

Japanese Speech Contest 2024

1. **Date and time:** Saturday 2 March 2024, 12:00 [TBC] (Bergen)
Saturday 16 March 2024, 12:00 [TBC] (Oslo)

2. **Venue:** University of Bergen [TBC]
University of Oslo [TBC]

3. **Application deadline:** Wednesday 21 February 2024 (Bergen)
Wednesday 6 March 2024 (Oslo)

4. Eligibility

Adult/adolescent learners (aged 16 or older) of the Japanese language holding a Norwegian citizenship or a *permanent* Norwegian residence permit.

Ineligible are those who

- A. have one or two parents with Japanese citizenship;
- B. have finished a Master's degree in Japanese language;
- C. have spent more than 4 years in a school in Japan;

additionally:

- D. those who have won first prize in a previous Japanese Speech Contest arranged by the Embassy *cannot participate in the same group again.*

5. Contest categories

Group A [Beginners] (those who have lived in Japan no more than 6 months, and have been studying Japanese no more than 1.5 years at university level*)

Group B [Advanced] (those who have lived in Japan for more than 6 months, and/or have been studying Japanese for more than 1.5 years at university level*)

**Those who do self-study, high school level and language school studies are considered part-time, and will normally be placed in Group A. However, the Embassy reserves its right to consider each participant's placement on an individual basis.*

6. Speech contents

Applicants shall decide the topic of their speech themselves, but **the speech must have a tangible relation to Japan, Japanese culture, society, history etc.** Although participants may feel free to use cue cards, notes or even a manuscript printout to aid them during their presentations, please note that the judges may reward those who speak freely (see criteria below). PowerPoint (or PowerPoint compatible, up to three slides) presentations are accepted, but not required.

7. Speech evaluation

Speeches are evaluated in the following categories:

- (1) Vocabulary
- (2) Grammar
- (3) Pronunciation
- (4) Presentation
- (5) Speech contents (arouse the audience's interest, structure, originality etc.)

■ Specific evaluation method

[Evaluation of Japanese proficiency] (three-level evaluation from 1 to 3: maximum 15)

- (1) variety of vocabulary (語彙の多様さ)
- (2) word choice (言葉の選択)
- (3) grammar (文法)
- (4) pronunciation (発音)
- (5) Fluency (流暢さ)

[Speech ability evaluation] (three-level evaluation from 1 to 3: maximum 15)

- (6) variety of vocabulary (アイコンタクトの有無)
- (7) voice inflection/strength (声の抑揚・強弱)
- (8) logical Structure of Speech (スピーチの論理構成：起承転結)
- (9) content of speech (スピーチの内容)
- (10) no filler words (フィラーワードの不使用)

8. Speech duration

- (1) [Beginners]: Maximum of 3 minutes
- (2) [Advanced]: Maximum of 4 minutes