

Guidelines

The 9th Japanese Speech Contest in Trinidad & Tobago 2026

SCHEDULE

Contest	Friday, November 6, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
Announcement	Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Application Period	Tuesday, September 1 - Sunday, October 4, 2026 (Application forms only)

VENUE

The Centre for Language Learning, UWI St Augustine Campus

TARGET PARTICIPANT

The contest is open to individuals who are currently studying Japanese, either at a language institute, or through self-study. Proficiency levels:

- Category I: CEFR A1 or A2, or JLPT N5
- Category II: CEFR A2 and above, or JLPT N4 and above

OBJECTIVES

- To create an opportunity for Japanese language learners to express their thoughts using the language acquired.
- To provide learners with an opportunity to show their achievement.
- To improve the participants' Japanese language proficiency by guiding them through the process of drafting and delivering a speech.
- To provide an interactive opportunity for learners to share their language acquisition experience, especially for those who study independently.
- To promote and increase public recognition of Japanese language education in Trinidad and Tobago.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Participants must not be native speakers of Japanese.
- Participants must be 18 years of age or older.
- Current or former teachers of the Japanese language are not eligible.
- Individuals who have stayed in Japan continuously for more than six months within the past three years are not eligible.
- Past 1st place winners of Category II are not eligible to participate again.

- Past 1st place winners of Category I may not compete in the same category again however, participation in Category II is allowed.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested individuals must apply using the designated application form (link to be provided) between Tuesday, September 1st and Sunday, October 4th 2026.

Applicants must submit their scripts and a recording of their speeches via email by Sunday, October 25th 2026.

If more than seven applicants apply for a category, a preliminary round may be conducted based on submitted scripts and recordings. Feedback will be provided to those not selected.

Support Session: A remote session will be held after the registration period to explain speech drafting and judging criteria. Individual support sessions (by request via email) will be available for both writing scripts and speech delivery (limited to one session each).

Scripts, recordings, and inquiries should be sent to: jlsctt2026@gmail.com.

CATEGORIES AND THEMES

Category	Level	Length of Speech	Theme
Category I	CEFR A1/A2, 100–200 study hours	2–3 minutes	Free Theme
Category II	CEFR A2 and above, 200+ study hours	3–4 minutes	Free Theme

Applicants are encouraged to use the following websites to determine their appropriate category.

<https://www.jlpt.jp/e/samples/forlearners.html>

https://www.marugoto-online.jp/info/level_check_test/?lang=eng

DELIVERY METHOD

- All participants are required to give a short self-introduction in Japanese before delivering their speech. The self-introduction will not be taken into consideration when judging the speech.
- Category II participants will also take part in a brief question-and-answer session in Japanese after their speech.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

- Content: Original, interesting, appealing, logical, persuasive and well-organised.
- Linguistic competence: Natural pronunciation, accurate grammar, vocabulary and expressions.
- Performance: Presence and effective delivery.
- Q&A session (Only for Category II): Understands the question and answer appropriately.
- Visual aids: Category I participants are allowed to use up to two visual aids. Prohibited for Category II.
- Use of writing aids during the speech: Prohibited for both categories.
- AI tools may be used during the preparation/drafting stage, however, applicants must declare if they have used AI tools when they submit their scripts.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners in both categories. Certificates and tokens will be given to all participants.

The winner of 1st place for Category II will be participating in the RCCJ (Central America and the Caribbean Japanese Language Education Network) speech contest to be held in 2027 representing Trinidad and Tobago.