

The 15th Japanese Speech Contest in Ireland

Judging Criteria

General Section

1. Marking Criteria

(10 points each for content, grammar and questions, 20 points for expression, total 50 points)

Content (10 points)

9-10 points: Well structured, content is coherent, and arguments are developed extremely smoothly. The speaker engaged the audience throughout the speech.

7-8 points: Well structured, content is coherent, and arguments are developed smoothly. The speaker did not really engage the audience, but the contest was interesting nevertheless.

5-6 points: Somewhat problematic structure, content not entirely clear, but somehow arguments were developed. Did not sustain interest throughout because the content was a little hard to understand.

3-4 points: Considerable problems with structure, and arguments were not clearly put across. Arguments difficult to understand, so did not sustain interest.

0-2 points: Content was almost incomprehensible.

Expression (20 points)

17-20 points: Well-paced, good expression, natural intonation and pronunciation, speech is extremely fluent. Does not feel as if speech was learned by rote, speaker uses own language competently and knows how to engage with the audience.

13-16 points: A certain feeling of the speech having been learned by rote, but nevertheless the speech is well paced. Pronunciation is natural, but speaker does not know how to engage with the audience.

9-12 point: The speech gives the feeling that it has been learned by rote, but to a certain extent it is paced well. The speaker somewhat lacking in the ability to express himself and the pronunciation is awkward.

5-8 points: There is an unmistakable feeling that the speech has been learned by rote, and there is little feeling that the speaker is trying to put across what he wants to say.

0-4 points: The speaker has simply learned the text by heart and has no ability to express himself.

Grammar (10 points)

9-10 points: No obvious mistakes and complex grammatical structures are used correctly.

7-8 points: There are occasional mistakes, but complex grammatical structures are used correctly.

5-6 points: There are few basic mistakes, but some mistakes appear when complex grammatical structures are used.

3-4 points: Conspicuous mistakes are made in complex grammatical structures, but the meaning somehow still gets across.

0-2 points: There are so many mistakes that the meaning is hardly conveyed.

Questions and Answers (10 points)

9-10 points: The questions were understood correctly, and the answer was accurate, both in terms of content and grammar.

7-8 points: If a question was not understood, the repeated and rephrased version given by the judge was grasped correctly. There were some grammatical errors in the answers but the meaning was conveyed.

5-6 points: If a question was not understood, the judge repeated the question, and the speaker somehow got the gist of the question. Grammatical errors were conspicuous in the replies, but somehow the meaning was conveyed.

3-4 points: Some questions were not understood even when repeated and rephrased. Some answers were off the mark because the questions were not understood correctly.

0-2 points: The speaker could not understand the questions and could not answer them.

2. Scores/Ranking

Based on these criteria, each judge gives each contestant up to 50 points. The points awarded by all the judges are added up, and the total is the contestant's score. Contestants are ranked based on these scores. Should there be a tie between two contestants, or should any objections be raised by the judge/s, the final decision will rest with the chairperson of the panel.

Penalties are to be deducted should any of the following arise.

3. Penalties

Speech length: A penalty of 4 points is deducted from the contestant's score should the speech be more than one minute shorter than the set time (5-6 minutes), or if the speech is unduly long. The penalty may be more severe, at the judges' discretion, should the speech be extremely long or extremely short.

Script: Contestants are allowed to consult notes, but 12 points are deducted if a contestant reads a script verbatim.

Miscellaneous: A penalty of 8 points is deducted if a contestant forgets what he/she was going to say next, or if the contestant stops speaking. The chairperson of the panel may ask the contestant to start the speech again.

Secondary School (Leaving Certificate 2)
=2nd year of Japanese study or 6th year students

Speech length is the same as TY/LC1. Simple questions are asked.

(10 points each for content, grammar and questions, 20 points for expression, total 50 points)

1. Marking Criteria

Content (10 points)

9-10 points: Well structured, content is coherent, and arguments are developed extremely smoothly. The speaker engaged the audience throughout the speech.

7-8 points: Well structured, content is coherent, and arguments are developed smoothly. The speaker did not really engage the audience, but the content was interesting nevertheless.

5-6 points: Somewhat problematic structure, content not entirely clear, but somehow arguments were developed. Did not sustain interest throughout because the content was a little hard to understand.

