Students select one question from a choice of two for each of their chosen text(s).
- If a student answers questions on two literary texts then they do not complete Section C.

Section C: Written response to works (films) (45 marks)

- Students who answer only one question from a literary text in Section B must write an extended response on the film they have studied.
- Students select one question from a choice of two for their chosen film.

Paper 3: Listening, reading and writing

Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes - 30% of the qualification - 60 marks

Section A: Listening comprehension (30 marks)

- A listening assessment based on a recording that features male and female Japanese speakers. Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

Section B: Listening, reading and writing question (30 marks)

- Students summarise a listening source and a text that are based on the same sub-theme. Students then evaluate the points of view in both sources, stating which views they agree with and why.

Themes, Sub-themes and Research Subjects

- Papers 1, 2 and 3 will be based on content from the following four themes.
- Each theme is broken into two sub-themes and a research subject (highlighted in bold).
- Students are required to select only one research subject for Paper 1. For their research, students must cover all three aspects of the research subject.

1. Changing lifestyles of Japanese youth

- a. Education: education system & reform (*yutori kyoiku*); exams & juku; control of the school curriculum by MEXT
- b. Young people's health (mental & physical): pressure on young people; its influence on their health and diet; *ijime*
- c. *Research topic – Family and personal relationships: traditional family structures; the nuclear family; relationships within the family

2. Changing society

- a. Changes in popular culture: anime & manga; music; martial arts
- b. The influence of technology: advances in technology; robots; automation
- c. *Research topic – The changing nature of events in Japan: traditional festivals & modern events; influence of the tourist industry; import of Western events

3. Changing values

- a. The changing world of work: the collapse of the lifetime employment system; changes in attitude towards work; relocating for work
- b. The prolonged economic slump: impact on daily life; government response; internationalisation of the economy; reception of foreign immigrant workers
- c. *Research topic – Ageing society: loneliness & isolation of old people; support from families; support from society

4. Japan in the wake of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami

- a. 11th March and the immediate aftermath: damage caused by the earthquake & tsunami; refugee life; rescue & aid; response from overseas
- b. Reconstruction policy: rebuilding of affected areas; volunteers and citizens working together; power to overcome hardship; mental health
- c. *Research topic – Saving energy after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster: saving energy in daily life; debate over energy supply; old/traditional ideas about saving energy

Prescribed Literary Texts and Films

For Paper 2, students are required to study two works from the list below. The texts can be either two literary texts or one literary text and one film. Teachers should select works that are appropriate for their students.

Literary texts

- どんどん読めるいろいろな話 1991 (short-story collection)
- キッチン、吉本ばなな、1998 (novel)
- 窓際のトットちゃん、黒柳徹子、1991 (autobiography)

Films

- 千と千尋の神隠し、宮崎駿監督 (2001)
- ディア・ドクター、西川美和監督 (2009)
- 誰も知らない、是枝裕和監督 (2004)

Themes, Sub-themes and Research Subjects (Japanese)

テーマ1：変わっていく^か若者の生活^{わかもの せいかつ}

きょういく 教育

- 教育^{きょういく} 制度^{せいど}やその改革^{かいかく}(ゆとり^{きょういく} 教育^{いこう} 以降)
- 試験^{しけん}や塾^{じゅく}
- 文部科学省^{もんぶ かがくしょう}によるカリキュラム^{かんり}管理

わかもの けんこう しんたいめん しんりめん 若者の健康(身体面と心理面)

