



Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW (JTAN) Inc.

ABN 94 045 344 808
PO Box 6453, North Sydney 2060
<http://www.jtan.org.au>

JTAN August Newsletter - 2012

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

The HSC Speaking Exams are upon us now and our Year 12 students are finishing up their studies to some extent. Congratulations to all teachers on the work that you have put in for your students! We have had a very productive couple of months with the Continuers Speaking Day and the Beginners Speaking Day helping our students with their confidence and exam technique. The advice given by JTAN teachers at both days were, according to all reports, of considerable value to the students.

The exciting Year 10 Day run by Donna Desiatnik was a wonderful success again this year. The students enjoyed the activities, learnt a lot and..... it did not rain!

Now we are advertising our upcoming AGM Workshop in this newsletter. Please come along and listen to Françoise Reeves-Smith inform us about the movie 'Departures', Howard Jacobs will help us with how to set valid questions for exams, and Leanne Smith will introduce us to more exciting uses of technology! Remember to register on line at www.jtan.org.au

Good luck for the rest of Year 12's time at school and I hope to see you at the AGM.

Regards,
Liz Sugimoto
President JTAN

Upcoming Workshops

20 October (Sat.)
AGM & Workshop
Free to Teacher members
Registration deadline:
Friday 21 September, 2012

Please apply online at www.jtan.org.au and then click the "Events tab". If you wish to become a member, Please click the "Join Us" tab.



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From the JTAN Treasurer

As of 1 July 2012, the new tax threshold is \$18,200. The new income tax rate are as follows:

- between \$18,201 and \$37,000 is 19%
- between \$37,001 and \$80,000 is 32.5%
- between \$80,001 and \$180,000 is 37%
- from \$180,001 and more is 45%

Please note: these rates exclude the medicare levy. As you are aware, JTAN withheld 31.5% tax from the honoraria. However, due to this tax rate change, I will withhold 32.5% tax from now on.

Report on the HSC Continuers Day 2012

Date: 9 June 2012

Time: 9:30-12:00 for the morning session and 1:00-3:30 for the afternoon session

Venue: North Sydney Boys High School

Organised by: Liz Sugimoto, helped by all Committee Members

Number of participating schools: 42 schools (more than previous years)

Number of involved teachers: AM: 38 teachers, PM : 21 teachers, (more than last year)
14 stayed all day, (some not accompanying students)

Number of students who paid to attend the workshop: 250 (similar to last year)

Student helpers: 4 NSBHS Year 11 students

I would like to thank all the participating teachers who gave up their Saturday and brought students to the Continuers Day, while others volunteered their expertise to help out even though they did not have any students. Akahane Sensei and Mori Sensei also assisted from the Japan Foundation Sydney. To the Teachers and Principal of North Sydney Boys' High School, thank you for making the venue available again this year. To all of you, the day would not run without your generosity and we appreciate your assistance.



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The teachers were welcomed by Sally Mizoshiri. Sally and Teruko Sharif briefed all teachers and most rolls were marked well this year. The student helpers took groups to the appropriate rooms from the Hall to begin the Day.

The Year 12 Continuers Day offered the participating students an opportunity to be exposed to a greater variety of interviewers and question styles and the conversations were conducted in the HSC style. Each conversation session consisted of eight minutes interview followed by two minutes of feedback time. The students were, in this feedback time, advised on how to improve their performance on specific topic areas and language components as well as general tips.

To maximise the outcomes for students for the day, a listening session was also incorporated in the day's program. The selected listening items from the HSC examinations before 2000 were used to familiarise the students with global style questions. Interestingly, some students found the Listening difficult. This year the sessions were for 45 minutes.

Naoko Henschke ensured that all students received a fair number of speaking times, and the 4NSBHS student helpers worked tirelessly to ring the bells, made sure that students were ready to do speaking and organised coffee/tea, collected lunches. They were given a book voucher each. There were few latecomers this year. Also having the helpers greatly reduced the stress on the organiser. I would suggest that, when all student workshops are held, helpers from the school of the organising Committee member be used to help in the organisation.

Again this year obento were provided for those teachers and helpers who worked all day and this was gratefully accepted by them, as some of the rooms were cold at first.

However, I do think that we might make some changes to the day next year. As the HSC Speaking exam itself changes regarding depth to which questions are asked of students, perhaps we need to reflect this more in our format? We need to revamp the listening and change the reading too. I don't see this as an opportunity to give students sample answers though. This is an opportunity for students to try out their own ideas, see what the experience is like, gain some confidence. I also am going to look at the timing and breaks for teachers as many teachers did not realise they could take a break.

