

Description of Japanese Leaving Certificate Oral Examination

Introduction

The Leaving Certificate Japanese Oral Examination is common to both Higher and Ordinary Level candidates, and carries 25% of the overall total for both Higher and Ordinary Level candidates. There are three sections in the Japanese oral examination, as follows:

Section 1: General Conversation - 4 to 4½ minutes (35 marks)

Candidates are asked questions from a range of syllabus topics, including, for example, family, hobbies, school, home place, and plans for the future.

Section 2: Topic (30 marks)

This section lasts for approximately 5 minutes. Candidates choose, at random, one of three topic cards which are placed face downwards on a desk in front of them. After candidates chose the topic, they are given 60 seconds to prepare for this section. Candidates may use this time to jot down key words on a blank piece of paper in preparation for the presentation. There are three topics written in Japanese and in English on each topic card. After the presentation by the candidate on one of the topics from the chosen card, the examiner asks the candidate questions related to the topic. This section divides into three tasks as follows:

- Presentation of the topic 10 marks
- Clarification/ Explanation in response to examiners' questions 10 marks
- Expression of opinion 10 marks

Section 3: Picture (35 marks)

This section lasts for approximately 5 minutes. Candidates choose one picture from a selection of four which are placed face downwards in front of them. Following the choice of photo, candidates are given 30 seconds preparation time. Candidates may use this time to jot down key words in English or Japanese words in romaji. Each picture depicts some aspect of Japanese life. Candidates talk about the picture and are expected to compare and contrast the cultural aspects of the picture with Ireland.

The allocation of marks for this section is as follows:

- Presentation 9 marks
- Clarification/ Explanation 9 marks
- Opinions 9 marks
- Comparison 8 marks.