

JAPANESE-LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST

5th July 2026

TEST GUIDE AND INALCO REGISTRATION GUIDE

NO NEED TO PRINT THIS DOCUMENT.

Applicants submitting their registration must agree to all the terms of the *Test Guide*, particularly those regarding the processing of their personal data for statistical and organizational purposes related to the Test.

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1. Objectives and Administration of the Test

The number of people studying Japanese is rapidly increasing worldwide, along with the opportunities to apply Japanese language skills in a wide range of careers. To meet these new demands, the Japan Foundation and the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES) have developed and organized the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) in Japan and abroad since 1984. Outside Japan, the Japan Foundation co-organizes the Test with national cultural exchange organizations and/or educational institutions, as well as administrative committees specially established for this purpose.

This Test is primarily intended for candidates whose native language is not Japanese.

2. Contents of the Test

3.1. Overview of the 5 Levels and Their Equivalents with the Former Test

The candidate should choose the level that best matches their abilities and educational background.

Level	Skills required for the new test	Matching the old and new test
N1	<p>Understanding of Japanese in most situations. Reading: · Ability to read texts with a somewhat complex logic or a high degree of abstraction on a variety of subjects (newspaper editorials, reviews) and to understand their structure and content. · Ability to read and follow the flow of works that are deep in content and on a variety of topics, and to accurately understand the author's intent. Listening: · Ability to listen to spoken Japanese at a natural speed of speech and in a variety of situations (logical conversation, information, lectures), to follow the thread and understand its content, to accurately grasp its logical structure and argumentation as well as the relationships between the speakers.</p>	Approximately the same level as the old Level 1, but designed to measure more advanced skills.
N2	<p>Understanding of Japanese in common situations and, at a fairly satisfactory level, in a variety of other contexts. Reading: · Ability to read and understand texts with clear argumentation on a variety of topics (newspaper or magazine articles, simple comments or criticisms). · Ability to read and follow the flow of books on general topics and to understand the author's intent. Listening: · Ability to listen to spoken Japanese (logical conversation, information) at a speed of speech close to normal and in a variety of contexts in addition to common situations, to follow the thread and understand its content, to grasp its argumentation as well as the relationships between the speakers.</p>	Approximately the same level as the old Level 2
N3	<p>Fairly satisfactory understanding of Japanese used in common situations. Reading: · Ability to read and understand texts with concrete content and on common topics. · Ability to understand the main lines of the news from newspaper headlines. · Ability to understand a slightly complex text in a common situation and to understand its main lines with the help of reformulations. Listening: · Ability to listen to a logical conversation in a common situation and at a speed of speech close to normal, to grasp approximately its concrete content and the relationships between the speakers.</p>	Intermediate level between the former Level 2 and Level 3. Level created in 2010

N4	<p>Basic Japanese comprehension <u>Reading:</u> · Ability to read and understand a text on a familiar topic of everyday life, written with basic vocabulary and <i>kanji</i>. <u>Listening:</u> · Ability to understand approximately the content of a conversation at a slow rate of speech and in a common situation.</p>	Approximately the same level as the old Level 3
N5	<p>Basic Japanese comprehension, to some degree. <u>Reading:</u> · Ability to read and understand phrases, sentences or standard texts written in <i>hiragana</i>, <i>katakana</i> and <i>basic kanji</i> used in everyday life. <u>Listening:</u> · Ability to extract the necessary information from a short conversation at a slow rate of speech, in familiar situations in everyday life, for example in class or with loved ones.</p>	Approximately the same level as the old Level 4

3.2. Description of the Sections and Scoring System

Since 2010, the Test has been divided into three areas: “Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar)”, “Reading” and “Listening”.

For levels N1 and N2, “Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar)” and “Reading” are combined in a single test. However, the “Knowledge of language (Vocabulary/Grammar)” and “Reading” sections will be marked separately.

For levels N3, N4 and N5, “Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary)” and “Knowledge of the language (Grammar)/Reading” are divided into two different tests. However, for levels N4 and N5, “Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary)” and “Knowledge of the language (Grammar)/Reading” will be marked as a single test.

For level N3, all three sections of the Test will be marked separately.

