

第 53 回日本語弁論大会  
**The 53<sup>rd</sup> Japanese Language  
Speech Contest Finals**

**1. CONTEST BACKGROUND**

This year is the 53rd year since the Australian speech contest was first held. The aim of the contest is to encourage learners who are studying Japanese to showcase their language skills in a challenging context.

**2. AIM OF CONTEST**

The speech contest enables participants to showcase the fruits of their Japanese language learning. It is an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas in Japanese, and the speech preparation process provides a valuable learning experience. The presentation of the speech develops their confidence in speaking Japanese.

**3. CONTEST FORMAT**

Winners from the state/territory contests from the following divisions will progress to the Australian final. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

**Divisions:**

The National Final Contest has two categories. These are:

1. High School Senior Division
2. Open Division

**Subject of Speech:**

The subject, content and form of the speeches are left open to each contestant. Entrants who have competed in previous contests may not use the same speech (this includes title and content) presented in previous years.

**Length of Speech (Time Limit):**

High School Senior Division:	2.5 - 3 minutes
Open Division:	4.5 - 5 minutes

**Q & A**

The Q&A has been eliminated and will no longer be carried out following the 50th Japanese Language Speech Contest finals.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY

##### ***High School Senior Division***

This Division is open to students in Year 11 and 12. Contestants must fulfil all the following conditions to be eligible for the High School Senior Division:

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a Language other than English (LOTE)
- Contestant has not spent more than 24 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner of a previous Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest in this division

##### ***Open Division***

This Division is open to individuals' aged 17 or above who are no longer high school students. Contestants must fulfill all the following conditions to be eligible for the Open Division:

- Contestant's background language is not Japanese
- Contestant may be studying Japanese as a Language other than English (LOTE) at a tertiary institution or privately
- Contestant has not spent more than 36 months in Japan after reaching the Japanese compulsory education starting age
- Contestant has not completed more than 2 academic years of Japan's compulsory education, either in Japan or at any Japanese school overseas
- Contestant has not been the first prize winner of a previous Australian Japanese Language Speech Contest in this division

\*The definition of 'background language' is based on the following by Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA):

[http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Languages - Shape of the Australian Curriculum\\_new.pdf](http://docs.acara.edu.au/resources/Languages - Shape of the Australian Curriculum_new.pdf)

<58 on Page 21> states "Background language learners are those who may use the target language at home (not necessarily exclusively) and have knowledge of the target language to varying degrees (e.g. vocabulary, phonological accuracy, fluency, and readiness to use the language) and have a base for literacy development in that language."

## 5. JUDGING CRITERIA & JUDGES

The marking system is as follows:

<b>Content</b>	<b>50%</b> (structure development, originality and uniqueness, message impact, justification, engagement)
<b>Language</b>	<b>30%</b> (grammar and expression, language variety, pronunciation and intonation)
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>20%</b> (delivery and fluency)

- The speech must be the same one as presented at the state/territory level contest.
- The speech must be the original work of the contestant. The degree of assistance given by teachers or by Japanese native speakers should be limited to no more than correcting grammatical errors or making minor alterations for the sake of continuity
- Props (e.g. puppets, objects etc.) must not be used.
- The speech should be recorded clearly in the video.
- Contestants should not read their speeches. Contestants may refer to their notes, however excessive consultation will result in marks being deducted
- Please be mindful of the speech time limit

Judges will be from the field of Japanese language education and members of the Japanese community, and will decide the winners. Aggregates of marks from all judges will determine the place allocated to each contestant in the order of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. In case of a draw, the judges will determine the outcome through discussion. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The content of the judges' discussion is not open to the public at any time.

## 6. PRIZES

TBC

## 7. DATE AND VENUE

The 53rd National Speech Contest will be held via video entries. The winners will be announced in mid-October. (TBC)

Details will be announced when they become available.