

＜全国通訳案内士試験＞
英語第2次口述試験対策

特訓セミナー(2)

テキスト

本書の目的

- (1) 英語第2次試験に出題が予想される質問に対する基本的認識を深めること。
- (2) それらの質問に対する自分なりの意見をまとめること。
- (3) 「英語第2次試験対策特訓セミナー②」の実践的質疑応答演習を通して、英語第2次試験に対する万全の準備をすること。

本書の構成

- (1) 本書には11回分のレッスンがある。
- (2) 各レッスンは12の質問により構成されている。
- (3) 本書の前半に質問、後半にその回答がそれぞれ記載されている。

効果的な学習法

《予習》

- (1) 各LessonのQuestionsに対して、Model Answersを参照しながら自分なりの言い易い回答を用意する。
- (2) 自分の回答から派生しそうな講師の質問(follow-up questions)についても、回答を用意しておく。

《授業》

- (1) 授業中は講師の目をしっかり見て、大きな声ではっきり応答する。
- (2) 自分及び他の参加者の回答に対する講師のコメントを注意深く聞き、自分の回答を改良してゆく。

《復習》

- (1) 授業終了後、再度Model Answersを参照して、さらに自分の回答を改良し、「決定版」と言えるものにする。
- (2) 「決定版」を徹底的に口頭練習して、「長期記憶回路」に定着させる。

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通訳案内士試験第2次口述試験の評価項目

第2次口述試験は、下記の6つの評価項目にて採点されるので、受験者はこれらの評価項目を常に意識しながら回答しなければならない。

Examination Criteria

1. Listening Comprehension
2. Speaking Ability
3. Pronunciation & Grammar
4. Ability to respond flexibly to the questions asked
5. Motivation & Enthusiasm
6. Aptitude for a tour guide in terms of impression and hospitality

Lesson 1

- A number in the parentheses indicates the year when the question was asked in the examination.

Education

1. *Why do Japanese children go to cram schools? (2009)*
2. *What are the Japanese schools like?*
3. *What is yobiko?*
4. *What is the difference between hiragana and katakana? (2009)*
5. *What is kanji?*
6. *What is romaji?*

Religion (1)

7. *Suppose you are taking a group of tourists to Meiji Shrine, what would you explain to them before entering the shrine? (2008)*
8. *Suppose you are taking a group of tourists to Senso-ji Temple, what would you explain to them?*
9. *Tell me about Todai-ji Temple. (2008)*
10. *Why are there so many Buddhist temples in Kamakura? (2008)*
11. *Why are there so many shrines and temples in Kyoto and Nara? (2008)*
12. *What is Nihon-no-toh?*

Lesson 2

Religion (2)

1. *I have seen people carrying a small shrine on their shoulders at a local festival. What is it and why do they carry it? (2008)*
2. *The precincts of most shrines and temples are covered with pebbles. Why is that? Does it signify something? (2008)*
3. *On New Year's Eve, the bell of a Buddhist temple is struck 108 times. What does it signify? (2008)*
4. *What is the difference between shrines and temples? (2007)*
5. *What is Shinto?*
6. *When do people go to Shinto shrines?*
7. *What is Buddhism?*
8. *What is the ultimate goal of Buddhism?*
9. *What is Zen?*
10. *What is zazen? (2007)*
11. *What is Kannon?*
12. *What is Shichifukujin?*

Lesson 3

Religion (3)

1. *What types of Buddhist statues are there? (2007)*
2. *Why do Japanese people clap their hands at Shinto shrines? (2008)*
3. *Why do Japanese worship at both Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines?*
4. *Why are weddings held at Shinto shrines and funerals held at Buddhist temples?*
5. *What are jizo statues for?*
6. *What is torii?*
7. *What is the origin of torii?*
8. *What is daibutsu?*
9. *What is juzu?*
10. *What is mokugyo?*
11. *What do people visit Buddhist temples for?*
12. *How can I distinguish Shinto shrines from Buddhist temples?*

Lesson 4

Religion (4)

1. *On what occasions do people go to Buddhist temples? (2006)*
2. *On what occasions do people go to Shinto shrines?*
3. *What is Hatsumode?*
4. *What is omamori?*
5. *What is omikuji?*
6. *What is komainu?*
7. *What is shimenawa?*
8. *What is daruma?*
9. *What is saisenbako?*
10. *What is Taian?*
11. *What is Butsumetsu?*
12. *What is inari-jinja?*

Lesson 5

Culture (1)

