



**December 2021
Test Guide
(U.S.A.)**

2021 年度(12 月)日本語能力試験
受験案内(アメリカ)

[IMPORTANT NOTICES Regarding the JLPT and the COVID-19 Pandemic]

Applications

- The JLPT in the United States accepts **online applications only**.
- Application will be taken on a first-come first-served basis.

Application Period

- **Opens August 23rd (Mon) 9am PDT and closes when all seats are FULL or September 12th (Sun) 5pm PDT, whichever is sooner.**

Application Capacity

Maximum application capacities are shown in the following table.

	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5	Total
Atlanta, GA	32	32	32	32	32	160
Chicago, IL	80	100	70	0	0	250
Fayetteville, AR	40	50	50	50	60	250
Honolulu, HI	25	25	0	0	0	50
Los Angeles, CA	60	60	0	0	0	120
Miami, FL	40	40	60	60	100	300
Philadelphia, PA	60	60	70	70	90	350
Washington D.C.	50	50	50	50	50	250

Observance of COVID-19 Health and Safety Measures

- You **must comply** with any **health and safety measures** (for example, **wearing a face mask**, sanitizing your hands, **or showing proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test**) that the Host Institution imposes at the test venue.
- You will be refused entry to sit for the Test and asked to leave the Test venue if you do not comply with such health and safety measures. In that event, you will be deemed to have forfeited any Test fee that you have paid.

If you are feeling unwell on the Test Day

- If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (for example coughing, sore throat, high fever and/or headache) on the Test Day, you should not attend the Test.
- The Host Institution reserves the right to refuse you from sitting the exam at its absolute discretion, if you are reasonably suspected to have such symptoms of COVID-19. In that event, you will be deemed to have forfeited any Test fee that you have paid.

[How to Apply to Take the JLPT in the US]

Visit the website for the JLPT in the US (<https://www.aatj.org/jlpt-us>). Links to the online registration system will be available during the application period. You will need to create an account and register using that system.

Test Date: December 5 (Sunday), 2021

Application Period:

- Opens August 23 (Monday) at 9am PDT, and **closes either when all seats are full or on September 12 (Sunday) 5pm PDT, whichever is sooner.**
- The number of spaces (per level, per venue) will be extremely limited.

Cost: \$100

Special Testing Accommodations (STA)

- Applicants with an impairment or disability may request STA. Registration and payment for the JLPT must be completed first. There is a specific question on the application form regarding STA, and affected applicants should check the box: "Do you need Special Accommodations?" with "Yes" as the answer.
- After the application is complete, additional STA forms and related medical documents must then be submitted **electronically** to American Association of Teachers of Japanese, JLPT (jlpt@aatj.org).
- **The deadline** for completion of STA applications will be **September 12 (Sunday) at 5pm PDT.**

The additional STA forms are available online at <https://www.aatj.org/jlpt-us> .

There is no assurance that accommodations will be granted. If an applicant fails to complete the STA procedure by the deadline, or if the STA request is unsuccessful, the applicant will still be allowed to attempt the Test under the same regular conditions as other examinees.

About the 2021 JLPT

Overview

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is administered by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services in Japan, and by the Japan Foundation and its associated organizations all over the world to evaluate and certify the Japanese-language proficiency of non-native speakers. Since its first implementation in 1984, the test has been administered in 81 countries and areas.

The test places importance not only on a learner's knowledge of the Japanese language including vocabulary and grammar but also on their competence at using the knowledge in practical communication. This is a multiple-choice test and does not include sections that directly measure speaking or writing proficiencies.

Test Sections and Test Time

The JLPT has five levels: N1, N2, N3, N4 and N5. N1 is the most advanced level, and N5 is the beginning level ("N" stands for both "New" and "Nihongo").

N1 and N2 have two test sections each: (1) Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) · Reading; and (2) Listening. Levels N3, N4, and N5 have three test sections each: (1) Language Knowledge (Vocabulary); (2) Language Knowledge (Grammar) · Reading; and (3) Listening.

Level	Test sections (Test time)		
N1	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) · Reading <110min>		Listening <60 min>
N2	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) · Reading <105 min>		Listening <50 min>
N3	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary) <30min>	Language Knowledge (Grammar) · Reading <70min>	Listening <40min>
N4	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary) <25min>	Language Knowledge (Grammar) · Reading <55min>	Listening <35min>
N5	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary) <20min>	Language Knowledge (Grammar) · Reading <40min>	Listening <30min>

* The new test does not include sections that directly measure speaking and writing proficiencies.

* The new test times of "Language Knowledge (Vocabulary)" and "Language Knowledge (Grammar) & Reading" in levels N4 and N5 were applied from the test in December 2020.

