# 2014 Examination Report





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2014 Languages: Japanese First Language GA 3: Examination

## Written component

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Most students completed the 2014 VCE Japanese First Language written examination in the allocated time and responded to all three questions. Strong students showed very good listening and reading comprehension skills, and sophisticated writing skills, while weak students demonstrated insufficient comprehension skills and presented illogical writing.

Section 1 – Listening and responding was the most successfully completed section. However, many students struggled to identify the main points accurately, especially for Question 1f.

In Section 2 – Reading and responding, high-scoring students showed a thorough understanding of the content of the two texts and wrote a convincing script for a speech. Low-scoring students copied sentences directly from the texts, but this was not appropriate.

Section 3 – Writing in Japanese was reasonably well answered. The evaluative questions required students to objectively and logically discuss aspects of an issue. Balance and impartiality were necessary. The imaginative questions required students to exhibit originality and creativity. They had to include an interesting storyline, and describe emotion and atmosphere using adjectives or adverbs. In addition, the questions in Section 3 required a clear understanding of text types, audience and purpose. This year, imaginative questions, particularly Question 7, were a popular choice. Some students showcased their creativity and effectively described feelings and atmosphere using modifiers, while others simply listed a series of events without expressing the accompanying feelings and atmosphere.

The use of Kanji was problematic in Sections 1 and 3 this year. Some students were able to write Kanji adequately, whereas weak students used incorrect Kanji, such as 見內(県內)、感心(関心)、土或(地域)、利得(利益) and 活成化(活性化), or used Hiragana rather than basic Kanji.

Kanji should be practised in and out of the classroom.

A large number of students did not understand the requirements of each text type. Students should know the format, structure and appropriate register, such as the plain  $(\tilde{c}/\tilde{c})$ , polite  $(\tilde{c})$  and honorific form of each text type.

It is recommended that teachers repeatedly explain text type requirements and insist that the requirements be reflected in students' responses to class exercises.

### SPECIFIC INFORMATION

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

## **Section 1 – Listening and responding**

This section required students to identify and understand key words and information, and answer accurately using correct Kanji.

In general, parts a., c., d. and e. of Question 1 were well answered. In part b. students did not include key words and their responses required more detail. In part f. required students to summarise five key points and convey information effectively; however, some students were unable to do this.

Some students used the opportunity to demonstrate their skills, whereas other students did not sufficiently understand the content and were unable to respond to the questions appropriately. They missed key points, and wrote very simple and short answers.

#### Text 1 Question 1a.

• (地元の人を通じて) 若い皆さんにもっと茨城県に関心を持ってもらうこと

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#### **Question 1b.**

- 地域を形(作)造ってきた長い地球の歴史を体験できる場所
- 地域から生まれた土地の文化を体験できる場所

#### Question 1c.

- (ジオパークでは) 自然とその神秘を楽しむ
- (ジオパークは)(企業ではなく)地域のものである(ジオパークに)入ってきたお金は地域の(経済を持続的な形で活性化する)ために使われる

#### **Question 1d.**

- お寺で座禅体験をする
- 手打ちそばを食べる

#### Question 1e.

- ジオポイント
- 地学、生物学、歴史学 についてわかりやすい言葉で説明する(地元の)ツアーガイド

#### **Question 1f.**

- 大昔は海底火山だった
- 約800万年前にプレートが動き、火山が陸に出てきた
- 火山に川が流れ、川の流れが急になって、滝になった
- 自然は常に変化し、地球はものすごい力を持っているということが理解できるようになる
- 環境問題や自然災害を考えるときのヒントになる

The following is an example of a high-scoring response.

大昔、袋田の周辺は海の中で、海底に火山があった。約800万年前にプレートが動き、火山が陸に出てきた。そこに川が流れ、流れが急になって、滝が形成された。この袋田の滝の成り立ちをたどると、自然は常に変化し、地球は強大な力を持っているということが理解できるようになる。そして、その理解が環境問題や自然災害を考えるときのヒントになる。

## Section 2 – Reading and responding

### Texts 2 and 3

#### **Question 2**

Students were required to demonstrate comprehension of Texts 2 and 3, identify the main ideas and information in the texts, and write an informative script for a speech to be delivered at a competition.