3-4 points: Considerable problems with structure, and arguments were not clearly put across. Arguments difficult to understand, so did not sustain interest.

0-2 points: Content was almost incomprehensible.

Expression (20 points)

17-20 points: Well-paced, good expression, natural intonation and pronunciation, speech is extremely fluent. Does not feel as if speech was learned by rote, speaker uses own language competently and knows how to engage with the audience.

13-16 points: A certain feeling of the speech having been learned by rote, but nevertheless the speech is well paced. Pronunciation is natural, but speaker does not know how to engage with the audience.

9-12 point: The speech gives the feeling that it has been learned by rote, but to a certain extent it is paced well. The speaker somewhat lacking in the ability to express himself and the pronunciation is awkward.

5-8 points: There is an unmistakable feeling that the speech has been learned by rote, and there is little feeling that the speaker is trying to put across what he wants to say.

0-4 points: The speaker has simply learned the text by heart and has no ability to express himself.

Grammar (10 points)

9-10 points: No obvious mistakes and complex grammatical structures are used correctly.

7-8 points: There are occasional mistakes, but complex grammatical structures are used correctly.

5-6 points: There are few basic mistakes, but some mistakes appear when complex grammatical structures are used.

3-4 points: Conspicuous mistakes are made in complex grammatical structures, but the meaning somehow still gets across.

0-2 points: There are so many mistakes that the meaning is hardly conveyed.

Questions and Answers (10 points)

9-10 points: The questions were understood correctly, and the answer was accurate, both in terms of content and grammar.

7-8 points: If a question was not understood, the repeated and rephrased version given by the judge was grasped correctly. There were some grammatical errors in the answers but the meaning was conveyed.

5-6 points: If a question was not understood, the judge repeated the question, and the speaker somehow got the gist of the question. Grammatical errors were conspicuous in the replies, but somehow the meaning was conveyed.

3-4 points: Some questions were not understood even when repeated and rephrased. Some answers were off the mark because the questions were not understood correctly.

0-2 points: The speaker could not understand the questions and could not answer them.

2. Speech length

1½ - 2 minutes (no penalties for speech being longer or shorter than this)

3. Scores/Ranking

Based on these criteria, each judge gives each contestant up to 50 points. The points awarded by all the judges are added up, and the total is the contestant's score. Contestants are ranked based on these scores. Should there be a tie between two contestants, or should any objections be raised by the judge/s, the final decision will rest with the chairperson of the panel.

A penalty of 8 points is deducted if a contestant reads a script verbatim.

Secondary School (Transition Year/Leaving Certificate 1)
= 1st year of Japanese Study

1. Marking Criteria (10 points for content, expression, grammar)

Overall (10 points)

- 9-10 points: The speaker is able to put across information about him/herself confidently and coherently. There is an awareness of the listener, the content is unique and expressed adeptly, and the audience is engaged. The voice is audible and there are almost no grammatical errors.
- 7-8 points: The speaker is able to put across information about him/herself coherently. It is clear from the content that techniques are being used which show an awareness of the listener, but the expression is a little flat and somewhat lacking in interest. The pronunciation is clear and there are few grammatical errors.
- 5-6 points: The expression is formulaic, but the speaker is able to convey basic information about him/herself. The structure is generally solid, but techniques which show an awareness of the listener are not really employed. The pronunciation is generally clear and there are few grammatical errors.
- 3-4 points: The expression is formulaic but the speaker is somehow able to convey basic information about him/herself. However, there is no sign that the speaker is aware of the listener, and the structure lacks coherence. The pronunciation is at times unclear and there are grammatical errors.
- 0-2 points: The speaker is not able to convey basic information about his/herself. The voice is inaudible, the pronunciation is unclear and expression is poor. There are many grammatical errors

2. Speech length

1½ - 2 minutes (no penalties for speech being longer or shorter than this)

3. Scores/Ranking

Based on these criteria, each judge gives each contestant up to 40 points. The points awarded by all the judges are added up, and the total is the contestant's score. Contestants are ranked based on these scores. Should there be a tie between two contestants, the judges will confer if any objections are raised, and the final decision will rest with the chairperson of the panel.

A penalty of 6 points is deducted if a contestant reads a script verbatim.