

Examiners' Report
June 2012

GCSE Japanese 5JA04 01

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Introduction

The format of the 2012 paper was similar to that of the 2011 paper. This meant that candidates were very familiar with the layout of the paper and requirements of the questions and seemed to have no particular difficulties in producing two pieces of writing. In Section A, question 1(a) which was about the film, and question 1(c) which was about the Olympics were equally popular. For question 1(d), writing to a friend with advice about studying languages, was popular amongst native speaker candidates. In Section B, question 2(b) which was about going on holiday was overwhelmingly popular. Candidates generally demonstrated their ability to write in Japanese using a variety of sentence patterns and grammatical structures. The strongest candidates were able to use hiragana, katakana and kanji correctly. Candidates seem to find katakana more difficult, and they should be encouraged to practice the correct use of the various scripts.

Question 1 (a)

Writing about a film was a popular question, although many candidates left lots of details in English (name of film, name of actor, name of director etc.) and / or failing to transcribe these properly into katakana. A lot of candidates wrote about why they enjoyed a trip to the cinema, rather than why they enjoyed the film, which is subtly different. Whilst credit was given for what candidates had written, those aiming for the highest marks need to avoid just writing something which is pre-learnt, without first making sure that it is relevant.

This was awarded 6 marks for both "Communication and Content" and "Knowledge and Application of Language".

Start here
↓

Answer space for Section A (short writing task)

し	て	い	ま	あ	こ	好	す	す	ラ	ホ	し	土
た	、	と	し	と	ろ	き	か	。	い	ラ	た	曜
。	き	い	た	、	す	で	ら	お	映	い	。	日
	れ	を	。	レ	が	し	、	も	画	映	と	に
	い	飲	ピ	ス	あ	た	ホ	し	の	画	も	楽
	な	み	ザ	ト	リ	。	ラ	ろ	名	を	だ	し
	う	ま	を	ラ	ま	ホ	い	い	前	見	ち	い
	ち	し	食	ン	し	ラ	映	と	は	ま	と	日
	に	た	べ	に	た	い	画	。	死	し	映	が
	帰	。	て	食	。	映	の	わ	メ	た	画	あ
	り	そ	、	じ	そ	画	が	い	モ	。	館	り
	ま	し	コ	し	の	の	大	で	で	ホ	で	ま



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate is writing on topic. The first bullet point (name of the film and details) has been clearly addressed. The second bullet point is weaker, in that the candidate seems to be saying that they enjoyed the film because it was a horror film (it had a killing scene) and they enjoy horror films. The last 4 lines of the response are fairly typical of responses to this question - they are not directly relevant to the question, but presumably the candidate felt comfortable writing this as it was familiar language. In terms of the "Communication and Content" criterion "most of the task is completed with some omissions", "begins to expand ideas" (おもしろいとこわい), "begins to express opinions" (大好きでした), "some attempt to link piece into a whole" (そのあと、そして) The quality of language is good, with good use of kanji, particles, basic sentence structure and accuracy. Thus it was awarded a 6 "adequate but predictable range of vocabulary and structures". However, there are few harder grammatical structures (one から and one te form), so it was not awarded the 7 / 8 "some attempt to use ambitious structures with a fair measure of success".



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Write in paragraphs, indenting one square each time you start a new paragraph.

A range of grammatical structures should be included.

Question 1 (b)

This question was not very popular. Candidates who attempted this question were able to write about where they had visited in Japan, and what they had seen. However, some candidates found it hard to express why they thought having a rail pass was a good idea.

Question 1 (c)

This was a popular question. Many candidates were able to write in detail about the events they planned to see, including some details about why they liked that sport or who their favourite athlete is. They were also able to express how they felt about the Olympics coming to London - some candidates said they were excited, whilst others said London would be too crowded - any opinion was accepted.

This was awarded full marks for both "Communication and Content" and "Knowledge and Application of Language".

Answer space for Section A (short writing task) - (continued)

									ま	国	手	界	こ
									ま	の	を	の	も
									ま	フ	見	一	重
									す	ア	る	番	要
									。	ン	こ	上	だ
										を	と	手	と
										な	が	な	思
										る	で	ス	ひ
										こ	き	ポ	ま
										と	ま	ー	す
										が	す	ン	。
										で	。	選	世

Answer space for Section A (short writing task)