Summary of Linguistic Competence Required for Each Level

The table below shows the summary of the linguistic competence expected of examinees for each level of the new JLPT in terms of Reading and Listening

N1	<p>The ability to understand Japanese used in a variety of circumstances. One is able to:</p> <p>[Reading]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · read writings with logical complexity and/or abstract writings on a variety of topics, such as newspaper editorials and critiques, and comprehend both their structures and contents. · read written materials with profound content on various topics and follow their narratives as well as understand the intent of the writers comprehensively. <p>[Listening]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · comprehend orally presented materials such as coherent conversations, news reports, lectures, spoken at natural speed in a broad variety of settings, and is able to follow their ideas and comprehend their contents comprehensively. · understand the details of the presented materials such as the relationships among the people involved, the logical structures, and the essential points.
N2	<p>The ability to understand Japanese used in everyday situations, and in a variety of circumstances to a certain degree. One is able to:</p> <p>[Reading]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · read materials written clearly on a variety of topics, such as articles and commentaries in newspapers and magazines as well as simple critiques, and comprehend their contents. · read written materials on general topics and follow their narratives as well as understand the intent of the writers. <p>[Listening]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · comprehend orally presented materials such as coherent conversations and news reports, spoken at nearly natural speed in everyday situations as well as in a variety of settings, and is able to follow their ideas and comprehend their content. · understand the relationships among the people involved and the essential points of the presented materials.
N3	<p>The ability to understand Japanese used in everyday situations to a certain degree. One is able to:</p> <p>[Reading]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · read and understand written materials with specific contents concerning everyday topics. · grasp summary information such as newspaper headlines. · read slightly difficult writings encountered in everyday situations and understand the main points of the content if some alternative phrases are available to aid one's understanding. <p>[Listening]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · listen and comprehend coherent conversations in everyday situations, spoken at near natural speed, and is generally able to follow their contents as well as grasp the relationships among the people involved.
N4	<p>The ability to understand basic Japanese. One is able to:</p> <p>[Reading]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · read and understand passages on familiar daily topics written in basic vocabulary and kanji. <p>[Listening]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · listen and comprehend conversations encountered in daily life and generally follow their contents, provided that they are spoken slowly.
N5	<p>The ability to understand some basic Japanese. One is able to:</p> <p>[Reading]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · read and understand typical expressions and sentences written in hiragana, katakana, and basic kanji. <p>[Listening]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · listen and comprehend conversations about topics regularly encountered in daily life and classroom situations, and is able to pick up necessary information from short conversations spoken slowly.

Test Results

Scoring Sections

The table shows the scoring sections and range of scores. The scoring section does not correspond to test section.

Level	Test Sections	Scoring Sections	Range of Scores
N1 N2	① Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) & Reading	① Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar)	0~60
	② Listening	② Reading	0~60
		③ Listening	0~60
		Total Score	0~180
N3	① Language Knowledge (Vocabulary)	① Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar)	0~60
	② Language Knowledge (Grammar)&Reading	② Reading	0~60
	③ Listening	③ Listening	0~60
		Total Score	0~180
N4 N5	① Language Knowledge (Vocabulary)	① Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) & Reading	0~120
	② Language Knowledge (Grammar)&Reading		
	③ Listening	② Listening	0~60
		Total Score	0~180

Decision of Pass or Fail

A decision of pass or fail will be given to those examinees who take ALL sections of the test. In order to pass, (1) total score needs to be at or above the minimum points required for passing (overall pass mark) and (2) score in each scoring section needs to be at or above the minimum points required for passing (sectional pass mark). If there is even one scoring section where the score is below the sectional pass mark, examinees are determined to have failed, no matter how high the total score he/she might have.

Scoring Sections

Scoring sections of N1-N3 and N4-N5 are different. Overall pass marks and sectional pass marks for each level are shown in the table below.

Level	Total score		Scores by Scoring Sections					
			Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar)		Reading		Listening	
	Range of scores	Overall pass marks	Range of scores	Sectional pass marks	Range of scores	Sectional pass marks	Range of scores	Sectional pass marks
N1	0~180 points	100 points	0~60 points	19 points	0~60 points	19 points	0~60 points	19 points
N2	0~180 points	90 points	0~60 points	19 points	0~60 points	19 points	0~60 points	19 points
N3	0~180 points	95 points	0~60 points	19 points	0~60 points	19 points	0~60 points	19 points

Level	Total score		Scores by Scoring Sections			
			Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar) · Reading		Listening	
	Range of scores	Overall pass marks	Range of scores	Sectional pass marks	Range of scores	Sectional pass marks
N4	0~180 points	90 points	0~120 points	38 points	0~60 points	19 points
N5	0~180 points	80 points	0~120 points	38 points	0~60 points	19 points

Notification of Test Results

Test results will be released online by March 2022. Examinees who pass the exam will receive a Certificate of Proficiency by regular mail. Examinees who miss any of the sections can receive a Score Report on request, however, no scores will be given for any test section, including those that have been taken, and a failure mark.

Online Score Display

More information will be available on the JLPT website at <http://www.jlpt.jp/> in early February 2021. Your registration number and password are required to check your test results online. Please note that you will not be able to see your test results online if you failed to correctly write a password on the application form (mail-in applications only).

Confidentiality of JLPT Scores

JLPT test score data may be used by the Japan Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services for statistical and analytical purposes. No examinees will be individually identified from such research.