
2021 AP[®] Japanese Language and Culture

Exam Overview

AP[®]

CollegeBoard

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This is an overview of the AP Japanese Language and Culture Exam. This presentation will provide you with a preview of the question types and directions screens that you'll see on exam day.

The exam is administered in school on school-owned computers through an exam application. On exam day, you will follow directions spoken by the proctor. During various parts of the exam, you will also read on the screen, listen through a headset, type using the keyboard, and speak into a microphone. Read the information on the screens carefully.

Exam Format

The exam will take approximately two hours and 15 minutes to complete. The exam has two sections. This includes a 10-minute break between Sections I and II.

Section I consists of multiple-choice content.

- Part A: Listening
- Part B: Reading

Section II, the free-response section, requires you to produce written and spoken responses.

- Part A: Writing
- Part B: Speaking

About This Presentation

- This overview does not present an entire exam but does include questions that represent the various parts of the regular exam.
- The screen images in this presentation are from the practice exam, which is available through the exam application. Some screen images in this presentation include an Exit Part button, but this button will not appear in the regular exam.
- This presentation includes screens where some details, such as references to the number of questions or administration time, refer to the practice exam and do not match the regular exam.

The following image shows the Enter Student Information screen that you'll complete in place of an answer sheet on exam day.

At the start of the exam, students need to acknowledge they have read and agreed to the AP Exam Terms and Conditions.

CollegeBoard AP

Enter Student Information * Required field

AP ID: UVV9XYWV [Edit](#) School Code: 100121

Last Name * Middle Initial

First Name *

Date of Birth *
Month Day

Exam Room Number

Exam
AP Japanese Language and Culture

Certification Statement *
 I agree to the AP Exam Terms and Conditions available at cb.org/apexamterms. I understand that there are serious consequences for violating these Terms and Conditions. I certify that I am the person whose information appears in this exam application.

Continue

General Directions

The table in the "At a Glance" section that follows provides an overview of the exam, showing the number of questions and amount of time for each part and the contribution of each part to the final AP score. The first section of the exam contains several listening tasks and reading tasks, which test your ability to use Japanese in the interpretive mode of communication. In this multiple-choice section, select one answer choice to choose an answer. You may select the oval or anywhere on the answer choice. To change an answer, select a different answer choice. To leave a question unanswered after you have selected an answer, select the chosen answer choice again to deselect it. The total score on the multiple-choice section is based only on the number of questions answered correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect answers or unanswered questions. The second section of the exam contains 4 free-response tasks, which test your ability to use Japanese in the interpersonal and presentational modes of communication. You will type your responses for the writing tasks, and your responses for the speaking tasks will be recorded. Various tasks in the exam will also test your knowledge of Japanese culture.

The proctor should have provided you with scratch paper and a pencil, which you may use to take notes and to organize your responses. You must return the scratch paper and pencil to the proctor at the end of the exam.

At a Glance

The following table summarizes the exam format. The total time listed for each section takes into account time for reading directions, moving from question to question, etc. As a result, the estimated time for each section may be greater than the sum of the estimated times for each part.

Note: The directions throughout the exam regarding timing for specific questions reflect the standard timing. If you have been approved for extended time, the adjusted timing for applicable parts of the exam will be reflected accurately on the clock that appears on the screen.

At the beginning of the exam, you should read the General Directions carefully (continued on next page).

At a Glance

The following table summarizes the exam format. The total time listed for each section takes into account time for reading directions, moving from question to question, etc. As a result, the estimated time for each section may be greater than the sum of the estimated times for each part.

Note: The directions throughout the exam regarding timing for specific questions reflect the standard timing. If you have been approved for extended time, the adjusted timing for applicable parts of the exam will be reflected accurately on the clock that appears on the screen.

Section	Question or Task Type	Number of Questions or Tasks	Percent of Total Score	Approximate Time
Multiple Choice		Approximately 70 Questions	50%	1 hour, 30 minutes
Part A: Listening	Listening Selections	30–35	25%	20 minutes
Part B: Reading	Reading Selections	35–40	25%	1 hour
Free Response		4 Tasks	50%	45 minutes
Part A: Writing	Text Chat	6 questions	12.5%	10 minutes
	Compare and Contrast Article	1 question	12.5%	20 minutes
Part B: Speaking	Conversation	4 questions	12.5%	3 minutes
	Cultural Perspective Presentation	1 question	12.5%	7 minutes

There may also be survey questions, which do not affect your score.