Start here



	せ	が	時	ト	今	グ	き		切	行	ピ	
私	ん。		々	ー	、	ジ	ゃ	夏	符	き	ッ	今
は		よ		チ	毎	ャ	う	休	を	ま	ク	年
オ		く	有	ユ	日	ン	そ	み	買	せ	ス	は
リ		ラ	名	リ	朝	プ	う		い	ん。	で	ロ
ニ		ニ	な	ー	ご	を	を	一	ま	も	す	ン
ピ		ナ	人	し	飯	見	見	百	し	う	か	ド
ッ		ー	が	し	の	た	た	メ	た	二	ら	ン
ク		を	走	し	後	り	り	ト		ニ		の
ス		知	り	を	で	しま	ま	ト		三	外	オ
は		り	ま	見	、	す	す	ル		枚	国	リ
と		ま	す	ま	、			の		へ	へ	ン



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Examiner Comments

This answer has been clearly set out in paragraphs using a good range of kanji. There is a range of tenses and harder grammatical structures such as もう、たり、たり、と思います and ことができます. The writing is very accurate.

This was awarded 4 marks for both "Communication and Content" and "Knowledge and Application of Language".

Answer space for Section A (short writing task)

Start here
↓

	オ	を	見	に	ら	オ	が	と	+	じ	ご	
	リ	テ	る	う	あ	リ	ち	こ	フ	っ	す	こ
	ー	レ	あ	う	っ	ー	よ	も	ゆ	よ	。	じ
	ブ	ビ	り	は	り	ブ	こ	ご	で	び	+	は
	め	で	ま	目	よ	め	こ	ご	あ	に	大	ち
	見	あ	あ	と	く	は	こ	ご	。	ロ	世	は
	る	。	。	ち	ご	こ	わ	ご	オ	リ	い	私
	で	ラ	オ	ち	あ	わ	が	。	リ	ド	ご	わ
	す	ソ	リ	て	。	が	ら	。	ー	ー	あ	ワ
	。	ナ	ー	テ	土	ら	す	る	ブ	は	。	リ
		ー	ブ	レ	曜	す	ご	ご	め	は	る	ッ
		は	め	ビ	日	か	あ	あ	は	リ	。	ッ
												ー



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Examiner Comments

There is quite a lot of material here that does not communicate clearly, but the main points are: the Olympics are exciting but a bit frightening (lines 5 - 6, second bullet point) and they are going to watch the runners on television (last 3 lines, first bullet point). So this response covers the criterion "main points conveyed", "some ambiguity", "no description". In terms of Knowledge and Application of Language, this response covers "language is basic and sometimes inappropriate", "many mistakes", "limited range of structures".

Question 1 (d)

This question was not very popular amongst taught candidates. It would appear that most candidates who attempted this question were native speakers and gave good responses, including a range of strategies for learning languages, quite often based upon their own experiences.

Question 2 (a)

This question was reasonably popular, and the candidates who chose it were able to write both about the band they play in (name, numbers involved, type of music, the instrument they play etc.) and a recent concert. As with the other questions, some candidates found it difficult giving reasons as to why they enjoy being in the group.

Question 2 (b)

This was the most popular question. Candidates were generally very good at narrating the story of, and describing, a recent holiday, and were able to provide some reasons as to why they had enjoyed it. Some candidates found it difficult to make comments of a more general nature about where they like to go on holiday. Sometimes the two parts of the answer did not tie up for example, some candidates said they liked going on holiday at the beach, and then described their trip all around Japan. Some answers described two or three different holidays, which meant that there were not enough details provided about any one of the holidays. Candidates should be encouraged to read the question very carefully, and structure their answer to cover the specific points required.

This response has been included as an example of a candidate who scored high marks for Communication and Content.

Start here ↓

Answer space for Section B (longer writing task)

楽	又	に	く	楽	あ	さ	か	く	あ	こ	を	私
し	海	モ	が	し	り	ん	ん	さ	り	も	ま	の
び	に	リ	大	い	ま	か	こ	ん	ま	は	す	一
で	行	ッ	×	で	す	の	う	か	す	れ	。	ば
し	き	ヤ	好	す	。	ど	ぎ	ん	。	×	そ	ん
に	ま	ス	で	か	か	う	よ	こ	そ	と	れ	り
。	し	の	す	ら	へ	と	う	う	の	か	か	よ
ソ	に	ソ	。	’	こ	×	。	き	×	ぜ	ら	行
ン	。	ソ	先	海	く	食	海	ゃ	後	の	’	は
ッ	と	ッ	の	に	っ	べ	で	く	海	天	海	海
ヤ	て	ヤ	七	行	て	物	に	×	で	気	で	に
イ	も	イ	月	×	’	が	ん	と	た	が	と	行



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This first page is addressing the first point - where you like going on holiday and why (the last 4 lines start on the next point about a recent holiday). The candidate has managed to communicate that they like going to the sea because the weather is sunny and windy; there are lots of tourists there; there are many activities and foods; and it is attractive / fun so they like going to the beach. This level of detail, expansion and opinion would be given a high mark for "Communication and Content"

This answer was awarded 6 marks for Communication and Content, 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language" and 2 marks for Accuracy.

