

2026



AP[®] Japanese Language and Culture

Scoring Guidelines

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Question 1: Text Chat

6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in interpersonal writing	Suggests lack of competence in interpersonal writing	Suggests emerging competence in interpersonal writing	Demonstrates competence in interpersonal writing	Suggests emerging excellence in interpersonal writing	Demonstrates excellence in interpersonal writing
TASK COMPLETION	Addresses prompt minimally or marginally	Directly addresses prompt and provides an appropriate but incomplete answer	Directly addresses prompt and provides a basic but appropriate answer	Directly addresses prompt and provides an appropriate response	Directly addresses prompt and provides a thorough and appropriate response; may include elaboration and detail	Directly addresses prompt and provides a very thorough and appropriate response; includes elaboration and detail
DELIVERY	- Labored expression constantly interferes with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics very frequent or significantly interfere with readability - Constant use of register and style inappropriate to situation	- Labored expression frequently interferes with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics frequent or interfere with readability - Frequent use of register and style inappropriate to situation	- Strained or unnatural flow of expression sometimes interferes with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics may be frequent or interfere with readability - Use of register and style appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	- Strained or unnatural flow of expression does not interfere with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics do not interfere with readability - May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation	- Generally exhibits ease of expression - Infrequent or insignificant errors in orthography and mechanics - Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	- Natural, easily flowing expression - Orthography and mechanics virtually error free - Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation
LANGUAGE USE	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms constantly interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures significantly interferes with comprehensibility or results in very fragmented language	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms frequently interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures frequently interferes with comprehensibility or results in fragmented language	- Some inappropriate vocabulary and idioms interfere with comprehensibility - Errors in grammatical and syntactic structures sometimes interfere with comprehensibility	- Appropriate but limited vocabulary and idioms - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, but with several errors in complex structures or limited to simple structures	- Variety of vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, with sporadic errors in complex structures	- Rich vocabulary and idioms - Excellent use of grammar and syntax, with minimal or no errors

Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE - Contains nothing that earns credit

- Mere restatement of the prompt
 - Clearly does not respond to the prompt
 - “I don’t understand,” “Please repeat,” or equivalent in Japanese
 - Not in Japanese
-

Question 2: Compare and Contrast Article

6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in presentational writing	Suggests lack of competence in presentational writing	Suggests emerging competence in presentational writing	Demonstrates competence in presentational writing	Suggests emerging excellence in presentational writing	Demonstrates excellence in presentational writing
TASK COMPLETION	- Article addresses prompt only minimally - Lacks organization and coherence	- Article addresses topic only marginally or addresses only some aspects of prompt - Scattered information generally lacks organization and coherence; minimal or no use of transitional elements and cohesive devices	- Article addresses topic directly but may not address all aspects of prompt - Portions may lack organization or coherence; infrequent use of transitional elements and cohesive devices	- Article addresses all aspects of prompt, including expression of preference and reasoning, but may lack detail or elaboration - Generally organized and coherent; use of transitional elements and cohesive devices may be inconsistent	- Article addresses all aspects of prompt, including expression of preference and reasoning - Well organized and coherent, with a progression of ideas that is generally clear; some use of transitional elements and cohesive devices	- Article addresses all aspects of prompt with thoroughness and detail, including expression of preference and reasoning - Well organized and coherent, with a clear progression of ideas; use of appropriate transitional elements and cohesive devices
DELIVERY	- Labored expression constantly interferes with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics very frequent or significantly interfere with readability - Minimal use of kanji according to AP Japanese kanji list - Constant use of register and style inappropriate to situation	- Labored expression frequently interferes with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics frequent or interfere with readability - Frequent mistakes in use of kanji according to AP Japanese kanji list - Frequent use of register and style inappropriate to situation	- Strained or unnatural flow of expression sometimes interferes with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics may be frequent or interfere with readability - May include frequent mistakes in use of kanji according to AP Japanese kanji list - Use of register and style appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	- Strained or unnatural flow of expression does not interfere with comprehensibility - Errors in orthography and mechanics do not interfere with readability - May include several mistakes in use of kanji according to AP Japanese kanji list - May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation	- Generally exhibits ease of expression - Infrequent or insignificant errors in orthography and mechanics - Occasional mistakes in use of kanji according to AP Japanese kanji list - Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	- Natural, easily flowing expression - Orthography and mechanics virtually error free - Virtually no mistakes in use of kanji according to AP Japanese kanji list - Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation
LANGUAGE USE	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms constantly interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures significantly interferes with comprehensibility or results in very fragmented language	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms frequently interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures frequently interferes with comprehensibility or results in fragmented language	- Some inappropriate vocabulary and idioms interfere with comprehensibility - Errors in grammatical and syntactic structures sometimes interfere with comprehensibility	- Appropriate but limited vocabulary and idioms - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, but with several errors in complex structures or limited to simple structures	- Variety of vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, with sporadic errors in complex structures	- Rich vocabulary and idioms - Variety of appropriate grammatical and syntactic structures, with minimal or no errors

Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE - Contains nothing that earns credit

- Mere restatement of the prompt
 - Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
 - “I don’t understand,” “Please repeat,” or equivalent in Japanese
 - Not in Japanese
-