- 若者^{わかもの}にかかるプレッシャー
- それ^{けんこう}が健康^{しよくせいかつ}や食生活^{あた}に与える影響^{えいきょう}
- いじめ

じ ゆう けんきゅう か だい か ぞく かん けい にん げん かん けい 自由研究の課題：家族関係や人間関係

- 伝統的^{でん どう てき}な家族^{こう せい}構成
- 核^{かく}家族
- 家庭内^{か てい ない}の人間^{にん げん}関係^{かん けい}

テーマ2：変わっていく文化

変わるポピュラー・カルチャー

- アニメや漫画
- 音楽
- 武道
- 武術

テクノロジーの影響

- テクノロジーの進歩
- ロボット
- オートメーション

自由研究の課題：変わっていく行事

- 伝統的な祭りや現代的なイベント
- イベントや祭りと観光業の影響
- 西洋行事の流入

テーマ3：変わっていく人生観

変化する労働

- 終身雇用制度の崩壊
- 仕事に対する意識の変化
- 仕事のための移住

ながび ふけいき にちじょうせいかつ えいきょう 長引く不景気 日常生活への影響

- せい ふ たいおう
政府の対応
- けいざい こくさい か
経済の国際化
- い じゅうがいこくじんろうどうしゃ う い
移住外国人労働者の受け入れ

自由研究の課題：こうれい か しゃかい 自由研究の課題：高齢化社会

- こうれいしゃ こりつ
高齢者の孤立
- 家族からのサポート
- しゃかいてき し えん
社会的支援

ひがし だいしん さいご テーマ4：東日本大震災後の日本

ちよくご じしん つなみ ひがい 3月11日とその直後 地震と津波の被害

- ひなん
避難生活
- きゅうしゅつ えんじょ
救出と援助
- かいがい はんのう
海外の反応

ふっこう せいさく 復興への政策

- ひさいち た なお
被災地の立て直し
- ボランティアやこくみん だんけつ
ボランティアや国民の団結
- こんなん の き ちから
困難を乗り越える力
- こころ
心のケア

自由研究の課題：ふくしまげんぱつじ こご しょう 自由研究の課題：福島原発事故後の省エネ

- にちじょうせいかつ なか しょう
日常生活の中の省エネ

- エネルギー供給をめぐり議論きょうきゅう
- 省エネに関する昔の知恵しょう かん むかし ちえ

Word List (generated by wwwjdic)

- 変わっていく 【かわっていく】 changing
- 若者 【わかもの(P); わかもん】 (n) young person; youngster; young people; (the) youth; (P)
- 生活 【せいかつ】 (n,vs,vi) (1) life; living; (n) (2) livelihood; (one's) living; [P]
- 教育 【きょういく】 (n,vs,vt) (1) education; schooling; training; instruction; teaching; upbringing; (n,vs,vt) (2) culture; cultivation; education; (P)
- 教育制度 【きょういくせいど】 (n) educational system; school system; ED
- 改革 【かいかく】 (n,vs,vt) reform; reformation; reorganization; (P); ED
- ゆとり教育 【ゆとりきょういく】 (exp) cram-free education; pressure-free education; KD
- 以降 : 以降(P); 以降 【いこう】 (n,adv) on and after; from ... onward; since; (P); ED
- 試験 【しけん】 (n,vs,vt) (1) examination; exam; test; (n,vs,vt) (2) trial; experiment; test; (P); ED
- 塾 【じゅく】 (n) cram school; private tutoring school; juku; (P); ED;
Name(s): 【そうら】 (u) Soura 【むねたか】 (u) Munetaka SrcHNA
- 文部科学省 【もんぶかがくしょう】 (n) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; MEXT; (P)
- による (exp,v5r) by means of; due to; because of; according
- カリキュラム (n) curriculum; (P)

- 管理 【かんり】 (n,vs,vt) control; management (e.g. of a business); (P); ED
- 若者 【わかもの(P); わかもん】 (n) young person; youngster; young people; (the) youth; (P); ED
- 健康 【けんこう】 (n) (1) health; (adj-na) (2) healthy; sound; fit; wholesome; (P)
- 身体面 【しんたいめん(P)】 physical aspect
- 心理面 【しんりめん】 (n) psychological aspect
- 若者 【わかもの(P); わかもん】 (n) young person; youngster; young people; (the) youth; (P)
- かかる (v5r,vi) to contract (a disease); to suffer from
- プレッシャー (n) pressure; (P)