1. *What is kabuki? (2009)*
2. *What is bunraku? (2009)*
3. *How large is a bunraku puppet?*
4. *How many puppeteers are required to manipulate a bunraku puppet?*
5. *What is Noh?*
6. *What is the difference between kabuki and Noh?*
7. *Please tell me briefly about the history of Noh and kabuki.*
8. *What is kyogen?*
9. *What kinds of TV programs do you like? What TV program would you recommend to foreigners? (2008)*
10. *What kinds of TV programs are popular in Japan? (2008)*
11. *What kind of music do today's young Japanese like?*
12. *What is gagaku?*

Lesson 6

Culture (2)

1. *I have seen two types of curtains: One was a red-and-white one, and the other was a black-and-white one. What are they? What is the difference between them? (2008)*
2. *What is enka? (2006)*
3. *What is joruri?*
4. *What is hanamichi?*
5. *What is hanetsuki?*
6. *What is janken?*
7. *What is shogi?*
8. *What is Go?*
9. *What is mah-jongg?*
10. *Why do adults read cartoons in Japan?*
11. *What is shakuhachi?*
12. *What is biwa?*

Lesson 7

Culture (3)

1. *How is the tea ceremony different from just drinking tea?*
2. *What is ikebana?*
3. *What is cha-no-yu?*
4. *What is the iemoto system?*
5. *What is takoage?*
6. *What is suibokuga?*
7. *What is ukiyoe?*
8. *What is pachinko?*
9. *What is karaoke?*
10. *Where can I enjoy karaoke?*
11. *Do all Japanese women know how to arrange flowers and perform at tea ceremonies?*
12. *When do Japanese write with a brush?*

Lesson 8

Culture (4)

1. *Tell me about Japanese gardens. (2009, 2007)*
2. *I want to visit a traditional Japanese garden. Is there anywhere you can recommend? (2008)*
3. *What is bonsai? (2009)*
4. *How are bonsai cultivated?*
5. *What are some differences between Japanese and Western gardens?*
6. *What is karesansui?*
7. *Where can I see a karesansui garden?*
8. *What is shakkei?*
9. *What is jiki?*
10. *What is toki?*
11. *What is shippoyaki?*
12. *What is shikki?*

Lesson 9

Culture (5)

1. *How do you explain shoji and fusuma to foreign tourists? What is the difference between them? (2009)*
2. *What is sensu? (2009)*
3. *What is uchiwa? (2009)*
4. *What is furoshiki?*
5. *What is kokeshi?*
6. *What is the difference between Western music and traditional Japanese music?*
7. *Will you tell me about one of Japan's World Heritage sites? (2009)*
8. *What is juyo-bunkazai?*
9. *What is yukei-bunkazai?*
10. *What is mukei-bunkazai?*
11. *I can't use chopsticks. What should I do? (2006)*
12. *How are Living National Treasures designated?*

Lesson 10

Culture (6)

1. *What is haiku? (2009)*
2. *What is waka?*
3. *What is hanko?*
4. *What is Nishijin-ori?*
5. *What is Yuzen?*
6. *I heard that there are some dialects in Japan. Can you tell me something about them? (2008)*
7. *I heard that the Japanese language has three writing systems. What are they? (2007)*
8. *Why can an individual kanji be read in more than one way?*
9. *Why is there so much Japanese English?*
10. *What is senbazuru?*
11. *What is junishi?*
12. *What is kikuningyo?*

Lesson 11

Culture (7)

1. *What is maneki-neko? (2009)*
2. *What Japanese arts and crafts are you interested in?*
3. *What is netsuke?*
4. *What is oshibori?*
5. *What are waribashi?*
6. *Please explain giri and ninjo. (giri : 2009)*
7. *Please explain wabi and sabi.*
8. *Please explain honne and tatemae.*
9. *What is otaku?*
10. *Why and how have manga and anime become so popular throughout the world?*
11. *What is origami?*
12. *Why do Japanese like small things?*

Lesson 1 Model Answers

Education

1. *Why do Japanese children go to cram schools? (2009)*

[Ex.1] In Japan, many children go to juku, or cram schools, because entrance to top schools is so competitive that students must do extra study. Many parents want their children to attend prestigious universities so that they can later join prestigious companies.

[Ex.2] In Japan, graduation from a prestigious university is highly desirable because it is believed to ensure a good career and high social status. Parents often send their children to private cram schools, or “juku,” starting at a young age in the hope to give their children every possible advantage in the intense competition to pass the exams needed to enter the best junior high schools, high schools, and universities.

2. *What are the Japanese schools like?*

In Japan, elementary school (six years) and junior high school (three years) are compulsory for all students. Afterwards, students usually attend high schools (three years), which offer varied curricula, including academic, commercial and industrial courses. High school graduates who pass the necessary exams then enter junior colleges or universities. Graduate and professional schools offer advanced degree programs to qualified graduates.

3. *What is yobiko?*

Yobiko is a preparatory school where students study for entrance examinations to universities. Students who have failed to pass the examinations upon graduation from high school often enter these schools in preparation for another attempt in the following year.

