

Explanation for Self-Assessment of Japanese Language Skills

In Academic Year 2015, the JEP Kyoto Program (designed specifically for exchange students) was introduced at Ryukoku University.

The aim of this program is to make full use of the students' time in Japan to have many experiences inside and outside the classroom. Japanese language skills are improved through interaction with students from many countries, and a greater awareness of several societies and cultures other than one's own.

For this purpose, students will be asked to conduct interviews and surveys, and the observation of long-observed cultural events, such as the rich tradition of Kyoto festivals, is incorporated into the program.

Class Sample (JEP Kyoto3 Class)

Topic	Objectives	Activities
Travel and Transportation	When presenting about one's country and hometown, if there is adequate preparation ahead of time, can provide a somewhat detailed introduction about famous places, famous items, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn vocabulary and expressions to explain one's town, and to explain one's town and places one has been • Make a poster to introduce one's hometown
Emergency Situations	In the case of an accident or disaster, is able to understand an explanation or instructions if the speaker's accent is sharp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read an evacuation drill notice for information. Know important details at the time of evacuation. • Visit the Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Center and listen to the explanation and instructions.
Student Life	Understand how school circumstances differ according to country and region, and be able to express, to some extent, one's own detailed opinions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through texts, gain an understanding of education in Japan. • Read a pamphlet of Ryukoku University-affiliated Heian Junior /Senior High Schools and understand the contents. • Visit Ryukoku University-affiliated Heian Junior/Senior High School to observe a class and have a discussion with the instructors. • Give a presentation on one's findings from the visit.
Different Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If enough prior preparation is made, can provide a somewhat detailed speech about differences between Japan and one's home country, and things that have been surprising in Japan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the Gion Festival and watch the procession of Yamahoko floats. • Conduct an interview in the Fushimi Momoyama shopping arcade. • Provide a five-minute speech on the theme of cultural differences.

Furthermore, with the aim of broadening students' practical Japanese language skills, objectives are set and class activities carried out by using the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) "Can Do" system as a reference. Using this standardized system, students' Japanese language teachers at the home universities, as well as all other related individuals can share information about the students' Japanese language progress more easily. In addition, our curriculum is composed of specific classes which adhere to CEFR levels. Students in higher-level classes are eligible to enroll in regular faculty classes.

【Class Organization】

The JEP Kyoto Program (JEP-J Study course) is composed of classes which adhere to the CEFR framework in order for students to master their language skills. JEP-J is composed of five classes (JEP 2~ JEP 6). "Can Do" objectives are set in separate subjects focusing on Listening, Reading, Conversation, Expression, Writing, etc. Below is a chart which roughly indicates some of those objectives.

Can-Do Objective Examples (by Class)

Class	Target Level	Can-Do Objectives
JEP6	B2.2	Is able to fluently, accurately, and effectively use the language on a wide range of subjects. Communication is natural, using correct grammar and a level of politeness appropriate for the situation. An interview is smooth and effective, with questions adjusted to fit the other party, and an ability to draw out topics of great interest to the interviewee. The student is then able to write an article by summarizing the contents, selecting important points and including supplemental facts. Absorbs numerous points of view in order to gain a broader understanding of Japanese culture, one's own culture, and the home culture of other students.
JEP5	B2.1	Can converse fluently and naturally. Can emphasize points important to oneself, and can explain in detail related points, Can assert oneself by firmly explain the basis of one's own perspective. Regarding one's field of interest, can integrate many pieces of information from their source and present them as grounds for an argument. In an interview, asks questions relevant to the other party and can draw out various topics of interest. Can gather the main points and compose an article with the reader in mind. Absorbs numerous points of view in order to gain a broader understanding of Japanese culture, one's own culture, and the home culture of other students.
JEP4	B1.2	When conducting a questionnaire, puts together the results and is able to provide a simple presentation using graphs and data. Can put together a short article and speech, and state one's opinion. Is also able to answer detailed questions. Is able to find the information one needs from a variety of informational sites, etc. Is able to conduct an easy interview while confirming information and asking related questions, and can then put together the results and compose an article.
JEP3	B1.1	With preparation, is able to give a someone detailed presentation.

		<p>Is able to converse concretely about topics of interest.</p> <p>Is able to read and understand short and easy sentences. Can write short sentences about familiar content and topics of interest. Is able to understand and respect similarities and differences between one's own culture, that of Japan, and that of other countries.</p>
JEP2	A2.2	<p>Is able to understand regularly used sentences and expressions regarding topics directly related to oneself such as one's personal information, family information, shopping, one's neighborhood and work, etc. Can exchange information about short and regular, everyday matters. Can explain, with easy words, necessary information about one's background and daily circumstances.</p>
-	A2.1	<p>On short and familiar topics, is able to attain limited information by reading and listening. Is able to make a simple presentation and write a report with short sentences. Can converse and answer questions on simple, everyday topics.</p>

Class assignment is based on a placement test and interview. In the case that a student's level varies between practical skills, students may take a class in each according to their specific level (For example, level JEP 3 in Reading and level JEP 4 in Speaking). Furthermore, students who place in JEP 4 or above may opt to register for regular faculty classes (with Japanese students).