The content of the texts consisted of the following four main areas:

1. 体内時計の説明

概略、人間において体内時計はどんな役割を果たしているか

- 2. 光環境の変化について
  - a. 照明器具の急速な発展
  - b. 人間の体内時計にどう影響したか
- 3. 体内時計異常の伴う健康被害について
  - a. 慢性疲労(いつも疲れている、慢性的な疲れ)
  - b. 睡眠障害 (よく眠れない)
  - c. 気分障害
  - d. 現代病
    - a, b, c, d の何れかが挙げられていること。
- 4. 体内時計を利用する医療開発とその可能性について

個人の体内時計の周期の測定が可能になれば、もっと効果的な薬の投与ができる。

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(そして副作用も抑えられる)

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High-scoring students produced well-written responses. They clearly identified the four main areas, and expressed themselves logically and effectively by rephrasing main ideas and information. Low-scoring students struggled to understand the content of the two texts and copied many sentences directly from the texts or summarised each paragraph of both texts.

As stated above, students must show a clear understanding of text type requirements in their response. In this case, the text type was the script of a speech, requiring a title, commencing with a salutation, including the speaker's name and the topic, such as 「こんにちは。私は高校3年の山田花子です。これから私は---について話したいと思います。」, and finishing with a concluding remark, such as 「これで終わります。ありがとうございました。」

The following is an example of a high-scoring student response.

「現代社会を健康にいきる」

こんにちは。私の名前は鈴木一郎です。早速ですが、皆さんは「体内時計」というものをご存知でしょうか。去年ある大手製薬会社が体内時計と睡眠の関係についてのコマーシャルを放映したことで、大きくメディアに取り上げられました。今、特に医療の面で、「体内時計」が注目されています。

そもそも体内時計とはいったい何なのでしょうか。「朝、自然に目が覚め、夜自然に眠くなる」ことに注目し始めたのは1930年代で、1997年に体内時計が発見されました。人間の遺伝子の中にあるこの時計は地球の自転周期とほぼ同じ24時間周期で、もしずれてしまっても日光を浴びることでそのずれを自律的に修正することができます。こうして人間は地球の周期リズムに同調しながら進化してきたのです。

ところが、照明器具の急速な発達に伴う生活周期の変化から、この体内時計の慢性的なずれが生じ、それによって肉体的、精神的に苦しむ人々が増加しています。時間生物学者の明石真氏によると、不規則な生活環境が原因となる気分障害患者が増加傾向にあり、そして間違った時間帯に摂食したり活動したりすることで現代病になってしまう人々の増加がみられるそうです。

しかしながら、この体内時計を逆に利用し、体内時計に基づいた適切なタイミングで治療を行うことで治療効果の上昇や薬の副作用の減少を目指す新しいタイプの「時間医療」が注目されています。一人一人が持つ体内時計周期を診断することができれば、それに基づき最適な投薬の時刻が分かったり、体内時計のずれで苦しんでいる人々への生活指導もやりやすくなったりします。この新しいタイプの治療方法は多くの場面で使われることは想像に難くなく、最終的には体内時計の調整のための生活指導だけで病気を治すことができるようになるかもしれません。

現代の生活は昔と比べてはるかに便利です。ボタン一つで明かりがつくし、いつでも食べ物が簡単の手に入ります。 しかし、その利便性が私たちの持つ体内時計を狂わせ、肉体的、精神的に私たちを傷つけています。今、時間医療は私 たちにとって必要不可欠なものであり、これからの社会で健康に生きるためには、体内時計のことについてもっと考え なければならないのです。

これで終わります。ありがとうございました。

## Section 3 – Writing in Japanese

Students were required to respond to one imaginative or evaluative question. The options were Japanese pop culture being accepted overseas (Question 3), principals without qualifications or experience in education (Question 4), pushing children into the entertainment industry (Question 5), a volunteer at an international sports event (Question 6) and a story resulting from finding different items in your shopping bag (Question 7). Question 7 was the most popular, followed by Questions 5, 3 and 6.

In responding to evaluative questions, high-scoring students expressed well-balanced objective and logical viewpoints, whereas low-scoring students presented superficial opinions, ideas based solely on personal experience or one-sided viewpoints.

In responding to imaginative questions, high-scoring students devised unexpected developments, including dramatic twists, and depicted their characters' thoughts and feelings. Low-scoring students simply listed a series of events and focused less on thoughts and feelings.

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