Select **Continue** to go on.



Hardware Check

Before the exam begins, we will check the headset and microphone volumes. Please make sure your headset is on and your microphone is placed in front of your mouth.



Select **Continue** to go on.

Before the first part of the exam, you will check that your headset and microphone are working properly.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo, 'AP' text, and buttons for 'Exit Part', 'Volume', and 'Continue'. Below the bar, the word 'Listening' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Listening Part Directions' and contains the following text:

Listening Part Directions

You will listen to several selections in Japanese. For each selection, you will be told whether it will be played once or twice. You may take notes as you listen. Your notes will not be graded. After listening to each selection, you will see questions in English. For each question, choose the response that is best according to the selection. You will have 12 seconds to answer each question.

A clock at the top of the screen will show you how much time is remaining to answer the question.

When the response time has ended, you will automatically go on to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The multiple-choice section begins with Part A: Listening.

The screenshot shows the top portion of a digital listening interface. At the top left, the CollegeBoard logo and 'AP' are visible. On the right, there are 'Exit Part' and 'Volume' buttons. Below the header, the word 'Listening' is displayed. The main content area contains the text 'Prerecorded message' and 'Selection plays two times.' Below this text is an audio player control bar. The control bar includes a play/pause button, a progress bar, and a timer showing '1:15 / 1:23'. Below the progress bar, it says 'You may play this audio 1 time'. A blue arrow points from the right side of the image towards the audio progress bar.

An audio progress bar appears whenever you hear audio material through your headset.

Why does Ms. Suzuki dislike school uniforms?

- They are not fashionable.
- They are expensive.
- They cannot be worn to an after-school job.
- They are uncomfortable.

CollegeBoard AP

Exit Part Mark Review Help Back Next Continue

Reading

Reading Part Directions

You will read several selections in Japanese. Each selection is accompanied by a number of questions in English. For each question, choose the response that is best according to the selection.

You will have **15 minutes** to answer all the questions. A clock on the screen will indicate how much time is remaining.

Some selections include characters underlined in blue. Select the characters to see a definition or an explanation.

You can move to the next question by selecting **Next**. You can skip questions and go back to them later as long as there is time remaining. If you want to return to previous questions, select **Back**.

For later review, you can mark a question by selecting **Mark**, which will place a check mark in the Marked column on the review screen for that question. Selecting **Mark** again will remove the check mark. A question will remain marked until you unmark it, even if you change the answer.

You can select **Review** at any time, and the review screen will indicate which questions you have answered and which you have not answered. The Marked column indicates all questions you have marked for review. From the review screen, you may go directly to any question.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The multiple-choice section continues with Part B: Reading.

During the Reading part, you may access the **Help** screens.

NOTE: The clock does not stop when viewing the **Help** screens. The more time you spend on **Help**, the less time you have to answer questions.

CollegeBoard AP

Testing Tools | How to Answer | How to Scroll | General Directions | Part Directions | Show Time

Testing Tools

- Next** → After you answer a question, select **Next**. You may still return to the question and change your answer after selecting **Next**.
- Back** ← Selecting **Back** will take you to the previous screen or question.
- Exit Part** 📄 Selecting **Exit Part** will skip ahead to the next part. **The Exit Part button will not appear in the regular exam.**
- Help** ? Selecting **Help** will bring you to Help. From Help you can get information on different topics by selecting one of the tabs on the screen. You are now in Help.
- Review** 📖 Selecting **Review** will allow you to access the Review screen. The Review screen lists all of the questions in the reading part and their status. The Status column indicates if a question has been answered, not answered, or not encountered. The Mark column shows all questions you have marked for review. The question you were on last is selected and highlighted when you enter the Review screen.
- Mark** ☐ Selecting **Mark** will place a check mark on the Review screen next to the questions you may want to review again. Selecting **Mark** again will remove the check mark. A question will remain marked until you unmark it, even if you change the answer.

Select **Return** to go on.

This is an example of a **Help** screen.

Select **Return** to go back to the exam questions.

Questions 1 through 5.

Read this news article.

