

Japanese Courses

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High School. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High School and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.

Japanese Beginners - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

What will I be doing in the course?

In the Preliminary and HSC courses, students will develop the linguistic intercultural knowledge and understanding, and the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to communicate in Japanese.

Topics studied through two interdependent perspectives, the *Personal World* and the *Japanese-Speaking Communities*, provide contexts in which students develop their communication skills in Japanese and their knowledge and understanding of language and culture.

Students' skills in, and knowledge of, Japanese will be developed through tasks associated with a range of texts and text types, which reflect the topics. Students will also gain an insight into the culture and language of Japanese-speaking communities through the study of range of texts.

The course introduces students to the language and culture of contemporary Japan and gives an appreciation for other Japanese speaking communities in the world. In addition to language training in the four basic skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – various aspects of varied Japanese speaking communities' society and culture will be introduced through audio and video extracts and short texts. The emphasis throughout will be on communicative skills, both oral, aural and written and students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to spoken and written Japanese as well as demonstrate cultural awareness.

Main topics covered

There are two main prescribed areas: the *Personal World* and the *Japanese-Speaking Communities*. The two perspectives will enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of and skills in the Japanese language, linked to cultural values, attitudes and practices.

Through their study of the *Personal World*, students will develop their ability to use Japanese to express and share ideas about experiences and activities relating to daily life and transactions in their own world.

Through their study of the *Japanese-Speaking Communities* module, students will come to inquire about and to express ideas in order to undertake activities and transactions appropriately in one or more communities where Japanese is spoken.

The following are the sub-topic areas:

- Family life, home and neighbourhood
- People, places and communities
- Education and work
- Friends, recreation and pastimes
- Holidays, travel and tourism
- Future plans and aspirations

Learning activities will include structured and unstructured oral exercises, grammar and vocabulary exercises, role-play activities, translation, dictation, oral presentations, listening activities using authentic online materials, and compositions. Students will make use of online resources that include practice of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and that further cultural awareness in which Japanese customs, culture, and everyday life aspects are also highlighted.

Particular course requirements

Eligibility rules apply to the study of this subject. Check with your teacher or the Board's *Assessment Certification Examination (ACE) Manual* (Section 8.2.2.3).

How will I be assessed in the course?

Students will be expected to undertake the following types of assessment and/or exam tasks.

- Oral assessments and/or examinations: Conversation in Japanese (5 minutes)
- Written assessments and/or examinations: Listening (Japanese Comprehension), Reading (Japanese Comprehension), Writing in Japanese.

Activities, tasks and homework undertaken throughout the Year 11 and Year 12 course will better prepare students to complete the assessment components.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

On the completion of Japanese Beginners course students should be able to:

- Understand the basic structures of the Japanese language and use these in writing and in speech.
- Demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of Japanese vocabulary to communicate in everyday situations.
- Recognize basic structures and vocabulary in written and spoken materials, and thus be able to read and listen to articles/news items/short stories in Japanese.
- Understand and analyse aspects of Japanese society and culture.
- Communicate information, ideas and opinions in Japanese, in both spoken and written modes.

Japanese Continuers - Course Details			
Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

What will I be doing in this course?

The study of Japanese language is of particular importance to Australians, both culturally and economically. Japan is one of Australia's leading trading partners and there are significant cultural ties between Australia and Japan. Japanese has been identified as one of the priority languages in the Asia-Pacific region to be taught in Australian schools. This recognises the close economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

The study of Japanese contributes to the overall education of students, particularly in the areas of communication, cross-cultural understanding, literacy and general knowledge. Students can gain access to both the language and the rich cultural traditions of Japan, as well as an understanding of different attitudes and values within the wider Australian community and beyond.

Many schools have sister-school relationships with Japan and there are also sister-city and sister-state links with Nagoya and Tokyo. These schemes provide students with opportunities to come into direct contact with Japanese students by visiting Japan and studying there. There are many scholarship opportunities provided by governments, universities and exchange agencies for students to study in Japan both at high school and tertiary levels. Significant numbers of universities and other institutions provide opportunities for further study of Japanese, including the opportunity to study in Japan.

The ability to communicate in Japanese may, in conjunction with other skills, provide students with enhanced vocational opportunities in areas such as trade, tourism and hospitality, banking and finance, technology, education and research, the arts, diplomacy, government, law, media and advertising, translation and interpreting, and cuisine and catering.

The language

The language to be studied and assessed in modern standard Japanese in both written and spoken forms. Some dialect variations in pronunciation and accent are acceptable. Students should be familiar with informal and formal levels of language as prescribed in the syllabus. Hiragana and Katakana syllabaries and a prescribed number of Kanji (Chinese characters) will be studied.

Main topics covered

Themes, Topics and Sub-Topics

There are three prescribed themes:

- The individual
- The Japanese-speaking communities
- The changing world

Each theme has a number of prescribed topics and suggested sub-topics with which students will engage in their study of Japanese. The placement of the topics under one or more of the three themes is intended to provide a particular perspective or perspectives for each of the topics. The sub-topics are provided to guide students and teachers as to how the themes may be treated.

The theme, the individual, enables students to explore aspects of their personal world, for example, sense of self, aspirations for the future, personal values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. At the same time, this theme also enables the student to study topics from the perspective of other individuals.

The theme, the Japanese-speaking communities, explores topics from the perspective of groups within those communities or other communities as a whole and encourages students to reflect their own and other cultures.

The theme, the changing world, enables students to explore change as it affects aspects of the world of work and other topics such as travel and tourism, current issues and the young person's world.

Prescribed themes	Mandatory topics
The individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal world• Daily life• Leisure• Future plans
The Japanese-speaking communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travelling in Japan• Living in Japan• Cultural life
The changing world	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The world of work• Current issues

Learning activities will include structured and unstructured oral exercises, grammar and vocabulary exercises, role play activities, translation, dictation, oral presentations, listening activities using authentic online materials, and compositions. Students will make use of online

resources that include practice of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and that further cultural awareness in which Japanese customs, culture, and everyday life aspects are also highlighted.

Students will access the themes and topics through texts. They should be wide-ranging and could include, for example, film, short story, song, newspaper article or documentary. While it is expected that students will study a range of oral and written texts in Japanese in their treatment of the themes, topics and sub-topics, it may be appropriate to discuss a text or texts in English. Similarly, the language used by students to respond to a text may be either Japanese or English, as appropriate.

Particular course requirements

The Japanese Continuers Stage 6 Syllabus is designed for students who, typically, will have studied Japanese for 400-500 hours by the completion of Stage 6. Some students with less formal experience will also be able to meet the requirements of the syllabus successfully.

How will I be assessed in the course?

Students will be expected to undertake the following types of assessment and/or exam tasks.

- Oral assessments and/or examinations: Conversation in Japanese (5 minutes)
- Written assessments and/or examinations: Listening (Japanese Comprehension), Reading (Japanese Comprehension), Writing in Japanese.

Activities, tasks and homework undertaken throughout the Year 11 and Year 12 course will better prepare students to complete the assessment components.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

On the completion of the Japanese Continuers course students should be able to:

- Exchange information, opinions and experiences in Japanese
- Express ideas through the production of original texts in Japanese
- Analyse, process and respond to texts that are in Japanese
- Understand aspects of the language and culture of Japanese –speaking communities

Meeting these objectives will involve using the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, either individually or in combination, and being able to move between Japanese and English.