- 健康 【けんこう】 (n) (1) health; (adj-na) (2) healthy(P)
- 食生活 【しょくせいかつ】 (n) eating habits; (P)
- 与える 【あたえる】 (v1,vt) (1) to give (esp. to someone of lower status); to bestow; to grant; to confer; to present; to award; (v1,vt) (2) to provide; to afford; to offer; to supply; (v1,vt) (3) to assign; (v1,vt) (4) to cause; (v1,vt) (P)
- 影響 【えいきょう】 (n,vs,vi) influence; effect; impact; (P)
- 自由研究 【じゆうけんきゅう】 (n) research project (e.g. at school); independent research
- 課題 【かだい】 (n) (1) subject; theme; issue; matter; (n) (2) homework; assignment; (n) (3) task; challenge; problem; question; (P)
- 家族関係 【かぞくかんけい】 (n) family relationships; one's relationship with one's family; ED

- 人間関係 【にんげんかんけい】 (n) human relations; personal relationships; (P); ED
- 伝統的な from 伝統的 【でんとうてき】 (adj-na) traditional; customary; conventional; (P)
- 家族構成 【かぞくこうせい】 (n) family structure; family composition; family makeup
- 核家族 【かくかぞく】 (n) nuclear family; (P)

- 家庭内の from 家庭内 【かていない】 (adj-no,n) within the family; in the home; domestic; (P)

- 文化 【ぶんか】 (n) (1) culture; civilization; civilisation;
- ポピュラー (adj-na) (1) popular; well-liked; (adj-na) (2) common; frequent; popular; (n) (3) (abbr) (See ポピュラーミュージック) popular music; pop music; (P)
- カルチャー (n) culture; (P)
- テクノロジー : テクノロジー(P); テクノロジ (n) technology; (P)
- 影響 【えいきょう】 (n,vs,vi) influence; effect; impact; (P)
- アニメ (n) (abbr) (See アニメーション) animation; animated film; animated cartoon; anime; (P)
- 漫画 【まんが(P); マンガ(P)] (n) cartoon; comic; comic strip; manga; (P)
- 音楽 : 音楽(P); 音楽 【おんがく】 (n) music; (P)
- 武道 【ぶどう】 (n) martial arts; military arts; Bushido;
- 武術 【ぶじゅつ】 (n) (1) martial arts; military arts; (n)
- 進歩 【しんぽ】 (n,vs,vi) (ant: 退歩) progress; advance; improvement; development; (P)
- ロボット (n,adj-no) (1) robot; (n) (2) (mere) puppet; pawn; figurehead; (P)
- オートメーション (n) automation; (P)
- 行事 【ぎょうじ】 (n) event; function; (P)
- 伝統的な from 伝統的 【でんとうてき】 (adj-na) traditional; customary; conventional; (P); ED
- 祭り : 祭り(P); 祭(P) 【まつり】 (n) (1) (See お祭り) festival; feast; (n)
- 現代的な from 現代的 【げんだいてき】 (adj-na) modernistic; (P)
- イベント : イベント(P); イベント (n) event; (P)