エンカレッジ・スクール

今年、エンカレッジ・スクールという学校ができた。エンカレッジは、日本語で「はげます」とか「力づける」という意味である。エンカレッジ・スクールは、学校がきらいで、勉強しない子どもたちのために作られた。たとえば、エンカレッジ・スクールの一つ、桜台高校では期末テストがない。ホームルームは二人の先生が受け持っている。1クラス 20人ぐらいで、ふつうの高校より1クラスの人数が少ない。また、ふつうの高校では授業が50分だが、桜台高校では30分授業だ。「30分授業は、短いから集中して勉強できる」と、ここみんなに人気がある。それに、「和太鼓」や「福祉ボランティア」など、ふつうの高校にはない体験学習もできる。桜台高校はいろいろなことがふつうの高校とちがうようだ。先生たちもいっしょうけんめいにおうえんしている。すでにエンカレッジ・スクールの効果が上がっていることが報告されている。学校ぎらいの高校生をおうえんするために、エンカレッジ・スクールがこれからも全国にますます作られることを期待する。

According to the article, what is the benefit to students of attending the type of school described?

- They receive individual attention.
- Their teachers are highly qualified.
- They are well prepared for college.
- Their books and materials are provided by the school.

CollegeBoard AP

Exit Part Mark Review Help Back Next

Reading | Question 1 of 8 Show Time

Questions 1 through 5

Read this news article.

エンカレッジ・スクール

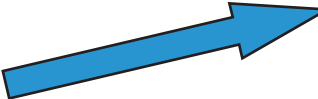
今年、エンカレッジ・スクールという学校ができた。エンカレッジは、日本語で「はげます」とか「力づける」という意味である。エンカレッジ・スクールは、学校がきらいで、勉強しない子どもたちのために作られた。たとえば、エンカレッジ・スクールの一つ、桜台高校では期末テストがない。ホームルームは二人の先生が受け持っている。1クラス 20人ぐらいで、ふつうの高校より1クラスの人数が少ない。また、ふつうの高校では授業が50分だが、桜台高校では30分授業だ。「30分授業は、短いから集中して勉強できる」と、このみんなに人気がある。それに、「和太鼓」や「福祉ボランティア」など、ふつうの高校にはない体験学習もできる。桜台高校はいろいろなことがふつうの高校とちがうようだ。先生たちもいっしょうけんめいにおうえんしている。すでにエンカレッジ・スクールの効果が上がっていることが報告されている。学校ぎらいの高校生をおうえんするために、エンカレッジ・スクールがこれからも全国にますます作られることを期待する。

According to the article, what is the benefit to students of attending the type of school described?

- They receive individual attention.
- Their teachers are highly qualified.
- They are well prepared for college.
- Their books and materials are provided by the school.

Glossary X

福祉ボランティア: Community service



Clicking on the characters underlined in blue displays a definition or explanation.

CollegeBoard AP

Exit Part Mark Review Help Back Next

Reading | Question 1 of 8 Show Time

Questions 1 through 5.

Read this news article.

エンカレッジ・スクール

今年、エンカレッジ・スクールという学校ができた。エンカレッジは、日本語で「はげます」とか「力づける」という意味である。エンカレッジ・スクールは、学校がきらいで、勉強しない子どもたちのために作られた。たとえば、エンカレッジ・スクールの一つ、桜台高校では期末テストがない。ホームルームは二人の先生が受け持っている。1クラス 20人ぐらいで、ふつうの高校より1クラスの人数が少ない。また、ふつうの高校では授業が 50分だが、桜台高校では 30分授業だ。「30分授業は、短いから集中して勉強できる」と、ここみんなに人気がある。それに、「[和太鼓](#)」や「[福祉ボランティア](#)」など、ふつうの高校にはない体験学習もできる。桜台高校はいろいろなことがふつうの高校とちがうようだ。先生たちもいっしょうけんめいにおうえんしている。すでにエンカレッジ・スクールの効果が上がっていることが報告されている。学校ぎらいの高校生をおうえんするために、エンカレッジ・スクールがこれからも全国にますます作られることを期待する。

According to the article, what is the benefit to students of attending the type of school described?

- They receive individual attention.
- Their teachers are highly qualified.
- They are well prepared for college.
- Their books and materials are provided by the school.

During the Reading part, selecting the **Review** option will allow you to review the status of each question.

