



Japanese Language Center
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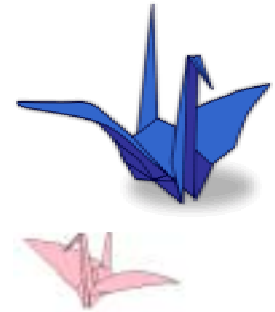
J L C 通信

Japanese Language Center (つうしん)
Newsletter April 2005

✳ **日本語能力試験** ✳ **The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)**

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test 2005 was held on December 5, 2004, and the results have been reported. The students of Japanese Language Center did a great job. All students who took more than 2 semesters of Intensive JLPT prep Courses at JLC were certified. To pass the Test is a different issue from learning Japanese. You need specialized skills for the Test. New JLPT courses will start soon. Please look at our recent Press Release for more information.

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Number of Certified (USA)	21,957	35,214	40,855	44,970
Percentage Certified (USA)	51.7%	48.1%	44.8%	47.2%
Average Scores (Total)	(238)	(235)	(228)	(267)
Vocabulary	71	69	55	67
Listening	50	47	55	68
Grammar	117	119	108	132
Number of Examinees Seattle	26	26	56	41



This time the test had some problems as the instructions for the Level 1 Listening Test question II-16 were inappropriate. Also, there was a printing mistake in the multiple-choice numbers on question III-44 in Level 2, Writing and Vocabulary. Answers to these questions were **not** included in the scoring.

In order not to disadvantage examinees, the passing score was set for Level 1 at 276 points and for Level 2 at 237 points this year. The Braille questions, however, were not affected by these problems, so the answers to the above-mentioned questions will be included in the scoring. The passing score has been set at 70% for Level 1 and 60% for Levels 2, 3, and 4.



✳ **文化 (ぶんか)** ✳ **Culture Corner**

花見 (はなみ) Hanami

Hanami is literally “Flower Viewing”, however “*Hana* (Flower)” in Japan really means **Sakura** (cherry blossoms). *Hanami* is Cherry blossoms viewing party.

Since cherry blossoms remain in bloom only for a few days, they were formerly considered a reminder that this world/human life is mutable and impermanent. Death in battle was glorified and likened to falling cherry blossoms. So cherry blossoms symbolized the Japanese military spirit during the war. It’s very sad.



Cherry usually blooms early in April and people go on a picnic. Sitting under the cherry trees, they enjoy the beauty of the blossoms. It originally started as a Buddhist

ceremony among court nobles of twelfth century and became annual custom among ordinary people.

During Hanami season, many businessmen go to a park quite early in a morning and then roll out the blue tape and stake out their prime picnic spot. That is a part of their work. I've heard of some people who stay overnight to grab a good spot for the next afternoon's Hanami! Now people enjoy drinking Sake sitting under the cherry trees more than viewing cherry blossoms. It's sad.



✳️ **おたより** ✳️ **From Guest book**

I would like to sign up for the Special Offered Program. Can I have a schedule for the Special Offered Program? What is difference between "Private Lesson" and "Special Offered Private Lesson"?

Our answer: When you sign up a group course, if the group course has less than 4 registrants, the course is automatically transferred to the Special Offered Program. Group course normally has 4 students, but we would like to avoid course cancellation because of too few registrants. The Special Offered Program is not a regular course, so you can't sign up Special Offered Program directly. You have to sign up a group course at first.

The differences are in three ways: First, lesson Fees are different. Special Offered Program costs \$200 the same as group lessons. If you sign up for 5 regular Private Lessons, it costs \$350.