- 観光業 【かんこうぎょう】 (n) (See 観光産業) tourist trade; travel industry; tourist business; tourist enterprise
- 西洋 【せいよう】 (n) (See 東洋・1) the West; the Occident; Western countries; (P)
- 流入 【りゅうにゅう】 (n,vs,vi) inflow; influx; (P)
- 人生観 【じんせいかん】 (n) one's view of life; attitude toward life; outlook; [P]
- 労働 : 労働(P); 労働 【ろうどう】 (n,vs,vi,adj-no) (1) manual labor; manual labour; toil; work;
- 終身雇用制度 【しゅうしんこようせいど】 (n) (Japanese) system of lifetime employment
- 崩壊 : 崩壊(P); 崩潰 【ほうかい】 (n,vs,vi) (1) collapse; crumbling; breaking down; caving in; (n,vs,vi)
- 仕事 【しごと】 (n,vs,vi) (1) work; job; labor; labour; business; task; assignment; occupation; employment; (n) (2) {physics} work; (P); ED
- 対する 【たいする】 (vs-s) (1) to face (each other); to be facing; (vs-s) (2) to be directed toward (the future, etc.); to be in response to; to be related to; (vs-s) (3) to receive (a client, etc.); (vs-s) (4) to compare with; to contrast with; to be in opposition with; to be opposed to; (vs-s) (5) to confront; to oppose; to compete with; (P)
- 意識 【いしき】 (n,vs) (1) consciousness; (n,vs) (2) becoming aware (of); awareness; sense; (n,vs) (P)
- 変化 【へんか】 (n,vs,vi) (1) change; variation; alteration; mutation; transition; transformation; transfiguration; metamorphosis;
- 移住 【いじゅう】 (n,vs,vi,adj-no) migration; immigration; (P); ED
- 長引く : 長引く(P); 長びく 【ながびく】 (v5k,vi) to be prolonged; to drag on; to take a long time; to persist; to linger; (P)
- 不景気 【ふけいき】 (n,adj-na) (1) (See 好景気) economic slump; hard times; depression; recession; (adj-na,n) (2) poor (business); dull; slack; inactive; (adj-na,n) (3) gloomy; cheerless; dismal; (P)

- 日常生活 【にちじょうせいかつ】 (n) everyday life; daily life; (P)
- 政府 【せいふ】 (n) government; administration; ministry; (P)
- 対応 【たいおう】 (n,vs,vi) (1) correspondence (to); equivalence; (n,vs,vi) (2) suitability; coordination; matching; being appropriate (for); (n,vs,vi) (3) dealing with; coping with; handling; response; reception; reaction; (n,vs,vi) (4) compatibility (with technology, software, etc.); capability; support (for); (P)
- 経済 【けいざい】 (n) (1) economy; economics; (n) (2) finance; (one's) finances; financial circumstances; (n) (3) being economical; economy; thrift; (P)
- 国際化 【こくさいか】 (n,vs,vt,vi) internationalization; internationalisation; (P)
- 移住 【いじゅう】 (n,vs,vi,adj-no) migration; immigration; (P)
- 外国人労働者 【がいこくじんろうどうしゃ】 (n) foreign worker
- 受け入れ : 受け入れ(P); 受入れ; 受入 【うけいれ】 (n) receiving; acceptance; reception; (P); 《verb stem》 受け入れる : 受け入れる(P); 受入れる; 受け容れる; 受けいれる; 受容れる 【うけいれる】 ; (v1,vt) to accept; to receive; to agree; (P)
- 高齢化社会 【こうれいかしゃかい】 (n) aging society; ageing society;
- 高齢者 【こうれいしゃ】 (n) old person; elderly person; senior citizen; (P)
- 孤立 【こりつ】 (n,vs,vi) isolation; being alone; being friendless; (P)
- サポート (n,vs,vt) support; (P)
- 社会的 【しゃかいてき】 (adj-na) social; societal; societary; (P)
- 支援 【しえん】 (n,vs,vt) support; backing; aid; assistance; (P)
- 東日本大震災 【ひがしにほんだいしんさい】 (n) (abbr) (See 東北地方太平洋沖地震) Great East Japan earthquake (March 11, 2011); Tōhoku earthquake; Tohoku earthquake; Sendai earthquake;
- 直後 【ちよくご】 (n,adv) immediately following; (P)
- 地震 【じしん(P); ない(ok); なえ(ok); じぶるい(ok)] (n) earthquake; (P); ED
- 津波 : 津波(P); 津浪; 海嘯 【つなみ】 (n) tsunami; tidal wave; (P)

- 被害 【ひがい】 (n) (suffering) damage; injury; harm; (P)
- 避難生活 【ひなんせいかつ】 (n) living in evacuation shelters
- 救出 【きゅうしゅつ】 (n,vs,vt) rescue; extricate; reclaim; deliverance; (P)
- 援助 【えんじょ】 (n,vs,vt) assistance; aid; support; (P)
- 海外の from 海外 【かいがい】 (n,adj-no) foreign; abroad; overseas; (P)
- 反応 【はんのう(P); はんおう】 (n,vs,vi) reaction; response; (P)

