



**Japanese Language & Culture
Competition for High School Students**

1. DATE & TIME

Saturday March 18, 2023, 12:30pm – 4:00pm (TBC)

*Tech check session on Friday, March 17 at 1pm-2pm (TBC)

This event will be held online and hosted by Huron University College and The Japan Society

2. FORMAT

Preliminary Round: Questions are in multiple-choice question format (one out of four).

Final Round: Questions are either in a multiple-choice question format (one out of four) or an answer in your own words format. Some questions are for all the teams, in which the fastest one who presses the buzzer is allowed to answer.

Conversation Time: Participants will mingle with other participants and enjoy the conversation in Japanese. This will not be evaluated nor judged, but rather an opportunity for the participants to use Japanese language!

3. ELIGIBILITY RULES

Japan Bowl Ontario is open to full-time students who are currently enrolled in secondary school in Ontario. A team must have **three** students. The following rules about Japanese language education and experience govern the eligibility of each team member.

- 1) Students who are native speakers of Japanese or who use Japanese at home are not eligible to compete.
- 2) Students who have had significant exposure to Japanese language and/or culture outside the high school curriculum are not eligible to complete. To determine 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.
- 3) Students who have a Japanese citizenship are not eligible (Some exceptions may apply. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the organizer of Japan Bowl Ontario at the address below.)
- 4) There must be at least one adult chaperone per team who is 21 years of age or older. Usually, the students' Japanese language teacher serves as the chaperones. Chaperones are required to register, using the online form that is provided below. If teachers cannot be a chaperone, please contact us.
- 5) Past winners should contact the organizer of the event.

4. REGISTRATION

Entry form is open until Friday, February 24, 2023 or until all the available spots are filled:

<https://forms.gle/kjaZcWxyBNgsg4JV9>

5. Rules of Conduct

- Japan Bowl Ontario organizing committee is committed to ensuring that the 2023 Japan Bowl Ontario is a fair competition where students can showcase their hard work and knowledge of Japan and the Japanese language. This year, as is every year, students, observers, instructors, and all other participants are required to abide by the rules and regulations set out by the organizing committee in order to protect the quality and integrity of the competition.
- In light of the digital format, all participants are required to sign and adhere to the word and spirit of the honesty pledge in the registration form in order to compete.
- Only confer with the registered members of your three-person team, and avoid all inappropriate collaboration with other students, instructors, observers, or other individuals for the duration of the event period.
- Refrain from the use of any aids including but not limited to textbooks, study guides, handwritten notes, online resources, cell phones (except during the Final Round when explicitly allowed), or any other form of assistance.
- Follow the directions of the organizing committee and proctors as pertains to the competition and direct any questions or concerns to the organizing committee or proctors as appropriate.
- Keep a camera on throughout the event. You are required to turn on your camera and keep it on throughout the event.
- Do not use any device, program, or app to copy, screenshot, record, or film any part of the event.
- Trust that your fellow competitors are adhering to the same code of ethics and honesty.
- Report to the organizing committee and proctors immediately after any violation of these rules of which you become aware.

6. Grounds for Disqualification

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

- a. Challenging or showing lack of respect to Japan Bowl Ontario organizing committee, staff, guests or volunteers by a student, teacher, or chaperone.
- b. Behavior violating the Digital Japan Bowl Honesty Pledge
- c. Use of offensive language
- d. Misrepresentations and/or other irregularities on an application form which become apparent at the time of registration or during the competition.
- e. Violation of the Japan Bowl Ontario rules about photographic equipment and electronic devices, including watches that are capable of recording, photographing, or transmitting.
- f. Making the questions or answers known to others via any kind of communications network, including email and social media.
- g. Depending on the severity of the infringement, the Japan Bowl Ontario organizing committee may prohibit the student(s) and possibly the entire team or school from participating in the event 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.

