

2026 9th Annual Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl

COMPETITION and ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE

BY JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF OREGON



© 2025 by Japan America Society of Oregon

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.



Japan-America Society of Oregon is pleased to announce that the 9th Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl® will take place at Clark College, in Vancouver, Washington on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

The Competition Guide's purpose is to help students and teachers form teams and prepare for the competition. This Administrative guide will describe the registration process and provide information on lodging, transportation, and payment.

Please read the Competition and Administrative Guide carefully. It gives the format, content, and rules of the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl competition. This describes who is eligible to compete. There is a separate and shorter **Study Guide** for students to use.

Before the competition takes place, the Japan Bowl® of Oregon Committee might make some changes to this guide. Japan America Society of Oregon will inform all participants promptly of any changes.

Inquiries should be sent by email to Kaoru Miyana, Assistant Director, Japan-America Society of Oregon at kmiyanaga@jaso.org.

Note: The Japan Bowl® name is an official trademark and is registered with the US Patent and Trademark Office. The Japan Bowl Official Guide, Team Study Guide, logo, the design of the official mascot "Iina," and all questions and other materials used in the competition are protected by US copyright law. Permission to use the Japan Bowl name or logo, and to use or adapt the Study Guide or Japan Bowl questions must be obtained from The Japan-America Society of Washington, DC and Oregon.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 What is the Japan Bowl?

- 1.1 Goals of the Japan Bowl
- 1.2 The 9th Annual Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl

2.0 Participating in the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl

- 2.1 Planning For Japan Bowl
- 2.2 Levels
- 2.3 Forming a Team
- 2.4 Individual Student Eligibility
- 2.5 Chaperones

3.0 Applying for the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl

- 3.1 Fill out the online application form
- 3.2 Need a signature from the parent or legal guardian
- 3.3 Team Approval and Registration Confirmation
- 3.4 Substitution of Students after Team Approval
- 3.5 Substitution of Chaperone(s) after Team Approval
- 3.6 Information for Friends and Family Members
- 3.7 Registration
- 3.8 Dress Code

4.0 Competition Format, Rules, and Schedule

- 4.1 Draft Schedule for 2026
- 4.2 First and Second Preliminary Rounds - Format and General Rules
 - 4.2.1 Format of the Preliminary Rounds
 - 4.2.2 Specific Rules for the first and second rounds
- 4.3 Championship Round – Format and Rules
- 4.4 Grounds for Disqualification

5.0 Preparing for the Japan Bowl

- 5.1 Helpful Hints for Preparing
- 5.2 Reference Materials for Non-Language Topics
- 5.3 Reference Materials for Language Topics
- 5.4 Sample Questions

1.0 What Is the Japan Bowl?

The Japan Bowl® is a Japanese language quiz-bowl competition created in 1992 by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC). Each spring, teams from across the United States gather in Washington DC to test their knowledge of Japanese language, culture history, and society. Now in its 24th year, the National Japan Bowl is recognized as the premiere competition for high-school students studying Japanese.

From its inception, the Japan Bowl has emphasized practical, real-world communications skills, and knowledge. It challenges students of Japanese to go "beyond the language" and learn more about the culture, society, and history of Japan.

Beyond the competition, students are encouraged to join cultural workshop, explore study opportunities at U.S. and Japanese universities, and meet peers who share their passion for the Japanese language and culture. The Japan Bowl also provides a professional community for teachers of Japanese, who are invited to observe competition rounds.

The Japan Bowl was first held in 1992 as a local competition for high schools in the Washington DC area. Within a few years, schools from other parts of the nation heard of the competition in Washington and joined. It then gained a new name -- the "National Japan Bowl."

In recent years, JASWDC has worked with other organizations across America and around the world to create more Japan Bowls. Today, there are local Japan Bowls in California, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon. International interest also is growing; at present there are global Japan Bowls in Poland, Mexico, Serbia, Canada, Denmark, France, and Japan.

