

Assessment Specifications

Scholarship Japanese 2026

Published in October 2025

General information

Performance Standard:	93002
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Printed paper

[Japanese subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Format of the assessment

The exam consists of TWO parts, held in a three-hour time slot:

- first, a two-hour Writing section with two questions in response to spoken and written stimulus material in Japanese
- second, a short individual Speaking section, scheduled within a one-hour time slot, with one question in Japanese.

Section One: Writing (two hours)

Question One

This question will require a response written in Japanese, to passage(s) spoken in Japanese, and provided as an audio file.

The Listening passage(s) will:

- require about 30 minutes of listening time
- be repeated three times: the first time as a whole, the second and third times in sections, with a pause after each section
- consist of no more than three passages
- be linked around a common theme.

Question Two

This question will require a response written in English or te reo Māori, to stimulus material written in Japanese, provided in the question-and-answer booklet.

The written stimulus material will:

- consist of no more than three texts
- be linked around a common theme.

Section Two: Speaking (individual sessions within a one-hour time slot)

Question Three

Candidates will be required to give a spoken response to a question related to the listening passage(s) and/or the written text(s). Both the question and the response will be in Japanese.

In the recording room, candidates will be given:

- a straightforward question
- paper and pen
- 10 minutes to make notes for an oral response to the question.

At the end of 10 minutes, candidates will speak for 3–4 minutes (up to a maximum of 5 minutes), in Japanese, in response to the question. Candidates may use their notes as they speak.

[Scholarship Languages – Information for candidates \[PDF, 28 KB\]](#)

Vocabulary list

Vocabulary used in the listening and reading texts will not be limited to the NCEA Levels 1 to 3 vocabulary lists. Candidates at Scholarship level are expected to use comprehension strategies to make sense of common usage words which are not on the word lists. Unusual or topic-specific vocabulary will still be glossed.

Resources or information supplied

- a question-and-answer booklet for each candidate
- an audio file of the Listening passage(s)
- a 'Speaking Task' card.

The school will provide a device and software on which to play the Listening passage(s), and to record the candidate's spoken response.

Submission requirements

Submission instructions for NZ Scholarship Languages (Japanese) will be available to schools in Term 3.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

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