CollegeBoard AP

Return ← Go to Question 🎯

Reading | Question 1 of 8 Show Time ⌚

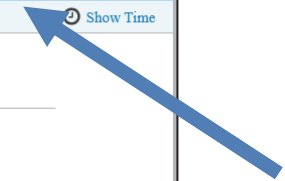
Review

This page presents information about questions in the current section. You may sort the questions by **Number**, **Status**, and **Marked**. The question you were on is selected and highlighted by default. Questions you have encountered have a status of **Answered** or **Not Answered**. Questions you have not encountered have a status of **Not Encountered**. Marked questions are indicated with a ✓.

To return to the question you were on, select **Return**. To go to a different question, select that question and select **Go to Question**. You will be unable to go to questions that have a status of **Not Encountered**.

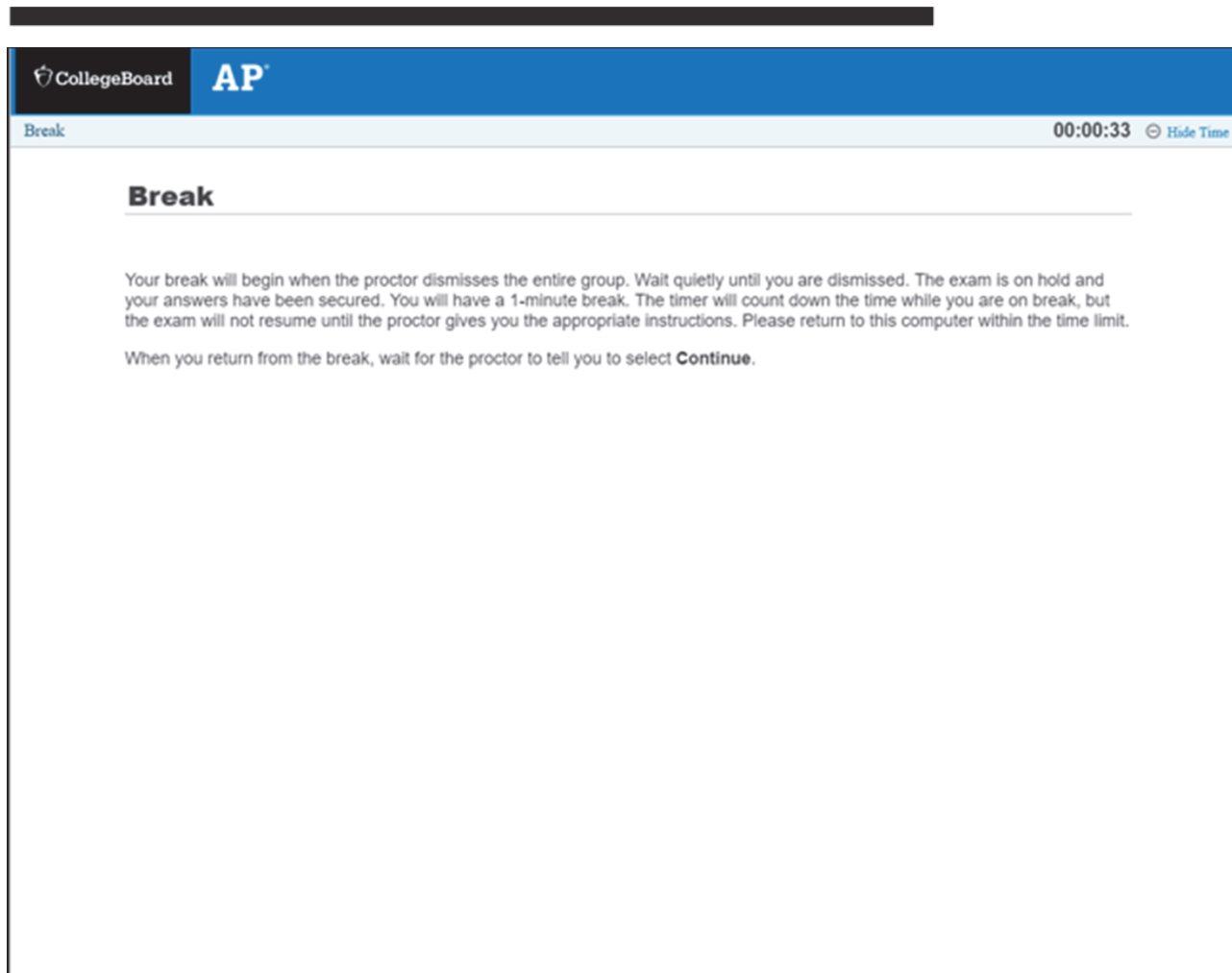
8 Questions Sorted by Number in Ascending Order