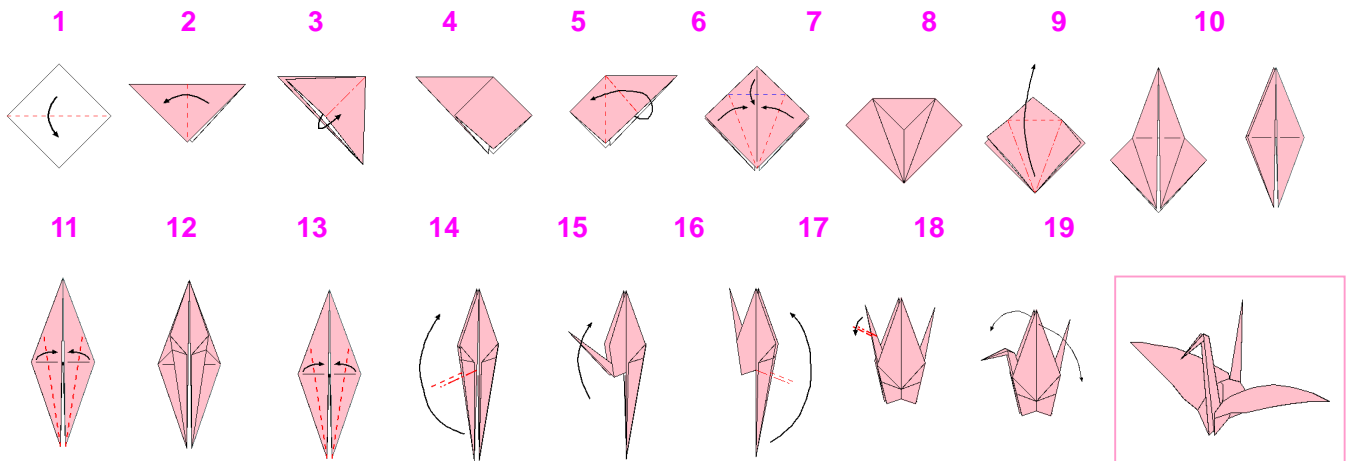
Second, If it's a regular private lesson, you can reschedule your lesson with 24 hours notice. However, for Special Offered Program, we will not reschedule your lesson even if you give us early notice for your absence. So, if you have high possibility of missing lessons, it's better for you to sign up for regular Private Lessons.



Third, the Special Offered Program follows the curriculum of the Group Course and you are required to purchase a textbook of the Group Course. If you sign up More Advanced Japanese or JLPT/JETRO Test Course, you will be charged additional \$10 for material fees. For regular Private Lessons, you can use a different textbook if you like, and there is no additional charge for sub-materials.

If you have any requests about our course schedule, please share it with us before we set up new course schedules and then we may create a new course for you.

✳️ **おりがみ** ✳️ **Origami つる Tsuru (How to make crane)**





Japanese Language Center provides JLPT/JETRO Test Prep Courses.



Japanese Language Center (JLC) offers prep courses for JLPT/JETRO Test. The preparation courses for JLPT Level 3, Level 2, and Level 1 start from the first week of April/June/August/October. Registration for the next JLPT Course has already started. Please sign up early before it becomes full.

JETRO Testing dates are June 19 and November 20. The JLPT is on 4 December. Intensive JLPT Prep Courses in 2004 were great success. The students who took more than 2 semesters of Intensive JLPT prep courses at JLC last year were all certified.

JLPT/JETRO Test Courses have 2-hour lessons (110 minutes instructions) and 8 sessions. 8-week group courses start from the first weekend of April/June/August/October. The next course begins on April 2nd and 3rd. JLC also offers Intensive JLPT/JETRO Courses. Intensive Courses start on the first Monday of every month. Intensive Courses have 2 hours and 45 minutes lessons and 6 sessions on Mon/Wed/Fri (Lesson time 11:45 AM - 2:30 PM).

Registration & Lesson fees (\$200) are due 72 hours prior the first lesson. Self Level Check Test and other free materials for JLPT are available. Please visit the website <http://www.japanese-language.net/> for more information.