Level	Events	Duration	Graded Sections	Distribution of points
N1	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar) Reading	110 min	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar)	0~60
			Reading	0~60
	Listen	55 min	Listen	0~60
	Total			0~180
N2	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar) – Reading	105 min	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar)	0~60
			Reading	0~60
	Listen	50 min	Listen	0~60
	Total			0~180
N3	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary)	30 min	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar)	0~60
	Knowledge of Language (Grammar)-Reading	70 min	Reading	0~60
	Listen	40 min	Listen	0~60
	Total			0~180

N4	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary)	25 min	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar) - Reading	0~120
	Knowledge of Language (Grammar)-Reading	55 min		
	Listen	35 min	Listen	0~60
	Total			0~180
N5	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary)	20 min	Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar) - Reading	0~120
	Knowledge of Language (Grammar)-Reading	40 min		
	Listen	30 min	Listen	0~60
	Total			0~180

3. The Japanese Proficiency Test in PARIS

3.1. Registration Procedures

The online registration period is set **from March 02 to 30, 2026 at 12 noon.** Complete applications must reach Inalco no later than **5 p.m. on March 30.**

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

It is strongly recommended that you do not wait until the deadline to return your registration file.

If you are unable to complete your online application in person, a third party (a family member, a friend) can take care of it.

For specific test accommodation requests, the procedure and application deadline are different.

❖ **Refer to the information given on our website below and in the document which you will find there: Instruction+for+Requesting+STA.pdf**

Test levels	N1	N2	N3	N4	N5
Prices	100€	100€	100€	90€	90€

3.1.1 How to Apply

Log on to the INALCO website at the following address:

[Registration for the JLPT Japanese Language Proficiency Test | Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales](#)

Click on the link to access the registration platform. Make sure you have completed the form as per the instructions below. You will not be able to change the **location or level** of the Test after you have paid the registration fee.

*If there is a mistake on your **name, gender or date of birth**, contact the coordination office (contact details noted at the bottom of the page).*

3.1.2 Fill out the online registration form

Read it again before validating the form.

1. Level of testing

Choose the option that corresponds to the level of the Test you are taking. Careful **the N1 level corresponds to the most advanced level.**

❖ *Refer to the table "skills required for the new test" pages 2-3.*

2. Name

Write in **capital letters**: your **surname** in the 1st box, then your **first name** in the second. Leave a space between your first and middle names (you don't have to put your middle names). Your name will appear as such on your results and certificate.

3. Sex

Check "Male" or "Female" or "N/A". **Be careful, if your papers mention the Male, you can only choose Male or N/A, and the same for Female: Female or N/A.**

4. Password for viewing results online

Create an **8 digits password (only numbers) and memorize it. Keep a copy of your password.** It will be useful when you want to view your results online. Also make sure to store well **the candidate number** (Examinee Registration Number) which will be assigned to you two weeks after receiving your complete file.

5. Mailing address

Indicate a **reliable address** on the form and on the envelope to be attached to the file, an address where you are sure to receive your mail.

*In the event of a **change of address**, please inform the coordination office as soon as possible (contact details at the bottom of the page).*

6. Phone Number

Provide a phone number where you can be reached.

7. Email address

Provide an email address **reliable (other than laposte.net)**. You will receive your exam invitation and the Test voucher on your email box.

8. Address for sending results

Write a **Reliable address**, where you are sure to receive your mail. Don't forget to add your address if necessary (locality, home, apartment, box, etc.).

*In the event of a **change of address**, please contact the Test Coordination Offices as soon as possible (contact details at the bottom of the page).*

*After you have registered, you will receive an email confirming that your **online application has been registered. Check the information in the form in this confirmation email, and contact us as soon as possible in case of any errors.***

Please note that your registration will only be validated upon receipt of the documents to be provided in the registration file.

3.1.3 Send or submit your registration file

Incomplete and/or late applications systematically cancel your registration. No refund is possible after the submission of your application or in the event of cancellation of the registration.

Complete applications must be sent to Inalco by 30 March 2026 at the latest at the following address:

**Inalco - Coordination of the JLPT - Office 3.20,
CS 21351, 65 rue des Grands Moulins,
75214 Paris Cedex 13**

You must mail or submit to the Japanese Proficiency Test Coordination the file that includes:

- A printout of the confirmation email of your registration request
- A printout of the payment confirmation email via INALCO <PayboxMail>
- An envelope for sending your results in A4 or C4 format (32 x 23 cm), addressed to your name and address and:
 - For shipping in France: franked at a minimum rate of 2.58 euros;
 - For a shipment outside France: with an international stamp to your country.
- ❖ *To purchase an international stamp, refer the tutorial on pages 9-11.*

The test is non-refundable except in the event of cancellation by the organiser.

Refunds are made at the candidate's request.

Candidates must submit their refund request within approximately one month of the test date.

If no request is submitted within this period, it will no longer be possible to claim a refund.

3.2. Test Admission Notice

Invitations will be sent to candidates by e-mail in two stages:

1: Mid-April at the latest: confirmation of registration and allocation of the candidate number in the form of a Test Voucher.

2: From 22 to 26 June: sending the final invitation to the test.