Question ^	Description	Status	Marked
1	According to the article, what is the benefit to students	Not Answered	
2	According to the article, what stands out about Sakuradai	Not Answered	
3	What does the article say about classes at Sakuradai High	Not Encountered	
4	The schools described in the article are intended for what	Not Encountered	
5	What does the writer suggest about the future of the schools	Not Encountered	
6	What should the students do before discussing the task?	Not Encountered	
7	Which of the following are students required to include in	Not Encountered	
8	The instructions advise the students to remember to	Not Encountered	



This is the **Review** screen, which allows you to check the status of each question.

Select **Return** to go back to the exam questions.



There will be a 10-minute break between the multiple-choice and free-response sections.

You must wait for the proctor's instructions before beginning the break.

After the break, you must wait for the proctor's instructions before resuming the exam.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo, 'AP' text, and three buttons: 'Exit Part', 'Help', and 'Continue'. Below the navigation bar, the word 'Writing' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Writing Part Directions' and contains the following text:

You will participate in a simulated exchange of text-chat messages and write an article.

The input method for typing Japanese text is the Google Japanese IME, which allows you to type in different modes. To produce hiragana (あ), type in romaji and select the Enter key. To convert a typed word to katakana (ア) or kanji, type in romaji and select the space bar, which displays a list of options for katakana and kanji. Choose the desired option by pointing and selecting with the mouse or by using the up/down arrows and selecting the Enter key. If you need to produce English letters, such as "ATM", select and hold the Shift key while typing the letters, then select the Enter key. Releasing the Shift key returns you to the Japanese IME. Note that you should use English letters only in cases where they would normally be used in authentic Japanese writing. Do not use romaji or English as a substitute for words that should be written in Japanese.

For both tasks, you will have a specific amount of response time. A clock on the screen will indicate how much time is remaining.

When the response time has ended, you will proceed to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The free-response section begins with Part A: Writing.

During the Writing part, you may access the **Help** screens.

NOTE: The clock does not stop when viewing the **Help** screens. The more time you spend on **Help**, the less time you have to answer questions.

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Testing Tools How to Answer How to Scroll General Directions Part Directions Question Directions Show

Writing Tools Information

Following is an overview of the writing tools and keyboard keys available to you during the exam. These tools and keys will help you write your essay.

Tools:

Cut—To delete something you have typed or cut it out in order to paste it elsewhere:

- select the text
- select **Cut**

Paste—To put text in a different location:

- select the text
- select **Cut**
- go to the spot where you want to place the text
- select **Paste**
- **Note:** You can only **Cut** and **Paste** within a response to a question, not between responses to different questions.

Undo—select **Undo** to reverse or cancel your last action. Each time you select **Undo**, it reverses one more action.

Redo—select **Redo** to reverse the action of the **Undo** command. Each time you select **Redo**, it reverses one more **Undo** command.

Character Count—select **Hide Character Count** to remove the character count. Select **Show Character Count** to show the character count.

Typing Mode—To produce hiragana (あ), type in romaji and select the **Enter** key. To convert a typed word to katakana (ア) or kanji, type in romaji and select the **space bar**, which displays a list of options for katakana and kanji. Choose the desired option by pointing and selecting with the mouse or by using the up/down arrows and selecting the **Enter** key. If you need to produce English letters, such as "ATM", select and hold the **Shift** key while typing the letters, then select the **Enter** key. Releasing the **Shift** key returns you to the Japanese IME.

This is an example of a **Help** screen.

Select **Return** to go back to the exam questions.

Writing Part Directions: Text Chat

You will participate in a simulated exchange of text-chat messages. Each time it is your turn to write, you will have 90 seconds to respond. You should respond as fully and as appropriately as possible.

There will be six times when it is your turn to write.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

CollegeBoard AP

Exit Part Help

Writing | Question 1 of 7 Show Time

Directions: You will participate in a simulated exchange of text-chat messages. The time you will have to write each response is indicated on the clock. You should respond as fully and as appropriately as possible.

You will have a conversation with Mariko Morimoto, a student in a Japanese school, about your future plans.

Respond.

