

2020 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

Consider an aspect of Japanese culture that has been embraced in Australia. Introduce it and explain why you think it is popular in Australia.

Junior Division – 700-1000 words

Situation: you have the chance to visit Japan. Perhaps you are into sport, design, the tea ceremony, all things anime, or ramen. There are many more things you could choose and that is up to you! What would you like to see and experience in Japan? Introduce and explain your choice.

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 your sources of information**, particularly if you are quoting or if you are citing a statistic. 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 (footnotes might not be necessary for some essays).
- 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 **2020 Cover Sheet**.

5. CONDITIONS and PROCEDURE

1. The **closing date** for entries is **Wednesday, 9 September 2020**.

Submission: Please submit by email to cginfo@sy.mofa.go.jp

- Emails (attachments and email combined) must be less than 10MB.
- Use the subject: Essay Contest [YOUR NAME]
- Your email will be acknowledged with a brief reply from the above email address. If you do not receive an acknowledgement by midday Monday 14 September, please contact us.
- If it is difficult for you to scan the *Cover Sheet* after you (the student) and a teacher have signed it, a photo (JPEG, JPG or PNG) is acceptable, as long as all the details are legible.

If you have any difficulties submitting your essay via email, please let us know ahead of the deadline.

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 (the student) 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**.
8. Copyright of the essays will be retained by the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney.
9. **Results** will be announced on the Consulate's website (www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp), in **late October or early November 2020**.
10. A prize-giving ceremony is scheduled to take place in November or December 2020 (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.

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

“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.

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.

* 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 2021 and travel must be completed before 30th June 2021 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.

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