1.1 Goals of the Japan Bowl

Whether it is the National Japan Bowl in Washington, or a Japan Bowl elsewhere in the United States or around the world, the goals of every Japan Bowl are the same:

- To encourage students to study Japanese in high school and to maintain their connection to Japan after they graduate
- To enable students to meet peers who share their passion for Japan's language and culture
- To give students the chance to engage with Japanese culture beyond the classroom boundaries
- To bring together stakeholders from government, non-profits, business, and academia who share an interest in promoting Japanese language education and fostering "the next generation" of U.S.-Japan relations
- To support Japanese language education in U.S. school communities.

1.2 The 9th Annual Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl

The 9th Annual Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Clark College, Vancouver, WA.

Registration will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 28, 2026. The competition will end by 5:30 pm. Cultural activities and team building activities are planned between the preliminary round and the championship round.

Please read the entire guide carefully. In the months before the competition, there might be changes to the information contained in this guide. Participants will be informed promptly of any changes that are made.

Copies of this guide and all required Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl's entry forms are available at <https://jaso.org/japan-bowl/>. Please read them carefully.

The 9th Annual Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl is organized by The Japan-America Society of Oregon (JASO). JASO reserves the right to make the final decision on all matters related to the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl.

2.0 Participating in the Japan Bowl

2.1 Planning For Japan Bowl

The following information will help you plan and budget for the 9th Annual Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl.

Arrival Time: Registration will begin at 8:00am on Saturday, February 28, 2026 and will close at 9:00am. The competition and awards ceremony will end by 5:30pm.

Fees:

There is a \$45 registration fee **per team (same for team for 2 or 3 students)**, which is non-refundable to help pay the cost of lunch, cultural activities, T-shirts and other expenses during the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl.

JASO waives the fee **for one chaperone per school**. Any additional chaperone/teacher who wishes to join students at lunch, or participate in cultural activities, will be required to pay the registration fee of \$15.00.

Meal: Japanese bento box lunch is included in the student registration fee. One Japanese bento box lunch is included for one chaperone per school. If anyone has a dietary restriction, please mention in advance. Please understand that we may not be able to accommodate all your needs, if that is the case, please bring your own food.

Lodging: Out-of-town participants may arrange their own lodging in Vancouver, WA. The special discounted rates may be available for Japan Bowl participants. We will share the information with you as that becomes available. We will ask you to arrange your own reservations then.

Schools may be eligible to receive financial support for participation fees and transportation such as a school bus, but it has not been finalized. For more information on financial support, please contact Kaoru Miyanaga at JASO, kmiyanaga@jaso.org

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

TODAY

Registration is open

Monday, January 12, 2026

No registrations will be accepted after this date due to event preparation. Please ensure that all required documents and payments are submitted on time

Friday, January 16, 2026

Registration Confirmation by JASO

Friday, February 13, 2026

Deadline for Submitting Friends & Family
Registration Forms

Monday, February 2, 2026

Deadline for Student Substitutions
Deadline for Chaperone Substitutions

2.2. Team Levels

The Pacific Northwest 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 Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho, whether in regular or block schedule classes.

The three levels at the Japan Bowl are:

- 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/IB 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 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.

2.3 Forming a Team

- a. Each school may send up to two teams per level per school to Pacific National Japan Bowl (this may change in 2027). (School can bring up to 6 teams, two teams per level)
- b. JASO will send at least one winning team from Level 4 and we may also be able to send one winning team from Level 3 to the National Japan Bowl on April 17 & 18, 2026 as long as the funding is available at the time of the competition. We will announce as the competition date gets closer, however, we may not know until the event week.
- c. All team members must be studying Japanese formally at the same high school for academic credit, and not as an extracurricular activity.
- d. A team must have two or three students. One student is not a team. JASO strongly encourages schools to form a team of three students instead of two.

2.4 Student Eligibility

In addition to team eligibility, each member of the team must meet certain requirements. The following rules about Japanese language education and experience govern the eligibility of each team member. Students are NOT eligible to compete if:

- a. They are native speakers of Japanese or who use Japanese at home to converse with family members.
- b. They have studied Japanese language and culture in Japan for a cumulative three months outside of their high school curriculum.
- c. They have participated in homestay experience or have lived in Japan for over three (3) months cumulatively.

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.

For example, students who have spent a cumulative total of three months or more in Japan for language study or a home-stay, including with relatives, might not be eligible to compete. 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.

- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Students taking the AP Japanese course are eligible to compete at Level IV.
- g. As noted in Section 2.2, the student's teacher must certify that the student is competing at the proper level and that the information on the student's registrations is correct to the best of his/her knowledge.

"PNW Japan Bowl will use the questionnaire to assess applicant's eligibility based on the applicant's immersion level. The criteria have been independently developed by PNW Japan Bowl. The National Japan Bowl (DC), however, has its own eligibility criteria and assessment process. The eligibility decision for the participants in the National Japan Bowl, therefore, may not coincide with that of PNW Japan Bowl."

"Please note that edibility to the PNW Japan Bowl, do not guarantee eligibility to the National Japan Bowl".

2.5 Chaperones

- ✓ There must be at least one adult chaperone per school who is 21 years of age or older. Usually the students' Japanese language teacher serves as the chaperone, but there is no requirement that the chaperone should be the teacher.
- ✓ Each team may have its own chaperone, or one adult may be the chaperone for both Level II, III and IV teams.
- ✓ Chaperones are responsible for the well-being of her/his students throughout the time that they are in Portland. They must be present with the students at Clark College throughout the time of the competition.
- ✓ Chaperones should read and sign the terms of the Chaperone Agreement. (See Section 2.2 below.)
- ✓ At the time of registration, all chaperones will be asked to present a valid government-issued photo ID, such as driver's license or passport and will be asked to again sign the Chaperone Agreement in the presence of a Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl official.
- ✓ If a chaperone is not present at registration or any of the rules about chaperones are not followed, the team will not be able to participate in the competition.

3.0 Applying for the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl

3.1 Fill out the online application form

- o As noted in Section 1.2, JASO will accept up to two team applications per level, per school.
- o All forms are available on JASO Website: <https://jaso.org/japan-bowl/>. Each student will need to submit the form. Teacher has a separate form to fill out. Teacher will collect the *Chaperone Consent Form*, and email to JASO before the registration cutoff date.

3.2 Need a signature from the parent or legal guardian

1. **Student Registration:** Registration form must be read carefully by the student and parent or legal guardian. Please let your teacher know once you submit your form via email. If your application is not filled out completely, JASO will notify you. [Please submit the form no later than January 12, 2026.](#)
2. **Chaperone Consent Form**, in which the parent or guardian of each student gives permission for the Chaperone to accompany the student, please sign and email or hand it to your Japanese teacher.
3. **Chaperone Agreement Form**, signed by the team's teacher/chaperone.
4. **Payment:** check(s) payable to "Japan-America Society of Oregon" for the application and registration fees. There is a \$45 non-refundable registration fee per team, and the \$15 fee per additional chaperone. Please write your school name and level on the memo line of each check. Mail your check to 900 SW 5th Ave Suite 1810, Portland OR 97204

You can also pay with a credit card through <https://jaso.org/donate-to-jaso/> and make sure to add "this is Japan Bowl payment is for _____ high school" in the comment line.

3.3 Team Approval and Registration Confirmation

- o After receipt, JASO will screen all applications to determine each applicant's eligibility and ensure that all team registration is complete.
- o JASO will send an email to the teacher or advisor whose team's application(s) are in question. All responses to JASO questions must be made through email before Monday, January 12, 2026.
- o JASO will accept all qualified teams, provided space is still available in the competition rooms. Teams will be accepted in the order that they submitted their fully-completed application, until the competition room seating limits are reached.
- o After screening, JASO will notify teachers or advisors by email of their team's registration approval and confirmation.
- o If you have not received the approval and confirmation email by January 16, 2026 please contact JASO.

3.4 Substitution of Students after Team Approval

- o After teams have been notified of their acceptance and registration, substitutions will be permitted only if a student becomes ill or there is some other valid reason.
- o All substitutes must meet the same eligibility requirements. Therefore, the required application forms for the proposed substitute must be submitted to the JASO for review.
- o The JASO decision whether to accept a substitute is final. If a substitution is not permitted, the team may compete with two students – but not with just one.
- o Even if a student withdraws and is not replaced, JASO will not refund the registration fee. (in the situation where there is only one student left on the team).
- o The JASO will not consider applications for student substitutions after February 2, 2026, except in extreme circumstances.