Answer space for Section B (longer writing task)

Start here ↓

			の		○	が	ま	田	に	ま	(は)	お
			間	せ	田	そ	ま	舎	い	ぼ	ん	早
			に	い	舎	く	す		き	く	ち	う
				じ	に	し	ま	の	ま	わ	す	ご
			ほ	く		し	ま	ほ	ま		み	ご
			お	で	い	こ	○	を	し	ス	は	い
			も	す	き	に	や	こ	た	ッ		ま
			ん	○	ま		す	の	○	ま	冬	す
			ま	じ	す	い	み	む	ほ	ト	ち	○
			ま	ん	ま	き			く	ウ	す	
			し	じ	が	ま	ま	い	は	ン	み	い
			た		う	す	Insert here	き		ド	○	ち



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

For "Communication and Content", the answer is clearly short, with no description and minimal opinions (のほうを好む). It is not easy to read, but the main points have been communicated e.g. the candidate went on holiday to Scotland and visited temples: s/he prefers holidays in the countryside because it is quiet. For "Knowledge and Application of Language" 4 marks were awarded because the language is basic, with predominantly short sentences. However, the candidate does know that the verb needs to go at the end and has written some kanji and katakana. For 'Accuracy' 2 marks were awarded because there are many basic errors, misspellings and incorrect verb forms however, some pre-learnt phrases (おはようございます、スコットランドにいきました) are correct.

Answer space for Section B (longer writing task)

Start here



し	と	ド		か	と	う		こ	で	う	き	
た	と	ソ	私	ら	し	を	私	う	す	み	で	私
	も	で	の	か	も	こ	は	す		で	す	は
私	は	り	前	そ	す	と	も	ま	私	か		り
は	し	よ	の	く	か	が	も	す	は	ぞ	私	よ
こ	は	う	り	と	は	す	だ		す	く	は	こ
と	や	し	よ	す	ま	ま	ち		い	と	は	う
が	う	ん	こ	ず	も	で	と		え	こ	り	を
す	か	と	う	す	田		リ		い	と	よ	こ
き	ん	い	を	ず	舎		よ		と	が	う	と
で	ま	も	ロ		で	私	う		リ	す	こ	か
す	え	う	ン		す	も	こ		よ	き	を	す



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Examiner Comments

By setting the work out in paragraphs, this candidate has made it clear to the examiner exactly where the various parts of the question are being addressed. The first two paragraphs deal with “explain where you like going on holiday and why” to which the candidate has given a clear answer in the first paragraph: going to the sea with their family because they like swimming. The second paragraph seems to go off on a slightly different tack, and might have been awarded more marks if the candidate had stayed on the same thought as in the first paragraph and expanded it further. The next 3 paragraphs deal with a recent holiday - in each paragraph details about the holiday are given, and some simple opinions are expressed. Hence “most of the task is completed”, “comprehensible overall”, “begins to expand ideas and express opinions”. The “Knowledge and Application of Language” was awarded 7 marks, because there are some attempts to use ambitious structures with a fair measure of success e.g. おもしろくて、かってあげました、ことがすきです. 3 marks were awarded for accuracy because there are a fair number of errors made but communication overall is unaffected.



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Examiner Tip

Work should be set out in logical paragraphs and kanji should be used.

Question 2c

The name of the sports personality (and sometimes their club and/or event) produced quite a few problems with transcription into katakana. Candidates tended to write about their own favourite sport, the days of the week they practice, a recent match they had played in etc. rather than about the famous sports personality. The most common reason for fund raising was for the tsunami stricken areas of Japan and this was usually communicated reasonably clearly.

Question 2d

This question was mainly popular with native speakers of Japanese, with many interesting products. Candidates were in general good at describing their product and its special points, but were not as good at giving an example of how they had recently used the product. Candidates did need to answer all three parts of the question to score the highest marks for "Communication and Content".

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are advised to:

- Read the question very carefully and answer the specific questions that are asked. For example, give details, give your opinion, and give your reason. Candidates who reproduce an essay they have previously written, will not get top marks for content, as they have not addressed the specific points raised in the question.
- Organise ideas, and set out their work in paragraphs. Usually the question gives a good idea of how the answer could be organised - one possible way to guide candidates would be to say "Write a paragraph about each point asked in the question".
- Use 原稿用紙 correctly.
- Be aware of dictionary induced errors - for example simply copying out ときどきさせる when the word "exciting" had been looked up. Candidates seem to be thinking in English i.e. "It is exciting" and therefore tend to write ときどきさせるです。
- Always answer both questions.

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