第十八回日本語コンテスト

18th ANNUAL

**JAPANESE LANGUAGE CONTEST**

**High School Level 3/4 and College Level Quiz Bowl information**

The Quiz Bowl is a team event. Teams must consist of two (minimum) or four (maximum) students. The Quiz Bowl will contain trivia questions about Japan. Most questions and answers will be in English, although some questions may require knowledge of and use of Japanese words or phrases.

The categories from which the questions will be chosen are listed below. These categories are broad and are meant to encourage students to expand their knowledge of Japan.

**There will be 3 rounds of questions.**

**Round 1** will consist of basic or general knowledge questions. They will be worth **1 pt. each.**

Topics are:

 (a) **History**,

 (b)**Traditional/Popular Arts and Culture**,

 (c) **Geography**,

 (d) **Society and Daily Life**

**Rounds 2 & 3** topics include Round 1 Topics plus **Food, Transportation, Government, Current Events, and Folklore.** These questions will require a deeper knowledge of Japanese topics. Material for all questions will come from the following websites:

 <http://webjapan.org/>,

<http://www.allinJapan.org>

and the Japan Bowl Study Guide: <http://www.jaswdc.org/Resources/Documents/2016%20National%20Japan%20Bowl%20Study%20Guide.pdf>

Correct answers to questions in Rounds 2 & 3 will earn 2 pts and 3 pts depending on difficulty.

The judges will be provided with the questions and “anticipated” answers.

Here is a sample question:

***Q: Following the release of his film “The Wind Also Rises” , what did director***

***Hayao Miyazaki announce?***

**A: “His retirement”**

The judges may accept other answers e.g. “That this would be his final film.” etc.

Here are sample questions for Round 1: This list is only a sample.

**Sample Round 1 Questions and Answers (1 pt each)**

**History**

Where was Japan’s capital before Tokyo? Kyoto

What was the former name of Tokyo? Edo

Name the temple where the oldest surviving wooden structure

 in the world is located. Horyuji

When Nara served as nation’s capital starting in 794, what was it called? Heijokyo

What code of honor and conduct did the samurai follow? Bushido

In the film, “The Last Samurai,” Ken Watanabe plays a warrior caught

between the ways of the old and the new. Which emperor proclaimed a restoration to bring modernization to Japan in this period? Meiji

**Traditional /Popular Arts andCulture**

What is the art of arranging flowers called? Ikebana

Which country are both bonsai and ikebana said to originate? China

In contemporary Japan, the roles in kabuki are performed by which gender? Men

What Japanese movie monster was awakened by nuclear testing? Godzilla

What does the red circle on the Japanese flag represent? The sun

What are shakuhachi and shamisen? Traditional Musical instruments

What fruit comes floating down the river in the folk tale “Momotaro”? A peach

What type of bird is a popular form in origami? Tsuru/crane

**Geography/Govt**

How is the prime minister of Japan elected? Indirect election

* What is the Emperor’s role in the Japanese political system?

Since 1946, the Emperor has been a symbol of the state; he has no executive power

* What is the name of the largest of Japan’s four main islands? Honshuu

What is special about the Shinano River? It’s the longest river in Japan

Which famous mountain is located in Shizuoka? Mt. Fuji

What type of sauce is thought to have originated in Wakayama? Soy sauce

What type of agriculture is most strongly associated with Hokkaido? Dairy Farming

Name one of the two prefectures that house a WWII Peace Memorial Museum. Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Which direction do Japanese typhoons turn-clockwise or counter-clockwise? Counter-clockwise

Which prefecture boasts the longest life expectancy for women in Japan? Okinawa

Are there any active volcanoes in Gunma Prefecture? Yes

What is the largest lake in Japan? Lake Biwa

Name the airport located closest to the center of Tokyo? Haneda

**Society and daily life**

What is the key ingredient in the beloved Osaka snack food takoyaki? Octopus

What animal roams freely in a park in Nara? Deer

What kind of plating covers Kinkaku-ji Temple? Gold

What did Fukuoka Jogakuin Girls’ High School adopt in 1921 that is still

a part of the schoolgirl image? The sailor-girl uniforms

The US has 127 of them, Japan has 128 of them; what are they? Annual Holidays

Who is celebrated at the Shichi-go-san festival? Boys who are 3 and 5,

 and girls who are 3 and 7

What leisure activity involves singing to an instrumental

accompaniment? Karaoke

What popular musical genre tends to be sentimental, bittersweet, and nostalgic? Enka

The Itsukushima Jinja is associated with what belief system? Shinto

What is the name for traditional Japanese clothing? Wafuku

What is the Japanese word for a type of traditional wooden footwear? Geta

What is the green paste that is often eaten with sashimi or sushi? Wasabi

Which animal has breeds bearing the names of places, such as Akita, Tosa, and Kishu? Dog

What is the currency of Japan? Yen

What do you normally remove before entering a Japanese house? Your shoes

What is the fastest train in Japan called (in Japanese)? Shinkansen

How old must you be to get your driver’s license in Japan? 18

When is Coming of Age Day? The second Monday in January

Do Japanese wash themselves inside or outside of the bathtub? Outside