3.5 Substitution of Chaperone(s) after Team Approval

- o If the team's designated chaperone changes, a new Chaperone Agreement, signed by the new chaperone, and new Chaperone Consent Forms, signed by the parent/guardian of each student, must be submitted.
- o The deadline for chaperone substitutions is February 13, 2026.

3.6 Information for Friends and Family Members

- o Family members and friends are invited to join the students at the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl. Family members and friends who wish to observe the Japan Bowl must submit a Friends and Family registration form, which is due February 13, 2026. All observers must be pre-registered. Unregistered guests and observers will not be allowed to enter the facility due to the security reason and limited seats.
- o Registration form for Family members and friends is available on our website: <https://jaso.org/japan-bowl/>.

3.7 Registration Registration Procedures

- o Registration will be conducted from 8:00 to 9:00am on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Additional information and a guide on registration will be sent via email to the chaperone before the competition.
- o Registration will be conducted by school, not by team. Therefore, all team members and chaperones from the same school must be present at the time of registration.
- o The chaperone(s) must present a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license or passport) and re-sign the chaperone agreement form at the time of registration.
- o Family members and Friends who have registered before the championship round.

3.8 Dress Code

All participants are expected to dress in an appropriate manner.

- o Participants may wear their official Japan Bowl T-shirts during the competition.
- o Please note: No shorts, T-shirts (except for the official Japan Bowl T-shirt), tank tops, caps, hats or head coverings (except for religious wear), athletic attire, miniskirts, bare midriffs, or flip-flops are permitted during the competition.

4.0 Competition Schedule, Format, and Rules

4.1 Draft Schedule for 2026

This is a draft schedule and is subject to change. We will notify participants of any changes.

8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:20 am	Opening Ceremony
9:20 – 9:35 am	Break
9:35 – 10:20 am	First Round
10:20 – 10:35 am	Break
10:35 – 11:20 am	Second Round
11:20 – 12:10 pm	Lunch/College Booths
12:10 – 1:15 pm (TBD)	Japanese Cultural Entertainments/Activities/Networking
1:15 – 1:25 pm	Championship Round — Rules
1:25 – 2:10 pm	Championship Round — Level II
2:20 – 3:15 pm	Championship Round — Level III
3:25 – 4:10 pm	Championship Round — Level IV
4:10 – 4:30 pm	Break
4:30 – 5:15 pm	Awards and Closing Ceremony

NOTE: Even if your team will not go through the championship round, we ask that you stay in the competition until the end to support your school and other schools.

This includes schools that are traveling far away.

Thank you for your understanding.



4.2 Preliminary Rounds - Format and Rules

At the 2026 Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl, there are two Preliminary Rounds.



4.2.1 Format of the Preliminary First and Second Rounds

The Room

1. Each team is placed at a table in one classroom and compete with other teams at the same level.
2. Each team is provided with pencil, scratch paper, and the official answer sheet.
3. 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.
4. All personal belongings must be placed on the floor.
5. The Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl follows the SAT rules regarding electronic devices. All devices, including watches, that are 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.

Asking the Questions

6. 25 questions are presented in the first Preliminary Round, and 25 in the second, for a total of 50 questions. Each question is worth 1 point, for a total of 50 points.
7. The questions cover both language and non-language topics. They are asked and answered in a variety of ways. The questions also vary in difficulty.
8. Visuals for all questions are projected, using PowerPoint slides, on a large screen.
9. American and Japanese moderators (native speakers) read the questions.
10. Each question indicates how the answer should be given: in English, in hiragana, in kanji, etc. (See the list of answer icons below.)
11. Halfway through each round, teams shift tables, so no team is disadvantaged by viewing angle or distance from the screen.

12. After each set of questions is read, students MUST put their pencils down and stop writing when told to do so by the moderator. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the competition.

Reviewing the Answers

13. At the end of each round, correct answers are given during a review session to reinforce the learning experience of the Japan Bowl. Students and teachers are encouraged to take notes during the answer review session, but no recording is allowed.
14. Students and teachers may 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 via any kind of electronic communications network. If that happens, then that team's score might be invalidated, and any awards or recognition given to that team could be forfeited.

