

The accreditation period for VCE Japanese Second Language has been extended and expires 31 December 2024.

VCE Japanese Second Language 2020–2024

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 37.5 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Japanese Second Language Study Design 2020–2024* is the document for the development of the examination.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the relevant outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable. The examination will relate to the themes and topics prescribed on page 12 of the *VCE Japanese Second Language Study Design 2020–2024*.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

Section 1

Section 1 will consist of two parts, Part A and Part B. Students will hear two listening texts in Japanese, one for each part. The texts will be related to one or more of the prescribed themes and will represent two different text types.

Each text will be played twice. There will be a pause between the first and second playings. There will be an announcement at the start of the first playing and a sound to alert students just before the start of the second playing. Students may make notes in the designated space for notes in the question and answer book at any time during the two playings and pauses. Notes in this note-taking space will not be assessed. Students will be given time after the second playing to complete their responses.

Students will be expected to respond to a range of question types, such as tables, charts, lists, forms, multiple-choice items or open-ended questions.

Questions in Part A will be phrased in English for responses in English.

Questions in Part B will be phrased in English and Japanese for responses in Japanese.

Each part will be worth 10 marks.

Section 1 will be worth a total of 20 marks.

Section 2

Section 2 will consist of two parts, Part A and Part B. The texts in both parts will be related to one or more of the prescribed themes and will represent different text types.

In **Part A** students will be required to read one text in Japanese (Text 3A) and listen to one text in Japanese (Text 3B). The two texts will be related in subject matter and/or context. Students will be given five minutes to read Text 3A and Question 3 before the listening text (Text 3B) is played. The listening text (Text 3B) will be played twice. Questions may relate to either Text 3A or Text 3B, or to both texts. Students may be required to extract, summarise, interpret and/or evaluate information and/or compare aspects of both texts. Students may also be required to comment on the target audience, the purpose of the text and/or the way in which language is used in the text to achieve a purpose. Questions will be phrased in English for responses in English.

In **Part B** students will be required to read one text in Japanese and respond to a task based on information and ideas provided in the text. Students will produce a text in Japanese in which they develop ideas, opinions and/or arguments based on evidence in the text. The task will specify a context, purpose, style of writing (personal, imaginative, persuasive, informative or evaluative), audience and text type. The text type that students will be required to produce will be drawn from those listed for productive use on page 13 of the *VCE Japanese Second Language Study Design 2020–2024*. Students will be required to write a response of approximately 300 *ji*. The task will be phrased in English and Japanese for a response in Japanese.

A visual text may be included in Part A and/or Part B of Section 2.

Part A will be worth 20 marks. Part B will be worth 15 marks.

Section 2 will be worth a total of 35 marks.

Section 3

In Section 3 students will be required to write a text that presents ideas and/or information and/or opinions and/or arguments. There will be a choice of four tasks. Students must attempt **one** of these tasks. Each task will be related to one of the prescribed themes. Each task will specify a context, purpose, style of writing (personal, imaginative, persuasive, informative or evaluative), audience and text type. The text type that students will be required to produce will be drawn from those listed for productive use on page 13 of the *VCE Japanese Second Language Study Design 2020–2024*.

The four tasks in Section 3 will differ from the task in Part B of Section 2 in both text type and style of writing.

The student will be required to write a response of 400–500 *ji*. The tasks will be phrased in English and Japanese for a response in Japanese.

A visual text may be included in this section of the examination.

Section 3 will be worth a total of 20 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 75.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Additional information on texts

The total length of one playing of the three listening texts will be 4½ – 5 minutes.

The total length of the two reading texts in Section 2 will be approximately 1100 *ji*.

There will be one or two visual texts in this examination.

Approved materials and equipment

- Normal stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)
- Any printed monolingual and/or bilingual dictionary in one or two separate volumes

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Japanese Second Language written examination:

- *VCE Japanese Second Language Study Design 2020–2024*
- *VCE Japanese Second Language – Advice for teachers 2020–2024*
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2020–2024 accreditation period for VCE Japanese Second Language, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all relevant outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the VCE Japanese Second Language 'Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.