

Japanese Teachers' Association of NSW



JTAN

ABN 94 045 344 808

PO Box 6453 North Sydney 2060

<https://sites.google.com/site/jtanaustralia/home>

July 2011 Newsletter

Hi Everyone,

What a busy term Term 2 has been! We have all been busy here at JTAN with examinations and planning workshops and we hope that you all are experiencing the benefits of being a JTAN member. If you have any specific requests, please send us an email at enquire@jtan.org.au.

President's Message

Dear JTAN Members,

I trust that you all had a wonderful break. I am very pleased to inform you that we have raised \$15,000 with the exam sales profit to donate to Red Cross Japan. I thank you all for your positive support in this.

NSW responses to ACARA draft shape papers for Languages compiled by BOS

During Term 2, I submitted our response to ACARA draft shape paper on behalf of JTAN, which incorporated the responses that our members sent to me. Here is the excerpt of the conclusion provided by the BOS which echoed JTAN's thoughts.

Conclusion

The *Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages* was judged to be a very good document for the purposes of advocacy and for promoting the case for Languages education in Australia. The paper was, however, considered to lack sustained clarity and quality, as well as any description of curriculum content that would provide a suitable foundation on which to base the development of the Australian Curriculum: Languages. The general consensus was summed up in a comment made at one of the focus group meetings:

The draft paper is disappointing in its lack of specific detail. The paper reads like a justification for studying languages, none of which is new to teachers. It is unnecessarily verbose and

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inaccessible in its wording. What we want to see is what we'll have to teach and what the curriculum will look like.

For more detailed information go to:

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/australian-curriculum/pdf_doc/draft-shape-paper-languages-response.pdf to read the full response.

Lastly, have a great term and good luck to all our HSC Japanese candidates with their orals!

Cathleen Jin
JTAN President

JTAN Exams and Embargo Dates – Please read carefully!!!

All JTAN examinations have now been dispatched. Teachers who have purchased JTAN examinations would agree that the JTAN examination kits are of the highest quality, reflecting the aims and objectives of the relevant syllabus documents. JTAN would like to sincerely thank the Examination Directors, Liberty Campbell and Kyoko Kusumoto and their teams for their tireless effort in producing such wonderful examination papers.

Please note that JTAN holds the copyright of all JTAN examination kits, whether it is a hard or soft copy, word documents or sound files. Schools which have purchased the examination kits may freely alter the content to suit their internal examination specifications. The examination kits are only to be used by the purchasing schools. Please respect the copyright and refrain from making pirated copies for other schools or teachers.

Please be reminded that the Trial HSC Examination papers are **embargoed until 31st August** and the Preliminary Yearly Examination papers are **embargoed until 16th September**. **Unfortunately the above embargo dates are fixed and we are unable to move the dates either forward or back.** It is of the utmost importance that the embargo rule is adhered to strictly so that the integrity of the exams can be maintained. Of course it is acceptable to discuss the examination

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papers with your students. However, please remember to **collect** the examination papers back after the discussion. Students are not allowed to keep the examination papers until **after** the embargo date.

JTAN does not sell its examination kits to coaching schools directly or via any third party. However, if teachers do not strictly adhere to the embargo dates, coaching schools may illegally obtain a copy of the examination from their students and so the confidentiality of the exams cannot be maintained. As you can imagine, one careless mistake can have a major disastrous impact on all schools that intend to use JTAN examination kits. **Please be vigilant!**

Term 2 Workshop - 'Creating Listening Items for Stage 4 and 5'

The Creating Listening Resources Workshop was held at the Japan Foundation on Saturday 21st May. There were 16 teachers who participated in this workshop focusing on creating global questions for stage 5 listening skills. Everyone worked very hard to create original listening scripts and new global questions for each text.

The JTAN committee combined these new questions with our 2007 listening items. We edited and proofread the scripts and questions and have now completed 71 professionally recorded scripts. All of the participating teachers will receive the CD early in term 3 ready to edit for Assessments and Yearly Examinations.

We usually deliver dual mode CDs that can be played on the computer as well as a normal CD player. However, due to the large number of audio files we could not do this. Instead, we have created a data CD with mp3 files plus the PDF file containing scripts and questions.

All members who wish to purchase the CD can do so for \$80.00, Please contact Teruko Sharif: jtanreceivable@gmail.com.

JTAN hopes that these Listening Resources will make life a little easier for you, and our thanks go to all participants who worked tirelessly producing them.

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Year 12 Beginners Day

The Year 12 Beginners Day held at SHORE, North Sydney on Saturday 23rd July was an extremely successful event. All students who attended the day 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 revising and completing exercises using the Board of Studies' generic descriptive verbs.

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 we appreciate your assistance greatly.

JTAN would 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.

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Year 12 Continuers Day

The annual Year 12 Continuers Day was held at NSBHS on Saturday 11th June and it was a great success. A total of 258 students from 38 schools attended the day. Students were tested in a similar format to the HSC Oral Examination. Students were given on-the-spot feedback about their performance and how they could improve for the HSC Oral Examination. Feedback indicated that the students found the day to be very worthwhile and they felt more confident in tackling the sometimes frightening speaking examination.

JTAN would like to thank 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. The day would not be successful without your generosity and we appreciate your assistance greatly.

The Committee would also like to thank Liz Sugimoto for her tireless and extensive organisation of the day, and thanks to her Year 10 students who gave up their Saturday to work hard all day. Without Liz's dedication the day would not have been as successful as it was. A HUGE thankyou from us all!

Membership and Examination Invoices

We would like to remind teachers that after they submit their payment requests to their school accounts department, that they check to ensure the payment has actually been forwarded to JTAN. This year we had many teachers think the payment had been submitted, however payment wasn't actually sent. Please also make sure that your accounts department has updated their records with JTAN's correct address: PO Box 6453, North Sydney, NSW, 2060.

All members should now have received their invoices. If you haven't please check your junk mail and ask other Japanese teachers in your school whether they have received the invoice. Please contact Ken Gillespie, JTAN's Treasurer at: sydken11@gmail.com if you need your invoice resent. Receipts for all payments will be sent out shortly.

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Year 10 Day

The annual Year 10 Day was held on Thursday 21st July 2011. This was an extremely successful event. A complete report will be provided in next month's newsletter.

JTAN AGM

The Committee is currently organising the AGM and workshop, which will be held later in the year. One of JTAN's primary goals is to ensure that we tailor our workshops so they meet the needs and interests of our members. If you have any areas that you would like to be inserviced in or feel that they would be worthwhile for other members, please email us at: enquire@jtan.org.au.

Japan Earthquake Disaster Relief

As we informed our members at the beginning of the year, JTAN will be donating the profits from our examination sales to assist with the Japan earthquake disaster relief. We are pleased to announce that we will be donating a total of \$15000 to Red Cross Japan.

www.jtan.org.au site

We are pleased to announce that we are revamping our original site www.jtan.org.au and it should be up and running for the registration for our AGM Workshop. Some of the new features will include online registration and automated invoicing.

Enjoy the term!
Aaron McLuckie
JTAN Communications Officer