If you notice that you still haven't received your invitation one week before the Test, please contact the Test Coordination Offices as soon as possible (contact details at the bottom of the page).

3.3. Test Day

3.3.1 What should I bring on the day of the test?

You are asked to bring only the following: your **Test admission notice**, your **Test Voucher** (which includes your registration number), a **photo ID** (passport or identity card) with the same name as your invitation, **writing materials** (pencils n°2 or HB, plastic eraser).

3.3.2 Violation Action

Your test will be cancelled in the following cases:

1. Take the Test for someone else or have someone take the Test for you
2. Provide answers to other applicants; To get answers from them; consult dictionary or any written medium, mobile phone or any other equipment
3. Refusing to comply with supervisors' instructions
4. Take exam items or answer sheets out of the exam room
5. Record the audio of the listening test in any way
6. Disrupting other candidates
7. Ring/vibrate a mobile phone or watch during the Test. Use a mobile phone.

3.3.3 How to complete the answer sheet

- Your answer sheet will be processed by computer. Please follow the instructions below:
 1. Use only a **No. 2 or HB pencil**. Answer sheets written with a ballpoint pen or ink pen will be declared null and void.
 2. Black out each circle in its entirety, so that it is impossible to read the number inside.
 3. Insufficiently strong or partial blackening may not be deciphered by the computer and may result in a poor result.
 4. If you need to correct an answer, use only a plastic eraser and make sure to erase the answer correctly and cleanly. It is forbidden to use ink eraser or any other equipment that is not mentioned above.
 5. The answers are numbered in consecutive order. Write down each answer in the box that corresponds to the question number; The question number is indicated next to each section.
- How to fill out your registration number and date of birth

It is imperative to indicate your **registration number and name** on the answer sheet before starting each test of the Test. First, write your registration number on the first line at the top, identical to the number indicated on your invitation to the Test. Then fill in the number corresponding to your registration number in each column.

You must indicate your date of birth on the answer sheet before starting the Test. **Don't forget to start with your year of birth.**

- How to Indicate Your Answers

All answers to the Aptitude Test are presented as multiple choices. On the answer sheet, fill in the circles that you think correspond to the correct answers. Be sure to completely blacken the circle.

3.4. Calculation of points

The candidate must pass all the tests of the Test for the calculation of points to be possible.

Each level is scored out of 180 points, divided equally between the 3 sections of the Test. The transcript sent at the end of the Test shows the points per section scored and the total score obtained. For graded sections that assess multiple competencies (e.g., "Knowledge of the language (Vocabulary/Grammar)"), an informative detail allows the candidate to understand how his or her abilities are distributed.

❖ *Refer to the original version of the Test Guide for a detailed explanation of the transcript.*

To pass the Test, one must obtain the minimum points required on the total points and the minimum points required in each graded section of the Test. Failure occurs if the minimum required points are not obtained in one of the sections, **even if the total points exceed the pass threshold.**

3.5. Test results

The test organisers will send the results to all candidates in **October 2026**. Successful candidates will be issued a certificate of aptitude.

If you have not received your results by the end of March or if your name and/or date of birth is misspelled on the certificate/transcript, contact the organizers of your country and provide them with proof of your identity (in this case the Test Coordination at INALCO).

Do not contact the Japan Foundation under any circumstances. The Japan Foundation and the national organizers will not respond to any inquiries regarding event results.

The results of the JLPT 2026A will be available online (subject to the validity of your password). Information on how to consult the results will be available at **the end of August 2026** on the official JLPT website: www.jlpt.jp/

Extracts from the new JLPT test types are available free of charge on the official Japanese Proficiency Test website (in English and Japanese) at the following address:

<http://www.jlpt.jp/>

<http://www.jlpt.jp/j/about/new-jlpt.html>

Appendix tutorial: Buying an international stamp

[Configure my stamp - My Online Stamp - Swiss Post](#)

(Page 1) Destination of my shipment

Select *International*

France → [Destination country] *The country where you want to receive your results*

The screenshot shows a selection interface for the destination of the shipment. At the top, there are two radio button options: "En France (métropole et Outre-mer), Andorre et Monaco" (unselected) and "À l'international" (selected). Below these options, there are two dropdown menus. The first dropdown is labeled "Départ" and has "France" selected. The second dropdown is labeled "Destination" and has "Afghanistan" selected. An arrow points from the "Départ" dropdown to the "Destination" dropdown.

(Page 1) Content Type

Select *Matches*

The screenshot shows a selection interface for the content type of the shipment. There are two options, each with a radio button and an icon. The first option is "Des correspondances" (selected), with an icon of an envelope and the text "Exemples : lettres, cartes postales, etc...". The second option is "Des marchandises" (unselected), with an icon of a cardboard box and the text "Quelle que soit leur valeur et même pour un envoi à titre gratuit comme un cadeau."