4. *What is the difference between hiragana and katakana? (2009)*

Hiragana are cursive phonetic characters simplified from kanji. They are mainly used in combination with kanji. On the other hand, katakana are angular phonetic characters simplified from kanji. They are mainly used for writing foreign words.

5. *What is kanji?*

Kanji are the Chinese ideographs or characters on which the Japanese writing system is based. Each kanji is a symbol for a concept and is used for writing content words or root elements. Kanji are used in combination with kana, which are phonetic characters that represent syllables.

6. *What is romaji?*

Romaji are Roman letters used to write Japanese words. They are often employed in teaching Japanese as a second language, and are often used as decoration on popular goods, such as T-shirts and shopping bags.

Religion (1)

7. *Suppose you are taking a group of tourists to Meiji Shrine, what would you explain to them before entering the shrine? (2008)*

Meiji Shrine was built in 1920, and it is dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, both of whom oversaw Japan's entry into the modern world following the Meiji Restoration of 1868. This shrine is a very popular place for New Year visits and conducting wedding ceremonies. Also, it is famous for its spring and autumn festivals featuring traditional performances such as Noh drama, ancient court music, and dancing.

8. *Suppose you are taking a group of tourists to Senso-ji Temple, what would you explain to them?*

Senso-ji Temple was founded in the 7th century, when some local fishermen found a tiny statue of the bodhisattva Kannon in their nets while fishing in the nearby Sumida River. The statue was enshrined, and the temple became a famous center for worship. Each year, over 30 million people visit the temple to pray and “bathe” in the healing smoke that billows out from the huge incense burner in front of the main hall. The arcade known as “Nakamise,” which extends from the temple’s front gate, Kaminari-mon, to its main hall, is lined with shops specializing in traditional Japanese confections and other goods.

9. *Tell me about Todai-ji Temple. (2008)*

Todai-ji Temple is one of Japan’s most famous and historically significant temples, and is a major landmark of Nara. Todai-ji was completed in the middle of the 8th century as the head temple of all provincial Buddhist temples of Japan. It houses Japan’s largest statue of Buddha (Daibutsu). Also, the Great Buddha’s hall of Todai-ji is the world’s largest wooden structure, even though the present reconstruction of the early-18th century is only two thirds the size of the original.

10. *Why are there so many Buddhist temples in Kamakura? (2008)*

During the Kamakura period, when Japan saw the rise of the samurai to power, several new Buddhist sects were established in Japan. Among these sects, the Rinzai sect came to enjoy the patronage of the upper warrior class, especially “shikken,” or Hojo regents. Hojo regents financially helped to build many large temples in Kamakura. This is why there are many temples in Kamakura.

11. *Why are there so many shrines and temples in Kyoto and Nara? (2008)*

Both Kyoto and Nara were once the ancient capitals of Japan. During the Nara period, successive emperors hoped to pacify the nation through embracing Buddhism as a state religion. Kyoto had been the capital for more than 1,000 years, and many emperors believed in Buddhism. As for shrines, the reason for existence of the Japanese imperial family is based on the Shinto tenet that emperors are the descendants of the sun goddess Amaterasu. For these reasons, many emperors sponsored the building of shrines and temples in the two ancient capitals.

12. *What is Nihon-no-toh?*

Nihon-no-toh, or a Japanese pagoda, is usually a three- or five-story wooden structure. It is located on the grounds of Buddhist temples and is said to house ashes from the Buddha.

Lesson 2 Model Answers

Religion (2)

1. *I have seen people carrying a small shrine on their shoulders at a local festival. What is it and why do they carry it? (2008)*

It is called “mikoshi.” Mikoshi is a portable shrine in which the spirit of a deity temporarily reposes during a local festival held in the deity’s honor. It is carried on the shoulders of 20 to 30 people wearing happi coats and shouting “wasshoi, wasshoi.” The carrying of a portable shrine through the community signifies a visit of the deity to all who live there.

2. *The precincts of most shrines and temples are covered with pebbles. Why is that? Does it signify something? (2008)*

The precincts of Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples are sacred areas. So, people ward off evil and purify these grounds by scattering clean pebbles gathered from the upper reaches of some sacred rivers. Also, visitors to the shrines and temples can pacify their feelings and purify their mind, as they walk on the pebbles and listen to the sound of their own steps. With composure and cleansed mind, obtained in this way, the visitors are finally allowed to appear before the hall of worship, where deities or sacred objects are enshrined.

3. *On New Year’s Eve, the bell of a Buddhist temple is struck 108 times. What does it signify? (2008)*

It is called “Joya-no-kane.” Joya-no-kane are the 108 chimes of the temple bell which are sounded at midnight on New Year’s Eve. The sound of the bell rings out the old year and rings in the new year. It is also supposed to release people from the 108 worldly sins.

