

Japanese GCSE Student Guide

Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying GCSE Japanese is an excellent choice for you!

Why should I study a language?

Learning languages allows you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Discuss your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you have studied Japanese before, you are well prepared to do this GCSE course, however you can also start it from scratch! If you have studied Japanese before, you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you will need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You will build on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move on to new topics. If you are starting this as a new language for GCSE you can be confident in knowing that, through your previous studies in other subjects, you have already built up a lot of valuable skills which will help you to learn a new language.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE Japanese means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad
- Be able to work or study in a Japanese-speaking country in later life
- Be able to study AS and A level Japanese courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

What will I learn?

GCSE Japanese helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Japan to international campaigns and events. You will learn about Japanese culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

How will I be assessed?

You will take four exams worth 25% each. You can take foundation or higher level, and you will be given a grade between 1 and 9, with 9 being the highest.

Listening and understanding in Japanese 50 marks	Reading and understanding in Japanese 50 marks	Writing in Japanese 60 marks	Speaking in Japanese 70 marks
This requires you to listen to recordings in Japanese and answer questions on what you hear. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English.	The reading section will give you texts to read and questions to answer. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English. Texts will be from Japanese sources such as emails, magazines and books. You will also need to translate sentences or a short passage from Japanese into English.	In the foundation paper you will write about a photo, write a short passage and write a longer passage on one of a choice of two topics. In the higher paper you will write longer passages about two topics from a choice of four. At both levels there is also a translation exercise, from English into Japanese.	In this part of the exam you will do a short role play with the examiner and talk about a photo. You will also talk about two of the topics you have studied.

Example questions

An example of a multiple-choice question

もうすぐ ひっこしを しますから、アクセサリーを あげます。シルバーの ネックレス 一つと、ダイヤモンドの 小さな イヤリング 三つです。

Question: This is an advert for...

A	clothes	[]
B	books	[]
C	toys	[]
D	jewellery	[]

Answer: D

An example of a question where you need to write a few words

ちゅうがくせいです。

Question: What type of school does he attend?

Answer: Junior high school

Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking GCSE Japanese.

Visit the Edexcel website (<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/Japanese-2017.html>) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.