7. CONTACT

Japan Bowl Ontario Organizing Committee: japanbowlontario@gmail.com



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2023 TEAM STUDY GUIDE

I. CONTENT AREAS

1) The basics

Geography basics	Basic natural and human geography of Japan including Japanese topography and major regions. Locations and general information about places in level-specific kanji lists
Seasons in Japanese culture	Seasonal motifs in literature and culture including national holidays and festivals
Manners, Daily Customs and Home Life	Basic manners, etiquette, and daily customs including rights of life, etc.
Current Events	Newsworthy Japan-related events that occurred within the 12 months leading up to the Japan Bowl Ontario 2023 (April 2022-March 2023)
Canada - Japan Relations	The relationship between Canada and Japan across all categories
Japanese Language	Simple words, expressions and kanji/kanji compounds indicated below.

2) This Year's Special Topics

History Major events, figures, terms, cultural products	Classical, Medieval Periods 500 CE - 1600 CE
Society Japanese society and social issues	Technology & the Environment Green technology, environmental issues, energy efficiency, sustainability, and carbon reduction
Culture	Literature Major genres and examples including classical poetry and other genres, folktales, and modern and contemporary fiction and non-fiction works and authors
Special topics	Manga History, major genres, standalone works and publications, and mangaka after World War II. Focus on those works which have been translated into English, especially those which have been awarded the Tezuka Osamu Cultural Prize.
Japan's Regions Regional Focused History, geography, products and foods, festivals, and cultural heritage sites	Shikoku and Chugoku

II. JAPANESE LANGUAGE

1) BASIC KANJI

You should be able to read and write the following kanji. We encourage you to study the kanji, not only individually but as parts of words such as 百円 (ひゃくえん)、月曜日 (げつようび) .

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 百 千 万 円 日 月 火 水 木 金 土
曜 本 上 下 左 右 人 男 女 父 母 子 姉 兄 妹 弟 友 学 校 小 中
大 生 山 川 先 昨 週 年 今 毎 何 時 間 午 前 後 分 半 回 末

2) COMMON PLACE NAMES

These place names commonly appear on signs and in maps, websites, news stories, *manga* -- every kind of reading material. It is useful to know where these places are located and how they are pronounced.

ほっかいどう 北海道	とうきょう 東京	きょうと 京都	おおさか 大阪	おきなわ 沖縄	よこはま 横浜	なごや 名古屋
たいへいよう 太平洋	にほんかい 日本海	ほんしゅう 本州	しこく 四国	きゅうしゅう 九州		

3) AISATSU

The following expressions are good to know for smooth social interaction.

- おやすみなさい
- 行ってきます
- 行ってらっしゃい
- ただいま
- おかえりなさい
- ごめんなさい
- おげんきですか
- はじめまして
- よろしくおねがいします

4) GISEIGO AND GITAIGO

Giseigo refers to animal and human sounds (e.g., chirping, laughing) while *gitaigo* are used to describe a certain state (e.g., facial expression, atmosphere).

1. うとうと
2. うろうろ
3. おどおど
4. きよろきよろ
5. げらげら
6. こそこそ
7. しくしく
8. しょんぼり
9. ぱくぱく
10. ぴんぴん
11. ふらふら
12. ふんふん
13. ぺらぺら
14. わくわく

III. CONVERSATION TIME

Participation in the Conversation Time is required. Students will participate in a conversation where moderators will ask open-ended questions. Students should be prepared to give a short *jikoshoukai* which includes their name and main academic and extracurricular interests.

Topics from the following list may be used in the conversation time:

- Daily life and favorite pastimes
- Food
- Home and community
- Self, family, and friends

IV. SAMPLE QUESTIONS (From Preliminary Round)

1) This is called “Aosuji.” It’s often used in *Manga* to express a character’s feelings. What feeling does it express? Circle the correct answer.



- A. Anger
- B. Sadness
- C. Happiness
- D. Disappointment

2) In English, you would say “They are like cats and dogs” to describe two people who don’t get along. In Japanese, there is a similar expression. What animals are used? Circle the correct answer.

- A. dogs and monkeys
- B. cats and mouse
- C. snakes and frogs
- D. dears and bears

Answers

1) A. Anger 2) A. dogs and monkeys



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