4. *What is the difference between shrines and temples? (2007)*

Shinto shrines, which are always entered through a torii gate, are where Shinto deities are enshrined. A water trough, called a temizuya, is provided for purification, and visitors clap their hands, and tug a thick rope attached to a bell to summon the resident kami. Buddhist temples are where monks and nuns live, practice ascetic exercises, and hold Buddhist ceremonies. Temples house many statues and they are often more ornate than Shinto shrines.

5. *What is Shinto?*

Shinto is the indigenous religion of Japan. Shinto is polytheistic, and its gods are worshiped at shrines called “jinja.” Shinto has neither a specific founder nor any books of scripture.

6. *When do people go to Shinto shrines?*

People go to Shinto shrines on special occasions such as New Year’s Day, births and marriages. They might also go to shrines in order to pray for good luck regarding business or examinations or for protection against misfortunes.

7. *What is Buddhism?*

Buddhism was founded in India and introduced through China and Korea to Japan in the 6th century. It teaches a way to enlightenment and has exerted great influence on the spiritual and cultural life of the Japanese.

8. *What is the ultimate goal of Buddhism?*

The ultimate goal of Buddhism is to attain a state of mind which is free from suffering, by getting rid of worldly desires. Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, believed that people suffer because of worldly desires.

9. *What is Zen?*

Zen Buddhism emphasizes silent meditation as a way to enlightenment. Zen concepts have greatly influenced many aspects of Japanese culture including the tea ceremony, landscape gardening, and flower arrangement.

10. *What is zazen? (2007)*

Zazen refers to a type of religious meditation performed while seated with the legs crossed and each foot resting on the opposite thigh. Zazen is practiced in Zen Buddhism.

11. *What is Kannon?*

Kannon is the most popular Bodhisattva in Japan. It is believed to be the Deity of Mercy who took a vow to save all people.

12. *What is Shichifukujin?*

Shichifukujin are the seven deities of Indian, Chinese and Japanese origin. The six gods and one goddess are usually depicted on a treasure ship. They are thought to bring wealth and fortune.

Lesson 3 Model Answers

Religion (3)

1. *What types of Buddhist statues are there? (2007)*

Statues of Buddha can be divided into three groups. The first is Nyorai, who wears a simple cloth without much decoration. The second is Bosatsu, who wears a crown, earrings, bracelets, leg rings and other ornaments. The third one is Myo-ou, whose face expresses anger towards evils.

2. *Why do Japanese people clap their hands at Shinto shrines? (2008)*

Clapping hands in front of a Shinto shrine is often misinterpreted to mean that the worshiper wishes to call the attention of kami, or the Shinto god. Historically speaking, however, clapping hands is an ancient form of paying respect in Japan. In ancient times, people clapped their hands at ceremonies held at the Imperial Court or when receiving a gift from a person in a high position. Therefore, by clapping hands before a Shinto shrine or altar, the worshiper is paying respect to the deity.

3. *Why do Japanese worship at both Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines?*

While Buddhism was first developing in India, it did not deny the gods of Hinduism, but rather incorporated them into Buddhism. Something similar to this is what happened in Japan. Besides, Shinto (the indigenous religion of Japan) itself is polytheistic, and it has the tendency to incorporate, rather than exclude, foreign gods. Therefore, the Japanese have traditionally regarded Buddhist deities as some of the many gods to worship, which happened to have foreign origins. Today, many Japanese feel completely comfortable worshipping at both Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.

4. *Why are weddings held at Shinto shrines and funerals held at Buddhist temples?*

In the distant past, Japanese wedding ceremonies had no religious meaning, and each household simply had a gathering to celebrate the event according to the standards of the time and the rules of the local community. It was in the Meiji period that weddings first came to be held at Shinto shrines. After Emperor Taisho was married in a Shinto ceremony in 1900, the practice spread throughout the country. Also, while Shinto viewed, and avoided, death as an “impurity,” Buddhism had no such concept. So, between the 12th and 16th centuries, monks began to play a role in death rites, and Buddhism gradually became associated with funerals. Yet, it was only after the beginning of the Edo period that funerals became established as a Buddhist ceremony and graves were situated within the temple grounds.

5. *What are jizo statues for?*

Jizo is a popular Bodhisattva in Japan, and jizo statues are found in every corner of Japan. Since jizo is the protector of travelers, you will find statues of him on the sides of roads and hiking trails. He is also the protector of pregnant women, children, and “mizuko,” babies who died before they were born. It is believed that jizo eases the suffering of “mizuko” in the afterlife, so people often put red bibs or hats on the statues to appreciate the jizo for helping the mizuko.