It was a little disappointing that some students had been advised to skip the listening and try and get more speaking times, and a few students even tried to sneak back to the



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speaking area after being told that they needed to wait their turn. This is a day for all students and everyone must co-operate so that it is fair to all. Students cannot decide which teachers they want to see for the speaking either. Also I would ask that teachers keep to the bell times rather than their own watches as it means that some students miss out if they are held back on the 2 change-over times in each session.

I would suggest that we keep the session times in future years as I think that the later start helped students to arrive on time.

I would like to thank all JTAN Committee members, especially the Workshop Co-ordinator Sally Mizoshiri, and the Vice President Naoko Henschke for their invaluable support up to, and including on the day.

Finally, without the support of the JTAN teachers who attended, many for the whole day, this workshop could not happen. Your students have thanked you I am sure, but on their behalf, and on behalf of JTAN I would like to say 'Well done, it was a hard, tiring day, but worthwhile! We could not do it without you!'

The day concluded successfully and JTAN received a lot of positive feedback from participating students and teachers.

Liz Sugimoto
Continuers Day Workshop Organiser

Report on the Year 12 Beginners Day

The Year 12 Beginners Day held at SHORE, North Sydney on Saturday 21 July was an extremely successful event. There were over 130 students from 20 schools in attendance. All students were tested in a similar format to the HSC Oral Examination. Students were given immediate feedback about their performance and how they could improve for the upcoming HSC Oral Examination. Feedback from students indicated that the day was worthwhile and students said they felt more confident in tackling the sometimes-frightening speaking examination.

Students also completed a session on listening skills. During this session students looked at strategies that will assist them in answering this section of the examination. This session also incorporated a section on interpreting questions correctly. This was done by



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revising and completing exercises using the Board of Studies' generic descriptive verbs. Feedback from the session was that it was informative and valuable. However presenters did comment that it would be beneficial for students to revise travel, particularly place names, before their HSC Examination.

In order to practise reading skills, students also completed a range of reading exercises that encouraged and enabled them to utilise higher order thinking skills.

JTAN would like to thank the participating teachers who gave up their Saturday and brought students to the day; while others volunteered their expertise to help out even though they did not have any students. The day would not have been successful without your generosity and JTAN and the students appreciate your assistance greatly.

JTAN would also like to sincerely thank Tony Godden for his generous offer of his school as the location for the day. We are extremely grateful for your assistance and expertise in ensuring that the day was successful and students were able to have the best possible learning experience on the day.

Aaron McLuckie
Beginners' Day Organiser

Report on Year 10 Day

On Thursday the 19 July, a lucky group of twenty Year 10 Japanese students embarked on a trip to Sydney University to experience the Japanese Language and Culture Festival Day, held annually. More than two hundred students attended from many different schools, but each and every one held the same passion for learning Japanese.

Once everyone had arrived we set off to Sydney University in high spirits. We had all heard stories, and were in awe upon entering that place (it even had its own Subway eatery and clothing stores!). Exploration was soon cut short; we were ushered into the hall, split up into groups and told to mingle with the students from other schools by demonstrating our amazing Japanese. However, we did find common ground in awkwardness, and it was surprisingly fun to try out our speaking skills on other people. That first introductory talk also allowed us to meet new and awesome people, and reunite with old friends.



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Half the day was a culture fest, and half was akin to a Japanese lesson, albeit with interesting festival-themed variations. There were many different activities; with real Taiko drummers and Japanese dancers teaching us all how to make music and dance. Many Japanese teachers such as our own Mizoshiri-sensei organised the language-focused events, which included an "Amazing Race" styled flurry of activities, and role play. The Taiko drummers were undoubtedly the highlight of the day. The session started off with a performance which comprised of drumming and the technique involved including arm gestures and movements. That transformed the performance into a kind of dance, which was just as important as the actual drumming itself. It was fascinating, and some of us were able to try playing the Taiko drums ourselves! Stress relief at its best! Next was dancing, where a troupe of dancers taught everyone a traditional Japanese fisherman's dance, with lots of arm-waving and moves which mimicked the actions of fishermen catching and hauling fish from the ocean. Watching fellow classmates dress up in shiny Japanese robes and jiggle enthusiastically to the music was pretty entertaining.

The day was not all spent drumming and dancing, as there was also an educational side. The "Amazing Race" was a series of activities which tested all our speaking, listening, writing, drawing and posing-for-photograph skills to the limits, and made for a mad rush as everyone scrambled to finish each task on time. Then later on we moved to role play, in which we acted out scenarios staged during the Natsu Matsuri, or Summer Festival, and talked about buying food, shopping, and games. It was hilarious as we all teamed up and thought of the strangest situations possible, transforming a simple trip to the fireworks into one with drunken dads, dysfunctional families, and super-intelligent babies.