Schedule for JLPT 2005

Application period	July 4 - September 5, 2005
Test date	December 4, 2005
Announcement of test result	Mid February, 2006

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Contents of the Test

The test has four different levels. Each test is comprised of three sections: writing and vocabulary; listening; reading and grammar. The contents and criteria of the test are as follows:

Level	Contents			Criteria
	Sections	Min	Points	
1	Writing-Vocabulary	45	100	The examinee has mastered grammar to a high level, knows around 2,000 <i>Kanji</i> and 10,000 words, and has an integrated command of the language sufficient for life in Japanese society. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 900 hours.
	Listening	45	100	
	Reading-Grammar	90	200	
	Total	180	400	
2	Writing-Vocabulary	35	100	The examinee has mastered grammar to a relatively high level, knows around 1,000 <i>Kanji</i> and 6,000 words, and has the ability to converse, read, and write about matters of a general nature. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 600 hours and after completion of an intermediate course.
	Listening	40	100	
	Reading-Grammar	70	200	
	Total	145	400	
3	Writing-Vocabulary	35	100	The examinee has mastered grammar to a limited level, knows around 300 <i>Kanji</i> and 1,500 words, and has the ability to take part in everyday conversation and to read and write simple sentences. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 300 hours and after completion of an elementary course.
	Listening	35	100	
	Reading-Grammar	70	200	
	Total	140	400	
4	Writing-Vocabulary	25	100	The examinee has mastered the basic elements of grammar, knows around 100 <i>Kanji</i> and 800 words, and has the ability to engage in simple conversation and to read and write short, simple sentences. This level is normally reached after studying Japanese for around 150 hours and after completion of the first half of an elementary course.
	Listening	25	100	
	Reading-Grammar	50	200	
	Total	100	400	

🌸 自己紹介 (じこしょうかい) 🌸

Student of JLC



皆さんこんにちは、私はウェドと申します。よろしくお願ひ致します。I passed JLPT Level 1. It was my third trial and it had been 9 years since I passed Level 2. I took the Level 1 Test in Tokyo and in New York a few years ago. My wife is Japanese, but her English is too good to teach me Japanese. Do you know what I mean? I don't have chance to talk with her in Japanese and she sent me to JLC instead of teaching by herself. She said “餅は餅や” When I came to JLC, my Japanese was rusty. I took JLPT training session (48 lessons) at JLC. 皆さんもがんばってください。

🌸 ことわざ 🌸 Proverb Corner

「花より団子」(はなよりだんご) Hana yori dango

Dumplings over flowers. Pudding over praise. Japanese people go to see **Hana** (cherry blossoms) and eat **Dango** (sweet dumpling cake). Viewing flowers is good mentally and eating **Dango** is good physically. Viewing flowers is enjoyable but eating something is better because we can survive without viewing but not without eating. Something realistic is more useful and more valuable. My opinion? I agree sometimes.



さくらさくら

作詞・作曲不詳

さくら さくら
弥生の空は 見渡すかぎり
霞か雲か 匂いぞ出する
いざや いざや 見にゆかん

🌸 日本の歌 🌸 Japanese Song さくらさくら Sakura

Sakura is cherry blossom and the flower of Japanese nation. All of Japanese children learn this song “**Sakura Sakura**” in their elementary school. The Board of Education selects the songs to teach in school. We don't know who made this song but it was being sung 100 years ago already. All Japanese know this song.

さくら さくら
野山も里も 見わたす限り
かすみか雲か 朝日ににおう
さくら さくら 花ざかり

🌸 おしらせ 🌸 Remarks

- JLC supports a Japanese Language conversation group in the community and JLC's instructor Junko is the organizer of Bellevue-Factoria Japanese Language Meetup. The next meeting is 7-9 PM on Tue, 12 April at Starbucks (next to QFC), 3560-C 128th Factoria Blvd. Loehmann's Plaza. Please join us.
- There is a change in the cancellation policy of the Special Offered Program. For Special Offered Program with one student, we will not make up/reschedule/refund lessons you missed as the same as regular Group Course. We used to reschedule lessons with 7 days prior notice about your absent, but not anymore. Even if you give us early notice of your absent, we will not reschedule. **This new policy takes effect on 1 April 2005 for all new registrations.**

However, we will postpone this new cancellation policy for existing students until 1 July 2005. We will reschedule your lesson with 7days prior notice until 30 June 2005. Please check your contract in detail.

For regular Private and Semi-private Lessons, nothing changed: we will reschedule lessons with 24 hours prior notice.

- Please bring your friend to JLC. Any referrals signing up for a class results in a 20% discount of your next block of lessons.



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Japanese Language Instruction

and Translation Services