6. *What is torii?*

Torii is the gateway to a Shinto shrine. It consists of two upright posts connected at the top by two horizontal crosspieces. It is regarded as a barrier against evil spirits.

7. *What is the origin of torii?*

Torii are said to have originated as a perch for sacred birds in the compound of a shrine.

8. *What is daibutsu?*

Daibutsu is a large statue of Buddha and is usually cast in bronze. Two of the most famous statues are found in Nara and Kamakura.

9. *What is juzu?*

Juzu is a Buddhist rosary. On the rosary are 108 beads representing the 108 worldly sins. As a worshiper recites prayers or sutras, the rosary is held in the worshiper's hands.

10. *What is mokugyo?*

Mokugyo is a slit wooden gong employed while chanting Buddhist sutras. The gong is carved out of wood in the shape of a fish and is beaten with a stick having a cloth or leather head.

11. *What do people visit Buddhist temples for?*

Some visit famous old Buddhist temples just for sightseeing, others to pray to Buddhist statues for their various wishes.

12. *How can I distinguish Shinto shrines from Buddhist temples?*

A Shinto shrine has a large gateway called a torii at its entrance, while a Buddhist temple usually has statues in the main hall.

Lesson 4 Model Answers

Religion (4)

1. *On what occasions do people go to Buddhist temples? (2006)*

Most Japanese seldom go to Buddhist temples except for funerals, though some people go to temples during the Festival of the Souls (“Obon”) in summer. Tourists can often be seen visiting temples, especially in Kyoto and Nara.

2. *On what occasions do people go to Shinto shrines?*

Japanese visit Shinto shrines on New Year’s Day to pray for good health and happiness during the coming year, and on special occasions such as after the birth of a child, or to celebrate shichi-go-san. People also visit shrines to pray for success in passing school entrance examinations, and to obtain good luck charms. Although some weddings are conducted according to Shinto rites, couples usually do not go to shrines to take their marriage vows.

3. *What is Hatsumode?*

Hatsumode is the first visit paid on the New Year holidays to a shrine or temple. People pray for a long life and happiness for the year.

4. *What is omamori?*

Omamori is a good luck charm consisting of a piece of paper, wood, or cloth in a small cloth pouch. It is kept as protection from illness, accidents, and disasters.

5. *What is omikuji?*

Omikuji are fortunes written on slips of paper. People buy them at shrines and, occasionally, temples, and tie them onto the branches of nearby trees in hopes that a good fortune will come true or that a bad fortune will be kept away.

6. *What is komainu?*

Komainu are a pair of carved stone guardian dogs often found at the gates of Shinto shrines. They are believed to ward off evil spirits.

7. *What is shimenawa?*

Shimenawa is a rice-straw rope decorated with strips of cut and folded white paper. It is considered to be a barrier against evil spirits.

8. *What is daruma?*

Daruma is a papier-mâché figure without arms or legs which, when tipped on one side, always returns to an upright position. The figure is a symbol of determination and an object for good luck.

9. *What is saisenbako?*

Saisenbako is the offertory box at the front of a temple or shrine. Money is dropped into the box by visitors, the faithful, and those wishing for good luck.

10. *What is Taian?*

Taian is one of a recurring sequence of six days known as “rokuyo.” It is considered a lucky day and most of the wedding ceremonies in Japan are held on this day.

11. *What is Butsumetsu?*

Butsumetsu is one of a recurring sequence of six days known as “rokuyo.” It is considered an unlucky day because of its association with Buddha’s death.

12. *What is inari-jinja?*

Inari-jinja is a local tutelary Shinto shrine dedicated to the gods of the harvest and industry. Two statues of foxes, the messengers of the gods, stand at the gate of the shrine.

Lesson 5 Model Answers

Culture (1)

1. *What is kabuki? (2009)*

Kabuki is a traditional stage drama performed exclusively by men to the accompaniment of songs and music. It is characterized by a combination of rhythmical words, dancing, elaborate costumes, and stage sets.

2. *What is bunraku? (2009)*

Bunraku is a classical puppet play performed to the accompaniment of narrative ballads known as joruri. Its charm lies in the harmony of skilled puppeteers and the voices of the joruri singer.

3. *How large is a bunraku puppet?*

[Ex.1] A bunraku puppet is about two-thirds life-size.

[Ex.2] A bunraku puppet is from 1 to 1.5 m tall.

4. *How many puppeteers are required to manipulate a bunraku puppet?*

Three puppeteers are required to manipulate a bunraku puppet. The main puppeteer manipulates the puppet's head and right hand, the second puppeteer the left hand, and the third the feet.

5. *What is Noh?*

Noh is a classical stage art performed mostly by men to the accompaniment of recitative chants called yokyoku and an orchestra consisting of a flute and three types of drums. It is characterized by symbolic, highly stylized acting, and elaborate masks.

