



The JLPT Test

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is the largest test of Japanese for non-native speakers and is recognised globally. Many companies and government organisations use the JLPT as a benchmark to gauge a person's Japanese language proficiency.

The JLPT has five levels with the grading scale as follows:



The N1 is often said to be extremely difficult to attain—even for native speakers. However, in pursuit of the N1 you will come across many useful words and grammar structures that appear far more commonly than you would think.

APPLYING

In Australia, the JLPT is held twice a year in July or December at various cities—including in Sydney (December only). The dates for this year's test are 5 July and 6 December 2020. The test is offered by Japan Foundation and organised with the assistance of host institutions and universities. Registration is conducted online. Find details at:

www.jpf.org.au/language/for-learners/jlpt/

STUDYING

One of the most important things when studying for the JLPT is to be familiar with the types of questions and the time constraints. For this reason, doing a practice test ahead of time is a good way to prepare. The Japan Foundation has past exam papers available for loan and is an excellent resource for your Japanese studies.

BEYOND JLPT

Besides specifically studying for the JLPT, there are many other ways to practice and improve your language skills. One good online resource for beginner to intermediate learners is the NHK World Learn Japanese page.

www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/learnjapanese

There is a variety of great series on this site to suit all kinds of learners and boost your listening skills too.

For advanced learners (N2—N1), reading broadly is a good way to reinforce your vocabulary. Why not give NHK's online news articles a go, or Google search in Japanese for topics and blog articles that interest you?

Above all remember that learning a language, while difficult and challenging at times, should be equally enjoyable and rewarding.

HAVE FUN!

Strathfield Lunar New Year



On 25 January, to hail in 2020—the Year of the Rat—Strathfield Council held their inaugural Lunar New Year Festival.

Consul-General Kiya attended the Lunar New Year Festival and greatly enjoyed the festivities. Throughout the festival there were many different performances held on the main stage—from traditional Chinese and Korean dances to singing and instrumental acts. Sydney's own Wadaiko Rindo gave an energetic and powerful performance with their Japanese drumming. Many people also enjoyed trying their hand at origami at the stall run



by Midori Furze. The event showed that Australia has a great appreciation for multi-culturalism and diversity.

SCHOOL VISITS

On 27 February, the school visit team had the opportunity to hold a calligraphy workshop at **Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School**. The team looks forward to resuming visits in the near future. For more information:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/education_school_visit.html



A previous workshop

*Schools in regional areas and the NT are welcome to apply for visits, however, we may not be able to meet all requests.

**Due to the high number of outstanding requests and the COVID-19 situation, there may be a long wait time for new applications.