

INFORMATION ON THE JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test)

A) What is the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test)?

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) under joint organization of the Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (previously Association of International Education, Japan) started in 1984 as a test to measure and certify the Japanese-language proficiency of those whose native language is not Japanese.

B) How many different levels of the test are offered?

The JLPT has five levels: N1, N2, N3, N4 and N5. The easiest level is N5 and the most difficult level is N1.

N5= The ability to understand some basic Japanese.

N4= The ability to understand basic Japanese.

N3= The ability to understand Japanese used in everyday situations to a certain degree.

N2= The ability to understand Japanese used in everyday situations, and in a variety of circumstances to a certain degree.

N1= (most difficult level) The ability to understand Japanese used in a variety of circumstances.

C) What areas are included in the test?

All levels include language knowledge including vocabulary and grammar, reading (approx. 110 minutes) and listening comprehension (approx. 60 mins.).

D) Who can take the JLPT?

The JLPT is open to all non-native Japanese speakers and there are no age restrictions however due to the content of the test it is advised that students be at least 12 years old.

E) Why should I take the JLPT?

JLPT certificates offer various advantages, ranging from recognition as academic credit and graduation certification at schools to preferential treatment at companies and acknowledgement of qualification in society. Employers often use the test for Japanese proficiency assessment and will ask what level of the JLPT a potential employee has achieved.

F) When and where can I take the JLPT?

JLPT is currently offered annually in Chicago in December, but there are many test locations and dates offered worldwide. Registration cut-off for the test however is usually by the end of September for a December test date.

G) How much does the test cost and where can I get more information regarding the JLPT?

2015 registration fees were \$60. Go to <http://www.jlpt.jp/e/about/index.html> for further info.