6. *What is the difference between kabuki and Noh?*

Compared with kabuki, Noh has fewer dramatic elements, the dance movements are performed more slowly, and the principal Noh characters wear masks. In addition, the stage and stage sets of Noh are much simpler than those of kabuki.

7. *Please tell me briefly about the history of Noh and kabuki.*

Noh is the oldest form of theater in Japan. Its origins go back to ancient times, but it was in the fourteenth century that it began to flourish. Kabuki dates back to the seventeenth century. Noh was for members of the warrior or samurai class, whereas kabuki was for the common people.

8. *What is kyogen?*

Kyogen is a traditional comic or mime drama which reflects everyday conditions of life. In addition to being performed between the works of a Noh program as an interlude, it is also performed in its own right.

9. *What kinds of TV programs do you like? What TV program would you recommend to foreigners? (2008)*

Of the wide variety of programs that are popular on Japanese TV, I personally like documentaries. But, since most foreign visitors may not understand Japanese, I would recommend they watch samurai dramas. By watching them, they can get a very good idea of what the traditional Japanese lifestyle was like, even if they don't understand the language.

10. *What kinds of TV programs are popular in Japan? (2008)*

Sports broadcasting, news shows, "wide shows" featuring news and gossip about celebrities, quiz shows, and serial dramas are the most popular types of TV programs in Japan.

11. *What kind of music do today's young Japanese like?*

In addition to domestic Japanese pop music, young people in Japan are interested in a variety of music from the U.S. and other countries, including rock, R&B, hip hop, reggae, Eurobeat, and techno pop. However, when it comes to singing songs themselves, they seem to prefer Japanese pop music.

12. *What is gagaku?*

Gagaku is a genre of the ancient ceremonial dances and music of the Imperial Court. The term bugaku refers to the dances, while kangen refers to the music performed by an ensemble of wind, string, and percussion instruments.

Lesson 6 Model Answers

Culture (2)

1. *I have seen two types of curtains: One was a red-and-white one, and the other was a black-and-white one. What are they? What is the difference between them? (2008)*

The curtain with broad red-and-white vertical stripes is used on celebratory occasions, such as entrance and graduation ceremonies at schools. On the other hand, the one with broad black-and-white vertical stripes is draped on sad or unhappy occasions, such as funerals. Since ancient times, red has been the color of celebration because it is associated with the sun. Black has been the color of mourning because it is associated with night and darkness.

2. *What is enka? (2006)*

Enka is a genre of Japanese songs, characterized by lyrics about love, and mingled feelings of joy and sorrow. Enka songs have existed in Japan since the 1920s, but they reached their height of popularity in the 1960s and 70s. Even now many older Japanese people enjoy singing enka songs at karaoke.

3. *What is joruri?*

Joruri is a traditional narrative ballad originally accompanied by biwa and later by shamisen. Today the term usually refers to the music of the bunraku puppet theater.

4. *What is hanamichi?*

Hanamichi, literally “flower path,” is the raised platform which extends from the stage through the audience in a kabuki theater. It is actually an extension of the stage on which the actors can come into close contact with the audience.

5. *What is hanetsuki?*

Hanetsuki is a traditional New Year game similar to badminton. It is played with an ornamented wooden paddle by girls dressed in kimono.

6. *What is janken?*

Janken is the “rock-scissors-paper” game played between two or more participants as a means of coming to a decision. In the game, hand moves are made to represent a rock (fist), scissors (the index and middle fingers extended), or paper (the open hand). Rock breaks scissors, scissors cut paper, and paper covers rock.

7. *What is shogi?*

Shogi is a traditional chess-like game played between two people. As in chess, pieces may be captured, but unlike in chess those pieces may be used by the captor. The game ends with the checkmate of an opponent’s king.

8. *What is Go?*

Go, or igo, is a game of strategy played between two people. Black and white stones are placed alternately on a board in an attempt to capture the other player’s stones by surrounding them. The game ends when the board is filled with stones, or the possibilities for gaining territory are exhausted.

9. *What is mah-jongg?*

Mah-jongg is one of the most popular indoor games in Japan, similar in status to the game of poker in America. It is of Chinese origin and is played by four people. Each player’s hand always consists of 13 tiles. The object of the game is to get a complete hand of 14 tiles.

10. *Why do adults read cartoons in Japan?*

It is because, unlike in the West, comic strips have been a part of the entertainment culture for both adults and children in Japan. There are a wide variety of cartoons and comic books in Japan. And there are an equally wide range of readers. Japan has, among others, cartoons that deal with topics such as romance, sports, gourmet cooking, business, politics, history, and philosophy.

11. *What is shakuhachi?*

Shakuhachi is a bamboo flute, generally having five finger holes. It is usually played as accompaniment to traditional songs.

