

THE 23RD JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST
FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MALAYSIA (2026)

第 23 回マレーシア高校生日本語弁論大会 2026

CONTEST GUIDELINES

(As of 6 February 2026)

CONTEST	: The 23 rd Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School Students in Malaysia (2026) 第 23 回マレーシア高校生日本語弁論大会 2026
ORGANISERS	: The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
CLOSING DATE	: 9 March 2026 (Monday) by 12:00 noon
FINAL CONTEST	: 18 April 2026 (Saturday)
EVENT TYPE	: Physical contest
THEME	: スター (Star) Your speech may explore the literal or symbolic meaning of “Star”, its images, metaphors, or personal significance. The theme is open to your interpretation and creativity.

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1 There is **no restriction** on the number of submissions from each school/institution.

1.2 The contest is open to **Malaysian students** with the following criteria:

- A. Currently attending secondary school in Malaysia;
- B. Between the age of 15 and 18 as of 30 June 2026;
- C. Currently learning Japanese language in their secondary school or any institutions such as a language centre/school, society, or organisation that offers Japanese language course;
- D. Not this contest's previous first prize winners;
- E. Have not stayed in Japan for study or language training, and have not stayed in Japan for more than 6 months (accumulated) in the last 5 years as of 30 June 2026;
- F. Have not received compulsory education for more than three (3) years in Japan or at Japanese school;
- G. A non-native Japanese speaker (mother tongue is not Japanese); and
- H. Either parent is not a Japanese national or a native speaker

2. SUBMISSION

Students **must submit** all the following via the **official Entry Form** to participate in this contest:

- Completed Eligibility Check Sheet with consent from legal guardian and endorsement by school's principal or its equivalent;
- Speech manuscript;
- URL (link) of speech video uploaded on Google Drive; and
- A recent passport-size photo.

2.1 Eligibility Check Sheet

Both pages of this sheet must be completed, endorsed, and submitted via the Entry Form:

A. The secondary school's principal/administrator/course coordinator:

To confirm that the student is currently attending secondary school in Malaysia and learning Japanese language at the school/institution/centre; AND

B. The student's legal guardian:

To give permission to participate in this contest.

2.2 Speech Manuscript

- A. The speech manuscript submitted must be an original student work and have not been presented or published in another contest or event.
- B. Teachers may provide language support to the student. However, the content must remain the original work of the student.
- C. Speech must be typewritten or handwritten by the student on the Japanese-style manuscript paper (downloadable from the contest webpage).
- D. The name of the student and the title of the speech must be written on the manuscript paper.
- E. Students must create their own appropriate title.
- F. Only one (1) file is allowed for submission via the Entry Form. A manuscript with two pages or more must be combined into one file of PDF, Microsoft Word, or image format to be able to upload into the Entry Form.

2.3 Speech Video

- A. Speech must be within 3 to 5 minutes, including self-introduction.
- B. Self-introduction is not compulsory but if any, it should be kept briefly with only the name of the student, school, and title of the speech.
- C. Video editing such as voice-over, cutting segments (trimming), visual or special effects or such are strictly prohibited.
- D. Video must be in one shot (combining or stitching of several shots is not allowed).
- E. Video must have good clarity of visual and audio such as proper volume, clear voice, and no noise or echo.
- F. Students must be wearing appropriate attire and the video must show the upper half of the body.
- G. Usage of any props during the speech is prohibited.

2.4 Passport-Size Photo

- A. A recent (not more than 3 months) passport-size photo must be submitted.
- B. The background of the photograph must be white or blue.

2.5 Entry Form

- A. Entry Form must be completed according to its instructions and submitted **latest by 9 March 2026 (Monday), 12:00 noon**: <https://bit.ly/JSC2026form>
- B. A copy of this form will be sent automatically to the e-mail registered and will serve as the acknowledgement of each submission.

2.6 Copyright

- A. Submitted speech manuscript and video will be the property of the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) under this contest.
- B. The JFKL reserves the right to publish or display any student's manuscripts, names, pictures, and videos for publicity and reporting purposes.

3. SELECTION, REHEARSAL & FINAL CONTEST

Selection process will be conducted by the organisers with the cooperation from the Ministry of Education Malaysia. Announcement of the finalists will be made **tentatively on 31 March 2026 (Tuesday)** and the official notification will be sent via e-mail to the registered addresses.

The contest and its rehearsal will be conducted physically at a later-determined venue in Klang Valley. However, the arrangement of this contest is subject to changes by the organisers. The organisers will notify the finalists in a timely manner.

3.1 Rehearsal

- A. Date: 18 April 2026, Saturday (Tentative – to be confirmed)
- B. All finalists are required to participate in the rehearsal.
- C. Failure to join this session without prior consultation may disqualify the finalist from this contest.

3.2 Final Contest

- A. Date: 18 April 2026 (Saturday)

3.3 Further Details

- A. Further details of the rehearsal session and final contest will be shared via e-mail to all finalists and their teachers.
- B. The details of the contest and its execution are subject to change depending on current policy, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) or instructions by the local authorities including the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE/KPM) and the Japan Foundation (JF).

4. OFFICIAL RESULT, PRIZES & CERTIFICATES

4.1 Result

The result decided by the judges is final. Official results will also be published on the contest webpage and reported to the Ministry of Education Malaysia as well as all sponsors.

4.2 Prizes

Prizes cannot be changed or compensated for any damages unless deemed otherwise by the organisers and sponsors. The top winner must fulfil the eligibility stipulated by the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai in order to participate in the Exchange Programme in Japan.

4.3 Certificate

All eligible submissions will receive a digital Certificate of Participation within one (1) month after the final contest and winners of the contest will receive an additional Certificate of Achievement.

5. GRAND PRIZE FOR TOP WINNER: EXCHANGE PROGRAMME IN JAPAN

5.1 Programme Details (Tentative)

Name	: Japanese-Language Program for Counterpart Japanese Learners of the NIHONGO Partners (High School Students) 2026
Date	: 30 June – 15 July 2026 (16 days)
Venue	: The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai, Japan
Contents of the Program (Tentative)	: a) Lectures on the Japanese language, culture and society; b) Visiting cultural and historical sites; c) Exchange Program with Japanese High School Students; d) Homestay
Participants	: Students from Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, and India

5.2 Expenses in Japan

A. The following will be borne by the organisers:

- Air ticket (including Airport Tax and Foreign Travel Tax)
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Overseas Travel Accident Insurance (T&C apply)
- Other necessary expenses concerning the Curriculum

B. The following will be borne by the participants:

- The application or renewal cost of passports
- The cost of transfer from residence to the local airport

5.3 Timeline

The top winner who will be taking part in the exchange programme must complete the necessary procedures by the deadlines set:

- 21 April (Tue)** : **Confirmation of Participation**
- 23 April (Thu)** : **Submission of the Application Form**
- 5 May (Tue)** : **Submission of Participation Acceptance Form, passport copy, and other documents**
- May** : **Procedures pertaining to getting permission from MOE/SED**



6. INQUIRIES

For further inquiries, please refer to the main organiser:

Address : The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)
Japanese Language Department
18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B, Mid-Valley City, No. 1, Medan Syed Putra
59200 Kuala Lumpur

Tel : 03-2284 7228

E-mail : kl_nihongo@jpf.go.jp

JSC 2026 Official Webpage	JSC 2026 Entry Form
	
https://bit.ly/jfkIJSC	https://bit.ly/JSC2026form

QUICK REFERENCE