ANSWER ICONS

EN	English
JP	Any combination of Japanese (<i>kanji, hiragana, 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, a newspaper can be “shinbun” or “shimbun.”

4.2.2 Specific Rules for the First and Second Rounds

1. Questions will be read only once, except for Japanese listening comprehension questions, which will be read twice.
2. Conferring among team members is allowed.
3. All teams must write their answers clearly and legibly on the team answer sheet. Any member of the team may write the answer(s) to the question. Any answers that are difficult or impossible for the judges to read might be judged as an incorrect answer.
4. As described above in the box about “answer icons,” 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.

5. 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.
6. For every 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.
7. There is no partial credit for a partially correct or incomplete answer. (See the box below for examples of incomplete answers.)
8. There is no penalty for an incorrect answer.

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" or "black bike," your answer is incomplete, because the English word "bike" can also mean a pedaled bicycle. You also must include the bike's color (black) to make it a complete response.

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

Japanese Moderator: 今年は何年ですか？ ことしは、なんねんですか？

Answer: If you only give the number, your answer is incomplete. A correct answer must include "Reiwa," the year's number, and the word "nen" -- all three points -- to demonstrate that you know exactly how a Japanese person would answer the question.

► **Key point: Be as specific, accurate, and complete as you can** ◀

4.3 Championship Round – Format and Rules

Advancing to the Championship Rounds

1. The combined scores from the First and Second Rounds will determine which three teams at each level advance to the Championship Round
2. The results will be announced after the students' lunch and activities.
3. If a team qualifying for Championship Round is not present at the time of the announcement, the next runner-up team will replace the team that is missing its member(s).

4. The scores from the First and Second Rounds will not be carried over to the Championship Round. Final results will be determined solely by the team score in the Championship Round.

Championship Round - The Room

1. The Championship Round will be conducted on stage before an audience, using a “live” quiz show format with a buzzer system.
2. The Championship Round is open to the public, so students, friends, and family are welcome to attend.



Types of Questions in the Championship Rounds

The Championship Round has three types of questions:

1. **Team Questions** – 10 questions, 10 points per question, total possible points is 100.
2. **Individual Questions** – 2 questions (one Oyasumi card), 5 points per question, total possible points is 10.
3. **Toss-Up Questions** - 10 questions, 5 points per question, total possible points 50.

The total possible team points for the Championship Round therefore is 160.

Rules for the Team Questions

1. There will be ten 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. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

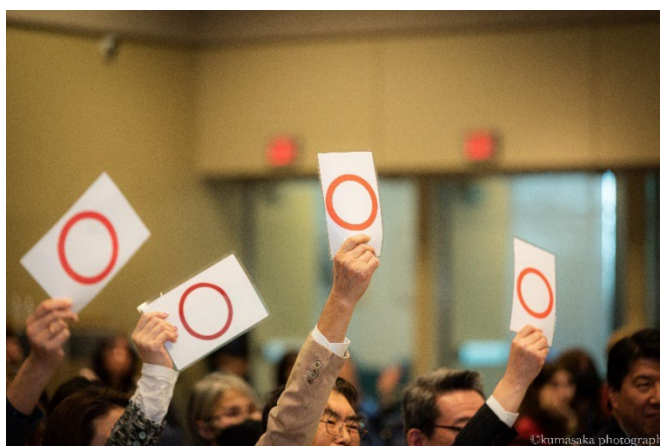
Rules for the Individual Questions

Japan Bowl staff will give each team three envelopes with numbers on them. Each team member must choose one envelope. A students can't open them until they are called on. DO NOT OPEN THEM until you are called on. Each team member will get one envelop. Inside two of the envelopes are idioms, an onomatopoeic expression, or affective expressions. A student must use your expression in a sentence in Japanese to show the student's understanding. One envelope is a lucky “oyasumi” envelope. If a team member gets an “oyasumi” envelope, the member can take a break. If a team member has an expression card, the student must use the expression in a sentence or two and show the understand its meaning.