12. *What is biwa?*

Biwa is a four- or five-stringed musical instrument similar to a lute. It is primarily used as accompaniment to traditional narrative ballads. The largest lake in Japan is called Lake Biwa because its shape resembles the outline of the instrument.

Lesson 7 Model Answers

Culture (3)

1. *How is the tea ceremony different from just drinking tea?*

In the Japanese tea ceremony, rules govern every aspect of making and serving the tea — from preparing the fire, adding the hot water to tea cups, stirring the tea with a whisk, to serving it to guests. Even participating as a guest in a formal tea ceremony requires knowledge of the prescribed gestures and phrases, and the proper way to take tea and sweets. Therefore, the tea ceremony is quite different from just drinking tea.

2. *What is ikebana?*

Ikebana is the traditional Japanese art of arranging flowers. In its earlier stages of development it was closely related to the tea ceremony, being used as a special technique for decorating the tearoom.

3. *What is cha-no-yu?*

Cha-no-yu is the art and ritual of serving special powdered tea. It originated in the monasteries of Zen Buddhism, but today it is regarded as a form of artistic discipline for the cultivation of mental composure and elegant manners.

4. *What is the iemoto system?*

The iemoto system is used in the traditional Japanese arts as a way for a grand master (or iemoto) to convey the correct teachings of his or her school. Though the top rank of iemoto is usually passed along by direct inheritance, any practitioner, who obtains the proper skills and pays a licensing fee, may be granted a license qualifying the practitioner as a teacher of the school. The iemoto alone has the authority to issue such licenses.

5. *What is takoage?*

Takoage means “kite-flying.” It is a popular New Year activity for children in Japan.

6. *What is suibokuga?*

Suibokuga is a style of India ink painting. Scenes from nature, animals, birds, and flowers are typical subjects. Suibokuga began among Zen Buddhist monks and was gradually adopted by professional artists.

7. *What is ukiyoe?*

Ukiyoe is a style of wood-block printing developed during the Edo period. It depicts the Japanese landscape, the everyday life of commoners, kabuki actors, sumo wrestlers, and beautiful women.

8. *What is pachinko?*

Pachinko is a game of chance and skill played on an upright pinball machine. A player tries to manipulate small steel balls through certain holes so as to win more balls which can later be exchanged for such prizes as cigarettes, food, or other items.

9. *What is karaoke?*

Karaoke is the act of singing through an amplifier to recorded musical accompaniment. Most bars and pubs have very sophisticated karaoke systems.

10. *Where can I enjoy karaoke?*

You can enjoy karaoke at many drinking places. There are also what they call “karaoke boxes,” which consist of small rooms designed so that small groups can enjoy karaoke privately.

11. *Do all Japanese women know how to arrange flowers and perform at tea ceremonies?*

No. However, until the end of World War II, knowledge of the tea ceremony and flower arrangement was expected of all single women hoping to marry.

12. *When do Japanese write with a brush?*

Though Japanese study calligraphy in school, they rarely write with a brush in daily life. They may do so only when addressing envelopes for special occasions such as weddings, births, or funerals. However, even on these occasions a brush is not needed; most people simply use a felt-tip pen.

Lesson 8 Model Answers

Culture (4)

1. *Tell me about Japanese gardens. (2009, 2007)*

A Japanese garden is a landscape garden composed of rocks, trees, ponds, and other natural objects. This type of garden is designed in accordance with the appearance of nature. The three most famous landscape gardens in Japan are (1) Koraku-en in Okayama, Okayama Prefecture, (2) Kenroku-en in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, and (3) Kairaku-en in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture.

2. *I want to visit a traditional Japanese garden. Is there anywhere you can recommend? (2008)*

[Ex.1] If you are traveling in Tokyo, I recommend Hama Rikyu Gardens in Chuo Ward, Tokyo. Hama Rikyu was the garden of a feudal lord's residence during the Edo period, and is one of Tokyo's most attractive landscape gardens. It is located along Tokyo Bay, next to the futuristic Shiodome district. Seawater ponds ("Shioiri-no-ike"), which change their water level with the ebb and flow of the tides, former duck-hunting grounds, forested areas, and a teahouse are some of the park's attractions. Also, you can enjoy the superb contrast between the traditional gardens and Shiodome's skyscrapers in the background.

[Ex.2] If you are traveling in Tokyo, I would recommend Rikugien in Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo. It is one of Tokyo's most beautiful, Japanese-style landscape gardens. Completed in the early 18th century by shogunal official Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu, Rikugien literally means "six-poem garden," and reproduces 88 scenes from famous poems in miniature. Rikugien is quite a spacious garden with a large central pond, islands, forested areas, man-made hills, and several teahouses.