Question 3: Conversation

6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in interpersonal speaking	Suggests lack of competence in interpersonal speaking	Suggests emerging competence in interpersonal speaking	Demonstrates competence in interpersonal speaking	Suggests emerging excellence in interpersonal speaking	Demonstrates excellence in interpersonal speaking
TASK COMPLETION	Addresses prompt minimally or marginally	Directly addresses prompt and provides an appropriate but incomplete answer	Directly addresses prompt and provides a basic but appropriate answer	Directly addresses prompt and provides an appropriate response	Directly addresses prompt and provides a thorough and appropriate response; may include elaboration and detail	Directly addresses prompt and provides a very thorough and appropriate response; includes elaboration and detail
DELIVERY	- Labored expression constantly interferes with comprehensibility - Constant hesitation or repetition - Frequent errors in pronunciation necessitate intense listener effort - Constant use of register and style inappropriate to situation	- Labored expression frequently interferes with comprehensibility - Frequent hesitation or repetition - Frequent errors in pronunciation necessitate constant listener effort - Frequent use of register and style inappropriate to situation	- Strained or unnatural flow of expression sometimes interferes with comprehensibility - Inconsistent pace marked by some hesitation or repetition - Errors in pronunciation sometimes necessitate special listener effort - Use of register and style appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	- Strained or unnatural flow of expression does not interfere with comprehensibility - Generally consistent pace with some unnatural hesitation or repetition - Errors in pronunciation do not necessitate special listener effort - May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation	- Generally exhibits ease of expression - Smooth pace with occasional hesitation or repetition, which does not distract from the message - Infrequent or insignificant errors in pronunciation - Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	- Natural, easily flowing expression - Natural pace with minimal hesitation or repetition - Pronunciation virtually error free - Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation

	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
LANGUAGE USE	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms constantly interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures significantly interferes with comprehensibility or results in very fragmented language	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms frequently interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures frequently interferes with comprehensibility or results in fragmented language	- Some inappropriate vocabulary and idioms interfere with comprehensibility - Errors in grammatical and syntactic structures sometimes interfere with comprehensibility	- Appropriate but limited vocabulary and idioms - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, but with several errors in complex structures or limited to simple structures	- Variety of vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, with sporadic errors in complex structures	- Rich vocabulary and idioms - Excellent use of grammar and syntax, with minimal or no errors
	Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE - Contains nothing that earns credit - Mere restatement of the prompt - Clearly does not respond to the prompt “I don’t understand,” “Please repeat,” or equivalent in Japanese - Not in Japanese					

Question 4: Cultural Perspective Presentation

6 points

General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
	Demonstrates lack of competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge	Suggests lack of competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge	Suggests emerging competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge	Demonstrates competence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge	Suggests emerging excellence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge	Demonstrates excellence in presentational speaking and cultural knowledge
TASK COMPLETION	• Presentation addresses prompt only minimally • Lacks organization and coherence • Cultural information almost entirely inaccurate or missing	• Presentation addresses topic only marginally or addresses only some aspects of prompt • Scattered information generally lacks organization and coherence; minimal or no use of transitional elements and cohesive devices • Cultural information has frequent or significant inaccuracies	• Presentation addresses topic directly but may not address all aspects of prompt • Portions may lack organization or coherence; infrequent use of transitional elements and cohesive devices • Cultural information may have several inaccuracies	• Presentation addresses almost all aspects of prompt, including explanation of view or perspective, but may lack detail or elaboration • Generally organized and coherent; use of transitional elements and cohesive devices may be inconsistent • Generally correct cultural information with some inaccuracies	• Presentation addresses all aspects of prompt, including explanation of view or perspective • Well organized and coherent, with a progression of ideas that is generally clear; some use of transitional elements and cohesive devices • Minimal errors in cultural information	• Presentation addresses all aspects of prompt with thoroughness and detail, including explanation of view or perspective • Well organized and coherent, with a clear progression of ideas; use of appropriate transitional elements and cohesive devices • Cultural information is accurate and detailed
DELIVERY	• Labored expression constantly interferes with comprehensibility • Constant hesitation or repetition • Frequent errors in pronunciation necessitate intense listener effort • Constant use of register and style inappropriate to situation	• Labored expression frequently interferes with comprehensibility • Frequent hesitation or repetition • Frequent errors in pronunciation necessitate constant listener effort • Frequent use of register and style inappropriate to situation	• Strained or unnatural flow of expression sometimes interferes with comprehensibility • Inconsistent pace marked by some hesitation or repetition • Errors in pronunciation sometimes necessitate special listener effort • Use of register and style appropriate to situation is inconsistent or includes many errors	• Strained or unnatural flow of expression does not interfere with comprehensibility • Generally consistent pace with some unnatural hesitation or repetition • Errors in pronunciation do not necessitate special listener effort • May include several lapses in otherwise consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation	• Generally exhibits ease of expression • Smooth pace with occasional hesitation or repetition, which does not distract from the message • Infrequent or insignificant errors in pronunciation • Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation except for occasional lapses	• Natural, easily flowing expression • Natural pace with minimal hesitation or repetition • Pronunciation virtually error free • Consistent use of register and style appropriate to situation

	1 Very weak	2 Weak	3 Adequate	4 Good	5 Very good	6 Excellent
LANGUAGE USE	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms constantly interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures significantly interferes with comprehensibility or results in very fragmented language	- Insufficient, inappropriate vocabulary and idioms frequently interfere with comprehensibility - Limited control of grammatical and syntactic structures frequently interferes with comprehensibility or results in fragmented language	- Some inappropriate vocabulary and idioms interfere with comprehensibility - Errors in grammatical and syntactic structures sometimes interfere with comprehensibility	- Appropriate but limited vocabulary and idioms - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, but with several errors in complex structures or limited to simple structures	- Variety of vocabulary and idioms, with sporadic errors - Appropriate use of grammatical and syntactic structures, with sporadic errors in complex structures	- Rich vocabulary and idioms - Variety of appropriate grammatical and syntactic structures, with minimal or no errors
Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE Contains nothing that earns credit - Mere restatement of the prompt - Clearly does not respond to the prompt “I don’t understand,” “Please repeat,” or equivalent in Japanese - Not in Japanese						