それでは、よろしくお願いします。最初の質問です。大学を卒業してから、どんな仕事をしたいと考えていますか？

Cut Paste Undo Redo Hide Character Count 0

CollegeBoard AP

Exit Part Help Continue

Writing

Writing Part Directions: Compare and Contrast Article

You will be asked to write in Japanese for a specific purpose and for a specific audience. You should write in as complete a manner as possible, taking into account the purpose and the audience described.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Directions: In this task, you will be asked to write in Japanese for a specific purpose and to a specific audience. You should write in as complete and culturally appropriate a manner as possible, taking into account the purpose and the audience described.

You are writing an article for the student newspaper of your sister school in Japan. Write an article in which you compare and contrast learning Japanese and learning another subject. Based on your personal experience, describe at least THREE aspects of each and highlight the similarities and differences between learning Japanese and learning another subject. Also, state your preference and give reasons for it.

Your article should be 300 to 400 characters or longer. Use the *desu/masu* or *da* (plain) style, but use one style consistently. Also, use kanji wherever kanji from the AP Japanese kanji list is appropriate. The time you will have to write is indicated on the clock.

Cut Paste Undo Redo

Hide Character Count 0

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the CollegeBoard logo and 'AP' on the left, and 'Exit Part', 'Volume', and 'Continue' buttons on the right. Below the bar, the word 'Speaking' is displayed. The main content area is titled 'Speaking Part Directions' and contains the following text:

Speaking Part Directions

You will participate in a simulated conversation and make a presentation.

For the presentation, you will have a specific amount of preparation time. During the preparation time, a clock will show you how much time is remaining.

For both tasks, you will have a specific amount of response time. During the response time, a clock will show you how much time is remaining.

When the response time has ended, you will automatically go on to the next question. You cannot return to previous questions.

Your cue to start speaking will always be this tone.

Select **Continue** to go on.

The free-response section continues with Part B: Speaking.

Before beginning this part, you will perform another headset and microphone check.

You should record your responses at a normal speaking level.

Speaking

Speaking Part Directions: Conversation

You will participate in a simulated conversation. Each time it is your turn to speak, you will have 20 seconds to record. You should respond as fully and as appropriately as possible.

There will be four times when it is your turn to speak.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

Speaking | Question 2 of 5

Directions: You will participate in a simulated conversation. You will hear a series of 4 questions or statements; after each question or statement, you will hear a tone signifying that it is your turn to speak. You will have 20 seconds to record each response. You should respond as fully and as appropriately as possible. When you are ready to begin, select the Continue button.

You will have a conversation with Masao Yamada, a store manager, about a part-time job.

▶ Play 0:00 / 0:08
You may no longer play this audio.

RESPONSE TIME



00:00:01

Speaking Part Directions: Cultural Perspective Presentation

Imagine that you are making an oral presentation to your Japanese class. First, you will read and hear the topic for your presentation. You will have 4 minutes to prepare your presentation. Then you will have 2 minutes to record your presentation. Your presentation should be as full as possible.

You will now begin this part.

Select **Continue** to go on.

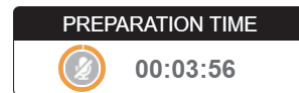
Directions: Imagine that you are making an oral presentation to your Japanese class. First, you will hear and read the topic for your presentation. The time you will have to prepare your presentation is indicated on the clock. You will then have 2 minutes to record your presentation. Your presentation should be as complete as possible.

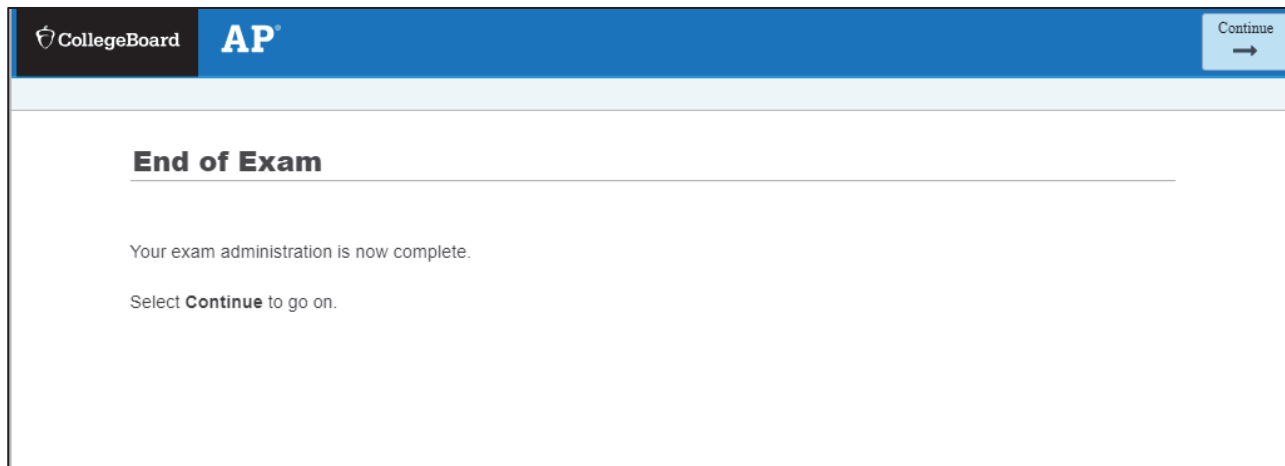
Present your own view or perspective on Japanese meal customs. Discuss at least FIVE aspects or examples of Japanese meal customs.

Begin with an appropriate introduction, give details, explain your own view or perspective, and end with a concluding remark.

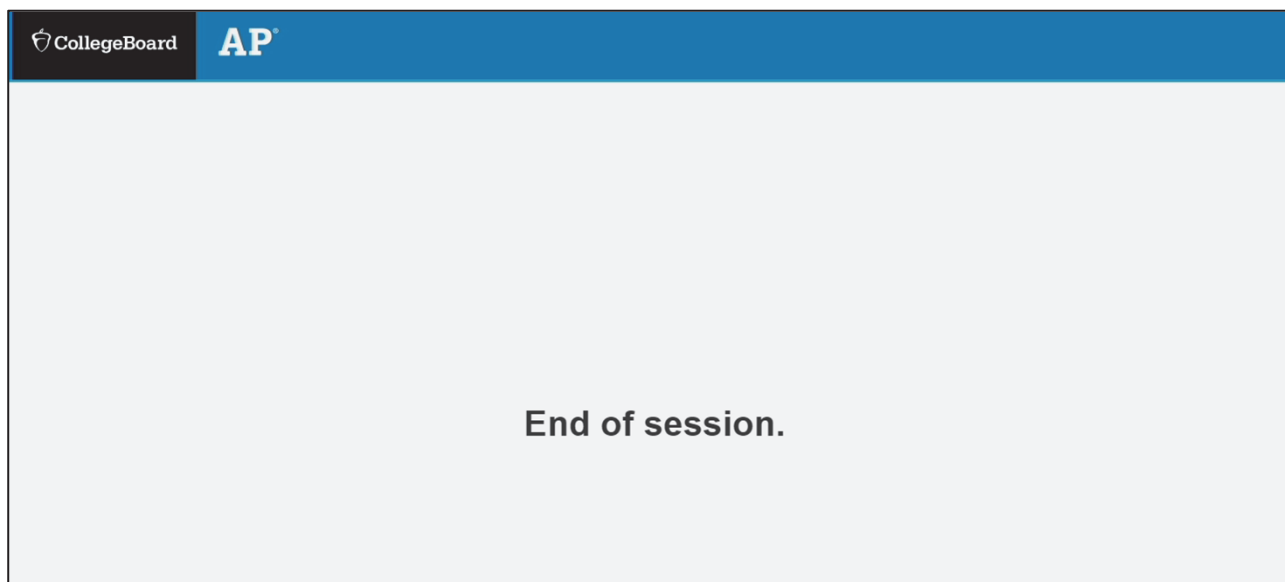


Preparation Time: 4 Minutes
Response Time: 2 Minutes





At the end of the exam, you'll click **Continue** on the **End of Exam** screen. Next, the **End of Session** screen will appear for a few seconds before the exam application closes.



After the exam, do not touch the computer.

Sit quietly and wait for the proctor to dismiss all students at the same time.

If you'd like more information about the AP Japanese Language and Culture Exam or the AP Exam administration, refer to the following resources:

- The AP coordinator of the school where you will be testing can provide you with more information about the exam schedule, what to bring on exam day, and any pre-exam-day activities.
- Visit the AP Japanese Language and Culture pages at apstudents.org/courses to see the complete course description as well as free-response questions and scoring guidelines from last year's exam.
- Read the AP Exam Terms and Conditions at cb.org/apexamterms.