(Page 1) Nature of my shipment

Choose if you want to add *the tracking option*

The screenshot shows a selection interface for the nature of the shipment. The selected option is "Lettre internationale", with an icon of an envelope and the text "• Suivi en option" and "2,04 €". Below this, there is a section titled "Suivez l'acheminement et la distribution de vos envois" with a checkbox "Ajouter l'option de suivi (+ 2,80 €)". A light blue information box contains the text: "Le suivi est disponible de bout en bout sur 43 destinations. Pour les autres destinations, le suivi est assuré jusqu'à la sortie du territoire d'expédition. [En savoir plus](#)".

(Page 1) **Weight of my shipment**

Choose the weight corresponding to your shipment: 20g.

Jusqu'à 20g Poids équivalent à 3 feuilles A4	Entre 21g et 100g Poids équivalent à un livre de poche	Entre 101g et 250g Poids équivalent à un jeu vidéo	Entre 251g et 500g Poids équivalent à un manuel scolaire ou un pull	Entre 501g et 2,000kg
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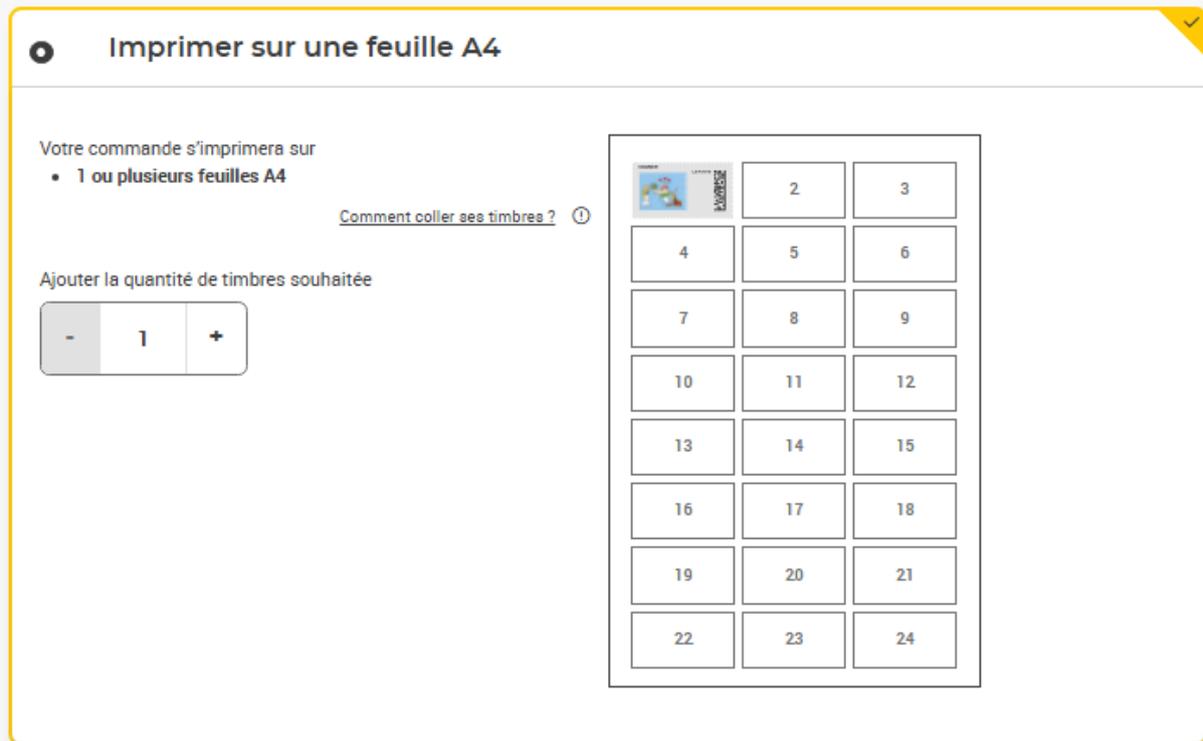
(Page 1) **My Stamp**

Then click *Next step* on the right side of the page.



(Page 2) **Printing options**

Choose *Print on A4 sheet*.



(Page 2) **My Stamp**

Click *Add to cart*



(Page 3) **You**
Review your information



Institut national
des langues
et civilisations orientales

(Page 4) **You**

Review your information and then click *validate my cart*.



(Page 5) **Log in**

Create an account or log in to access the checkout page. After payment, pick up your stamp in *My Purchases* tab and print the pdf file. Finally, cut out the stamp and stick it on your envelope.