Souvenirs came at the end in the form of kawaii little almost-edible food-shaped rubbers (dango and pizza!) and the small prizes that some of us were lucky enough to win on the day. Every one of us took home memories of the good times we had, and the new friends we had made, whom we would remember forever. The trip was a very valuable experience and great fun.

Tiffany
Year 10 Japanese Student- North Sydney Girls' High



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AGM Workshop
New Horizons

Date: Saturday, 20 October, 2012
Location: Japan Foundation, Chifley Square, Sydney, NSW, 2020
Cost: Free to all teacher members

Time:	9.45am ~ 10.00am	Registration
	Tea, coffee and lunch will be available	
Session 1	10.00am ~ 12:00am	
	Speaker: Francoise Reeves-Smith, Head Teacher LOTE Pymble Ladies College	
	Topic : Filmic Analysis of "Departures" movie (Extension Course)	
	Extracts 1 & 2	
Session 2	12.00 pm ~ 12:30pm	JTAN AGM
	12.30am ~ 1:30pm	Lunch
Session 3	1.30pm ~ 3:00pm	
	Speaker: Howard Jacobs Inspector, Board of Studies	
	Topic : How to write valid questions	
Session 4	3.00 pm ~ 4:30pm	
	Speaker: Leanne Smith	
	Topic : Technology Training for Teachers	
	4.30pm	Conclusion

JTAN encourages country teachers who live outside the Newcastle, Katoomba, Wollongong areas of NSW to also attend this workshop. JTAN will provide city hotel accommodation for 1 night and reimbursement of airfares. (Upon presentation of air fare receipt

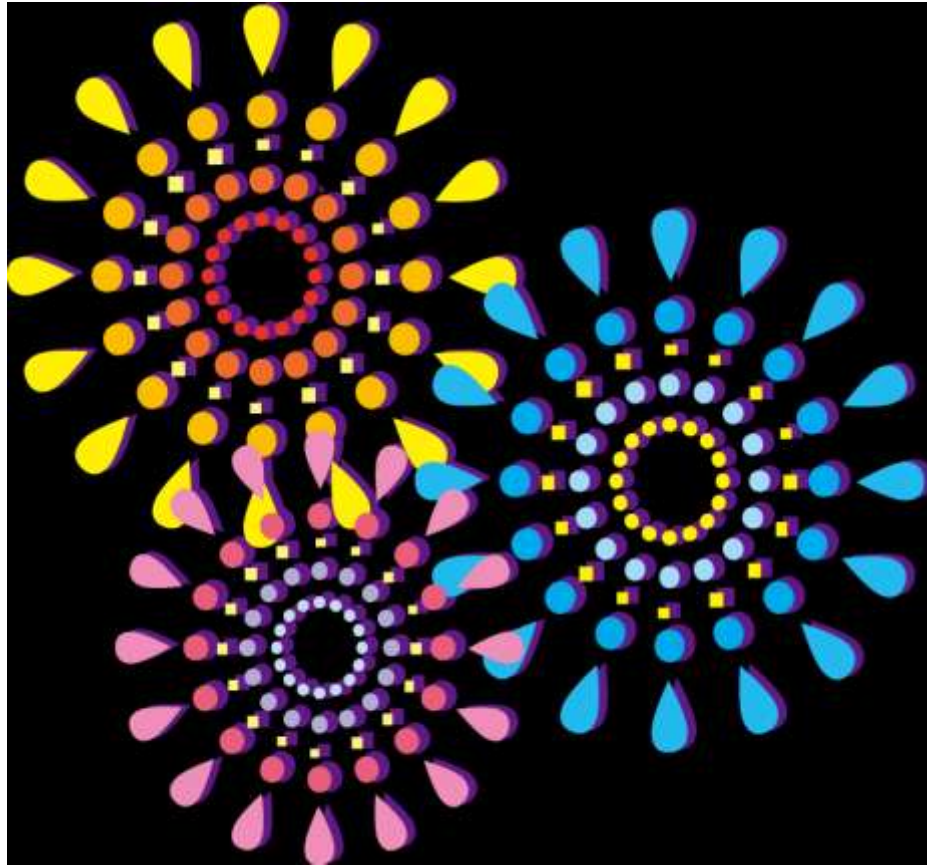
Registration via www.jtan.org.au

CLOSING DAY FOR REGISTRATION IS
FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2012



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先生方、

いつもお世話になってます。

本当にありがとうございました。

FROM THE JTAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS