

**2019 AUSTRALIA-JAPAN RELATIONS ESSAY CONTEST
for New South Wales and Northern Territory Secondary School Students**

ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. AIM

The aim of this essay contest is to encourage and develop a better understanding of Japan, and Australia-Japan relations, amongst secondary school students in New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

2. ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

- The contest is open to students enrolled in New South Wales and Northern Territory secondary schools, both public and private, including seventh year primary schools in the Northern Territory.
- The level at which a student is eligible to enter is in accordance with the school year she/he is presently in. (See **Divisions** below.)
- Previous winners of a First Prize in the Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW & NT Secondary School Students, are ineligible to win the First Prize in the following year, but are still welcome to enter and compete for the other prizes.

3. DIVISIONS

SENIOR DIVISION: (Years 9-12)

JUNIOR DIVISION: (Years 7-8)

4. ESSAY TOPICS

Senior Division – 1300-1600 words

With the advent of the new Japanese Imperial era of “Reiwa” (令和), how do you expect Japan-Australia relations to continue to develop, given the significant developments and milestones that occurred during the preceding “Heisei” (平成) era?

Junior Division – 700-1000 words

There are a number of environmental issues currently affecting the world, from waste management to sustainability and climate change. Consider the different approaches Japan and Australia are taking to address such environmental issues and discuss what each country can learn from the other.

NOTES for students

- The essay must be your own work. You can gather information about Japan from books and the internet in order to increase your knowledge of Japan, but you must write your essay in your own words.
- At the same time, it is very important that you **reference all your sources of information**. Your essay ***must include*** a **bibliography**, which is a list of the information sources you have used in your essay. Absence of a bibliography or footnotes may result in disqualification.

- We are interested in your ideas and opinions, but please try to substantiate (give reasons for) your opinions.
- **Please conform to the word limit as specified** and write the exact word count on the cover sheet.
- Please fill out and attach the ***Cover Sheet*** to your essay. The *Cover Sheet* must be checked and signed by your teacher. Please ensure you use the **2019 Cover Sheet**.

5. CONDITIONS and PROCEDURE

1. The **closing date** for entries is **Wednesday, 21 August 2019**. Please ensure enough time for postage as essays **must** arrive *by this date* at the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney.

Mailing address: Essay Contest – Information Section
Consulate-General of Japan, Sydney
GPO Box 4125
SYDNEY NSW 2001

2. When submitting your essay please ensure you include a fully completed *Cover Sheet*, **which includes your exact word count**. The *Cover Sheet* should be filled in by you as the author of the essay, and then checked and signed by your teacher.
3. The length of the essay for Junior Division must be within 700-1000 words and for the Senior Division within 1300-1600 words.
4. The essay should be submitted on A4 paper, in at least the equivalent of **12-point sized Times New Roman font** or **10-point sized Arial font**.
5. Essays must be written in English.
6. Essays **must** include *references and a bibliography*.
7. Essays will not be returned. **Please keep a copy of the essay for your records**.
6. Copyright of the essays will be retained by the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney.
7. **Results** will be announced on the Consulate's website (www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp), in **October 2019**.
8. A prize-giving ceremony is scheduled to take place in November or December 2019 (date to be confirmed).

6. SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD

- The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney will select the School of the Year from the pool of schools which have submitted a high percentage of top quality essays. Previous winners of the School of the Year Award in the Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW & NT Secondary School Students are ineligible to win the School of the Year Award in ***consecutive*** years.

7. JUDGES

The judging panel will comprise academics and people knowledgeable in Australia-Japan relations and Japanese culture, including members of the Consulate.

8. PRIZES

The first place winner in the Senior Division* will receive a return economy class air ticket** to Japan, courtesy of Japan Airlines. In addition, the first place winner will be provided with a 7-day Japan Rail Pass (Ordinary Class) and 3 nights accommodation at Shiba Park Hotel in Tokyo (conditions apply, subject to availability), courtesy of JTB Australia Pty Ltd.

The first place winner in the Junior Division will receive \$300 worth of books of the winner's own choice***.

Special Northern Territory Prizes****

The first place winner in the Senior Division for the Northern Territory will receive \$100 worth of books of the winner's own choice, courtesy of Books Kinokuniya.

The first place winner in the Junior Division for the Northern Territory will receive \$100 worth of books of the winner's own choice, courtesy of Books Kinokuniya.

“Outstanding Essays” in both divisions will receive \$50 worth of goods, courtesy of Tokyo Mart.

There will be prizes awarded in both divisions for **“Highly Commended Essays”**.

Each prize winner will also be awarded a *certificate* and *plaque*.

The School of the Year award will be given to the school with the highest percentage of top quality essays, as deemed by the judges. The school will receive \$400 worth of books***.

Please note that no correspondence will be entered into in relation to the prize conditions. Prizes are not transferable or exchangeable.

*The first place winner in the Senior Division of the Essay Contest would be ineligible to be awarded the first prize, if they have also won the first prize in the Speech Contest, within the same year. In such circumstances, the first place winner would still retain their rank, but the first prize would be awarded to the top outstanding essay. Previous first prize winners are ineligible to win the first prize in the same division, in the following year.

**The definition of ‘return economy class air ticket’ is an international flight between Sydney and Tokyo (Narita) only, including fuel surcharges. Ticket must be issued by 31st March 2020 and travel must be completed before 30th June 2020 or within 3 months from date of issue. Booking conditions apply, subject to availability. The cost of airport taxes and domestic airfares is the responsibility of the prize winner. Prizes and prize conditions are not negotiable, transferable, exchangeable or redeemable for other prizes.

***Arranged with the cooperation of Books Kinokuniya.

****In the case of insufficient entries, the prize may not be awarded.

The closing date for the contest is:

Wednesday 21 August 2019