For example, if it is 「わくわく」 do NOT say 「私はわくわくしています」 Say something like, 「初めてミュージカルを見るので、わくわくしています。」

Each student will have 60 seconds to think of a sentence and say it. If 30 seconds have passed by and the student has not started to speak, the timekeeper will say “30 seconds.”

Our special panel of celebrity judges will use the maru-batsu system – a thumbs up or down, yes or no vote -- to decide whether they, as native Japanese speakers, believe the student has used the expression correctly and communicated effectively in Japanese.



Rules for the Toss-Up Questions

1. There will be 10 questions.
2. Conferring among students is not allowed.
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. 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 that judges can hear them.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. If no team answers correctly, or if no team buzzes in, the moderator will give the answer and move on to the next question.
9. If no team answers correctly. The moderator will provide the answer.
10. When answering in full sentences in Japanese, students must use the polite forms (です、ます), unless otherwise instructed
11. Scoring:
 - a) Each correct answer is worth 5 points.
 - b) There is no partial credit for partially correct or incomplete answers.
 - c) A team will not receive credit for a correct answer if its members conferred. (Exception: bonus questions.)
 - d) If a student signals before the moderator has completed reading the question and then answers incorrectly, there is no penalty for an incorrect response
 - e) 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.

If There is a Tie

1. At the end of the toss-up round, the judges will check with the score-keepers and determine whether there is a tie for either 1st or 2nd place.
2. If there is a tie, then a series of toss-up questions will be asked to the two teams tied.
3. The first team to answer two questions correctly wins the tie-breaker.

4.4 Grounds for Disqualification

Following are the possible grounds for the disqualification of a student or team from the competition. PNWJB has the sole right to determine, in its own judgment, whether any action requires disqualification.

- a. Challenging or showing lack of respect to Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl officials, staff, or volunteers by a student, teacher, or chaperone
- b. Inappropriate dress
- c. Use of offensive language
- d. JASO has the sole right to determine, in its own judgement, whether any action requires disqualification.
- e. Should one member of a two-student team be disqualified, the team will be disqualified. (Outlined in section 2.3, a team must consist of at least two students.)
- f. Substantial violation of the rules of the school facility
- g. Misrepresentations and/or other irregularities on an application form which become apparent at the time of registration or during the competition also may result in the disqualification of the student and possibly his/her team members.
- h. Cheating or dishonesty
- i. Violation of the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl rules about photographic equipment and electronic devices, including watches, that are capable of recording, photographing, or transmitting.
- j. Making the questions or answers known to others via any kind of communications network, including email and social media.

Depending on the severity of the infringement, PNWJB also may prohibit the student(s) concerned, the entire team, and/or the school from participating in the Pacific Northwest Japan Bowl and/or National Japan Bowl at any Level in the following year. We therefore ask students, parents/guardians, and teachers to encourage appropriate behavior, in order to ensure that there are no misunderstandings.



5.0 Preparing for the Japan Bowl

5.1 Helpful Hints

Preparing for the Japan Bowl is a lot of work, but students and teachers say it is worth it. In addition, both teachers and students say that the study habits that team members acquire as they get ready for the Japan Bowl help make them better students overall, in all their subjects.

Here are some ways in which you can increase your chance for success at the Japan Bowl.

1. Form a team of three, not two. There is a Japanese proverb, *Together, three people are as wise as Monju.*¹ There is nothing to lose, and a third person makes it easier to study and prepare for the Japan Bowl. That third person can also make a difference during the competition itself, since there are no penalties for a wrong answer. That third person just might know the answer!

2. Be sure you understand exactly what is covered under each category, and then learn those topics. The chart of non-language topics in the study guide is very thorough. For example, "visual arts" includes not just art and painting, but also classical film, pottery, and even Japanese landscape architecture. The tea ceremony is considered a "performing art." Literary arts includes children's stories. Physical geography includes questions about the environment and agriculture, and so on.

3. Learn all of the Kanji, aisatsu phrases, idiomatic expressions, and onomatopoeia that are listed in the Study Guide. Know them cold. You can be certain that many of the words and phrases on the language lists will be included in the questions. To prepare, download the [Study Guide](#) from the Japan Bowl website as a WORD document, and format and export and use it as you wish.

