

FAQ

Eligibility

Q1. Can home school students apply to this event?

→ Yes!

Pupils and students who are learning Japanese outside of official school education are also welcome to apply.

Q2. Can sixth form students apply to this event?

→ Yes!

“Secondary school students” includes sixth form students.

Q3. Is it possible for a student to enter both Speech and Video Categories?

→ Yes!

It is possible for a secondary school student to apply to both the Speech Category as well as Video Category Secondary School Division 2, if the student is applying to Video Category as a group. In this case, the group has to have **4 members or more**.

Q4. Can students who have participated in past JaLaChamp contests apply again?

→ Yes!

But if the students **have won first prize** in any category or division previously, they **CANNOT apply to the same category or division**, or **to a lower level category or division**. Applying to a different category or higher division is most welcome!

Q5. Final year nursery pupils of Japanese Saturday schools in Scotland are in year 2 of primary school. Can they apply to the Primary School Division?

→ Yes! The eligibility is based on the UK education system. So any students enrolled in schools that are registered as primary schools in the UK educational system can apply for the Primary School Division of the Video Category.

Q6. We are living in the UK and my child is taking an online Japanese course with a teacher living outside of the UK. Can they still apply to JaLaChamp?

→ Yes!

If the students are living in the UK and meet the eligibility criteria, they can apply to both the Speech Category and Video Category of JaLaChamp.

Level of Japanese proficiency

Q7. I am not quite sure of the difference between Secondary School Division 1 (A1-A2 of JF Standard/CEFR) and Secondary School Division 2 (B1 of JF Standard/CEFR) of the Video Category. Is Secondary School Division 1 equivalent to "pre-GCSE"?

- ➔ Basically, Secondary School Division 1 (A1-A2 level) can be assumed to be pre-GCSE level, and Secondary School Division 2 (B1 level) is post-GCSE level.
- ➔ The reason we use CEFR/JF Standard levels, rather than GCSE-based levels, is that we want to ensure that each participating student can choose the category that best suits their Japanese level.
- ➔ Please find more information about the levels of each category below:

Video Category, Secondary School Division 1 (A1-A2 level)

(1) Level description in the application guidelines:

- (A1) Can introduce your favourite things in simple way, while displaying photos and images.
- (A2) Can talk in simple Japanese about your favourite things, such as what sort of thing it is, why do you like it, what parts of it do you like and so on.

(2) Additional information

- It is difficult to deliver a range of information in Japanese alone. Students can briefly introduce familiar things with visual aids, for example by showing pictures and/or objects like in a "Show and Tell" activity.
- When interacting vocally, about 3-4 conversation turns can be made on familiar topics.

Video Category, Secondary School Division 2 (B1 level)

(1) Level description in the application guidelines

- (B1) Can talk in a straightforward and prepared way about a familiar theme, describing what you have researched or found out, or what you thought about it.

(2) Additional information

- If the subject is a familiar object or event, students can convey a certain amount of information in words alone, without showing pictures or actual objects.
- Students can express their own opinions and thoughts in simple Japanese, even on dreams, imaginary things, and somewhat abstract topics.
- Students have sufficient Japanese to develop a simple story. (Can create short paragraphs that have a simple plot, explain how things came to be, and describe simple cause-and-effect relationships. However, not with a complex structure).

→ One way of deciding which category to apply to is based on whether you think your students can introduce the theme in Japanese or not. The theme for Secondary School Division 1 is a specific one - 'My/Our Talent' - which can be expressed using a "show and tell style", while the theme for Secondary School Division 2 is a little more abstract - 'What I/We Want to Save for the Future', which requires a bit of explanation.

Q8. Is it alright if higher year students apply to Video Category Secondary School Division 1, and lower-year students apply to Secondary School Division 2?

→ Yes!
Applicants can freely choose a category according to their level of Japanese proficiency, and they do NOT have to choose according to their school year level. Therefore, students in the same year level and class can choose different categories to apply to.

Q9. Which category should IB Japanese (ab-initio level) students should apply to?

→ This can be decided according to the actual Japanese level of the students. Please take a close look at themes of each division as well as guidelines, and ask the students or discuss with them which division will be suitable for them or which division they want to try to apply to. It is totally alright if some of the students of ab-initio apply for Secondary School Division 1 and some apply for Secondary School Division 2.

Speech Category

Q10. If selected as a finalist, may I use notes when I deliver a speech?

→ Yes, you may use notes but you must not read from prepared text.

Q11. I am selected as a finalist but I will be away from the UK on the finals day. Can I still participate in the finals online?

→ No. All selected finalists must attend finals day in person and give their speech in front of an audience. There will be financial support for speech category finalists for traveling to London. Further details will be informed to selected finalists.

Video Category

Q12. One minute for the length of videos in the Primary School Division sounds a little too short...

→ The length of the videos for the Primary School Division is **approximately** one minute. This means you **DO NOT have to edit** the video so that it lasts **one minute or less**. The reason why we set the time as "around one minute" is that one minute might be too short, but requesting more than one minute might be too hard for pupils to edit.

* Applicants for the **Secondary School Division 1 & 2** are expected to edit their videos according to the time limit indicated in the guideline.

Q13. When applying as a group, do all students have to belong the same school?

- ➔ If the students study Japanese at school, group members must be from the same school. Forming a group with different year students is accepted.
- ➔ If the students study Japanese outside of school (such as at a Saturday school), they may make a video with those with whom they are studying Japanese who attend different schools.
- ➔ A student who is not studying Japanese may participate. So those who study Japanese can invite their friends to their group for help making the video following the same school rules above.

Q14. The video category is open to students whose family language is Japanese, or who have lived in Japan. Is it worth it for students who study Japanese as a foreign language to apply for the video category?

- ➔ In order to ensure fairness, we set a cap on the level of Japanese for each division. Therefore, if the Japanese in the video is as per the level described under each division the applicant can score full points for those criteria. So, if there are applicants whose Japanese levels are higher than the set level for each division, they will not get any additional special scores. As the guidelines states, all applicants who reach the set level of Japanese will be able to achieve full points equally.
- ➔ During screening of entries in the past, videos which received good scores for their level of Japanese were not always selected as finalist videos, and other judging criteria, such as interpretation and originality of the theme and how well the students structured and edited the video, have importance when it comes to deciding the results.
- ➔ For details of the judging criteria, please kindly see page 6 of the Application Guidelines.

Q15. If selected as a finalist, do all students and the teachers have to attend the Finals Day event?

- ➔ We strongly recommend that at least one member from finalists' video entries and their teacher or guardian/s to attend the finals day, but absence will be accepted if any circumstances make it difficult for them to attend. We will show all finalists videos to the audience at the event day. There will be financial support for at least one finalist per group for travelling London to attend the Finals Day. Further details will be explained to selected finalists.