- 復興 【ふっこう】 (n,vs,vt,vi) revival; reconstruction; restoration; rebuilding; recovery; renaissance; (P)
- 政策 【せいさく】 (n) political measures; policy; (P)
- 被災地 【ひさいち】 (n) stricken area; disaster-stricken area; affected area; afflicted area;
- 立て直し : 立て直し; 立直し 【たてなおし】 (n) revamping; reshaping; rearranging; reorganizing; 《verb stem》 立て直す : 立て直す(P); 立直す; 立てなおす 【たてなおす】 ; (v5s,vt) (1) to put back up; to stand back up; (v5s,vt) (2) to restore (to former strength); to revive (e.g. the economy); to reorganize; to rearrange; to put right; to recover; to put back on its feet; (v5s,vt) (3) to make again (a plan, policy, etc.); to reformulate; to revise; (P)
- ボランティア : ボランティア(P); ボランテア(sk); ボランテア(sk) (n) volunteer; (P)
- 国民 【こくみん】 (n) (1) people (of a country); nation; citizen; national;
- 団結 【だんけつ】 (n,vs,vi) unity; union; solidarity; combination; teaming up; (P)
- 困難 【こんなん】 (n,adj-na) (1) difficulty; hardship; trouble; distress; (n,adj-na) (2) (euph) infeasibility; inability (to carry out); (P); ED

- 乗り切る : 乗り切る(P); 乗りきる 【のりきる】 (v5r,vt) (1) to weather (a storm, rough seas); to ride across; to sail across; (v5r,vt) (2) to get through (adversity); to weather; to get over; to tide over; to overcome; to survive; (v5r,vi) (3) to load completely (e.g. books on a shelf, people or luggage in a car); (P)
- 力 【ちから】 (n) (1) force; strength; might; vigour; vigor; energy; (n) (2) capability; ability; proficiency; capacity; faculty; (n) (3) efficacy; effect; (n) (4) effort; endeavours; endeavors; exertions; (n) (5) power; authority;

influence; good offices; agency; (n) (6) (See 力になる) support; help; aid; assistance; (n) (7) stress; emphasis; (n) (8) means; resources; (P)

- 心のケア 【こころのケア】 (exp,n) emotional care; emotional support; caring for someone's mental well-being
- 福島 【ふくしま】 (p) Fukushima
- 原発 【げんぱつ】 (n) (1) (abbr) (See [原子力発電所](#), [原子力発電](#)) nuclear power plant; nuclear power generation; (adj-no,n,vs) [P]
- 事故 【じこ(P); ことゆえ(ok)] (n) (1) accident; incident; trouble; (n) (2) circumstances; reasons; (P)
- 省エネ 【しょうエネ】 (n) (abbr) (See 省エネルギー) energy conservation; economical use of energy
- 日常生活 【にちじょうせいかつ】 (n) everyday life; daily life; (P)

- エネルギー供給 【エネルギーきょうきゅう】 (n) energy supply
- めぐる (v5r,vi) (1) to go around; to make a circle around; (v5r,vi) (2) to surround; to circle; to enclose; (v5r,vi) (3) to come around (of a season, anniversary, turn, etc.); to return; to repeat; to circulate (of blood, money, etc.); (v5r,vi) (4) to travel around; to make a tour of; (v5r,vi) (5) to concern (a matter); to surround; KD
- 議論 【ぎろん】 (n,vs,vt) argument; discussion; dispute; controversy; (P)
- 関する 【かんする】 (vs-s) to concern; to be related; (P)
- 昔の from 昔 【むかし】 (adj-no,n,adv) olden days; former; (P)
- 知恵 : 知恵(P) 【ちえ】 (n) (1) wisdom; wit; sagacity; sense; intelligence; (n)