4. The Japan Bowl is not trivia or random facts. We want students to have a "basic knowledge" of Japan and to know the most important things about the country whose language they are studying. Questions differ in difficulty, but overall the questions ask some of the most common, basic facts about Japan and Japanese language.

For example, consider "Japanese classic films." Who are/were some of Japan's most famous directors, and what are some of the most famous Japanese films? What do you think are the ten most basic, important things to know about sumo, or about kendo? Do you know the basics of the Japanese tea ceremony?

5. In the same way, the kanji and other language lists include the most common characters and expressions. For example, the kanji lists include the top 10 family names, the largest cities and islands, and so on. The *aisatsu* and idioms lists have some of the most frequently-heard expressions in Japan. So learn them.

¹¹ A Japanese kotowaza says, "Sannin yoreba, Monju no chie / Three people together have the wisdom of Monju." It is the Japanese equivalent of "Two heads are better than one." Monju (or *Monju-Bosatsu*) is the Japanese Buddhist saint of wisdom, learning, and enlightenment.

6. Think about specializing by topic, and divide research on topics - especially the non-language topics -- among your teammates, as well as students at other levels in your school. Share your notes with students at other levels, and save those notes for students in future years. Talk to your classmates about what you have learned, even though they are not on the team. It is a way to "share the Japan Bowl" with them and help them learn more about Japan.

7. There are certain basic facts about Japan that we expect well-informed students to know. For example, do you know the name and face of Japan's Prime Minister, and its Emperor and Empress? Do you know what Japan's population is? Can you recognize its flag, the Diet building, and its national seal? Do you know what the current exchange rate is?

8. You might not be interested in Japanese history or the "high brow culture" of the literary, performing, and visual arts, but they are important, both to the Japan Bowl and to the Japanese people. Our surveys of students each year show that these are their least favorite topics. When we check the scores each year, we find that teams score lower in those areas than they do in questions about daily life and society, holidays and festival, and pop culture. So like it or not -- make the effort and spend extra time learning about these important topics. You will score higher at the Japan Bowl, and when you meet Japanese, they will be impressed by the interest you have shown in their history and culture.

9. Explore authentic Japanese materials such as books, magazines and newspapers, movies and TV dramas, music, anime and manga, commercials and advertisements, and Japanese language websites etc. to become familiar with the way the Japanese use their language in real life. Doing this also helps you learn more about Japanese society and culture and brings you closer to Japan and the Japanese people.

5.2 Reference Materials for Non-Language Topics

The study guide lists the categories from which non-language questions are drawn each year. These categories should act as a curriculum guide for students to develop their knowledge of Japan over a three-year period.

A great website with lots of fun info about Japanese culture -- especially modern and pop culture -- is Japan Talk. <http://www.japan-talk.com/jt/new/johnSpacey>

Daily reports on current events in Japan can be found at <http://www.newsonjapan.com>

Others may be Wikipedia, Japan Times, etc

5.3 Reference Materials for Language Topics

Each Japanese-language textbook treats grammars differently, in terms of when it introduces different grammatical rules and patterns. Our surveys over the years have shown that the two most commonly used textbooks at the high school level are *Adventures in Japanese* and *Genki*. Our decisions about what grammatical patterns are appropriate for each level is based on a review of those textbooks.

Dorling Kindersley (DK) publishes an attractive and “fun” *Japanese English Bilingual Visual Dictionary* in paperback, which is currently available from Amazon. It has a wealth of vocabulary and subject matter, arranged by topic, not alphabetically.

Two excellent references on Japanese idioms and especially kotowaza are *Japanese Proverbs: Wit and Wisdom: 200 Classic Japanese Sayings and Expressions* by David Galef and *101 Japanese Idioms*, by Michael L. Maynard and Senko K. Maynard. Both are available from Amazon.com.

An excellent reference for 四字熟語 (yojijukugo) is *Kanji de Manga's Yojijukugo*, which is available as a used book or Kindle download at Amazon.com.

<https://www.tofugu.com/>

5.4 Sample Questions

The following are actual questions that were used during the Preliminary Rounds at Level III in a past 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 (or Saigo)

ON THE SCREEN:	Picture of a Shinto priest doing "oharai"
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がありません。
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