[Ex.3] If you are traveling in Kyoto, I would recommend Kinkaku Temple and its surrounding garden. Kinkaku, a three-story pavilion covered in gold leaf, is positioned at the edge of a pond. The structure is supported on pillars, extends over the pond, and on a clear day it is beautifully reflected in the calm waters. You can also enjoy exploring the surrounding garden with its moss-covered grounds and teahouses.

[Ex.4] If you are traveling in Kyoto, I would recommend the garden at Ryoan-ji Temple. It is one of the most famous Zen-style dry-landscape gardens in Japan. Just 15 rocks are arranged in three groupings of seven, five, and three, in waves of raked white pebbles. From the temple's veranda, which is the proper viewing place, only 14 rocks can be seen at one time. Move slightly and another rock appears but one of the original 14 disappears. In the Buddhist world, the number 15 denotes completeness.

3. *What is bonsai? (2009)*

Bonsai is a potted tree which has been dwarfed and shaped by such methods as pruning and wiring in order to create particularly aesthetic shapes.

4. *How are bonsai cultivated?*

Bonsai is the art of aesthetic miniaturization of trees by growing them in earthenware containers. Cultivation, which usually spans many years, consists of selecting the appropriate type of soil, use of fertilizer, periodic repotting, wiring the branches or trunk to control the shape, and pruning.

5. *What are some differences between Japanese and Western gardens?*

A common difference is that, usually, Japanese gardens try to create a natural scene, while Western gardens usually place emphasis on geometrical form and balance.

6. *What is karesansui?*

Karesansui is a dry landscape garden mainly composed of rocks and sand. The rocks represent mountains or islands, while the sand represents water.

7. *Where can I see a karesansui garden?*

Most Zen Buddhist temples have karesansui-type gardens. The famous ones are found at Ryoan Temple and Daitoku Temple, both in Kyoto.

8. *What is shakkei?*

Shakkei, or “borrowed landscape,” is the incorporation of outside or surrounding landscapes into the design of a garden.

9. *What is jiki?*

Jiki is glazed porcelain with a white translucent body. Notable kinds of jiki ware are Imari, Kiyomizu, and Seto.

10. *What is toki?*

Toki is glazed pottery with an opaque body. Notable kinds of toki ware are Hagi, Oribe, and Mashiko.

11. *What is shippoyaki?*

Shippoyaki, originally from China, is a cloisonné type of ceramic ware. The enamels give a multi-colored, gem-like surface to plates and vases.

12. *What is shikki?*

Shikki is lacquer ware. Most soup bowls and some chopsticks in Japan are lacquered. Notable kinds of lacquer ware are Wajima, Aizu, and Tsugaru-nuri.

Lesson 9 Model Answers

Culture (5)

1. *How do you explain shoji and fusuma to foreign tourists? What is the difference between them? (2009)*

Shoji are sliding doors covered with thin white paper on a wooden frame. They separate the rooms in a Japanese house from the corridors or veranda. On the other hand, fusuma are wood-framed sliding doors covered with thick paper. They separate the rooms in a Japanese house.

2. *What is sensu? (2009)*

Sensu is a folding fan made of paper on a bamboo frame, usually with a decorative picture, design, or calligraphic character on it.

3. *What is uchiwa?*

Uchiwa is a round, flat paper fan with a wooden or plastic handle. It is usually used for keeping oneself cool or fanning a fire.

4. *What is furoshiki?*

Furoshiki is a wrapping cloth, often with decorative designs. When not in use, furoshiki can be folded compactly and put away.

5. *What is kokeshi?*

Kokeshi is a simple wooden doll consisting of a cylindrical body and a round head. The dolls have no legs or arms.

6. *What is the difference between Western music and traditional Japanese music?*

The musical instruments used are different and so the sound is different. The main musical instruments used for traditional Japanese music are shamisen, shakuhachi, and koto.

7. *Will you tell me about one of Japan's World Heritage sites? (2009)*

[Ex.1] I will tell you about Himeji Castle near Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, one of the most famous castles in Japan. It is designated as a World Cultural Heritage site, as well as a National Treasure. Himeji Castle is also known as “Egret Castle” because of its white plastered walls, and is considered one of the most beautiful castles in Japan. As usual with many Japanese castles, it sits high on a hill and offers an excellent view from the top of the castle tower.

[Ex.2] I will tell you about Horyuji Temple in Nara Prefecture. Horyuji Temple is internationally noted among the oldest wooden structures in the world, and designated as a World Cultural Heritage site. The temple presents visitors with the opportunity to view some of Japan's finest historical works of art in a pleasant atmosphere. Most of the major buildings in the precincts have long been named National Treasures.

[Ex.3] I will tell you about Itsukushima Shrine. It is a magnificent Shinto shrine on the island of Itsukushima (or Miyajima) in Hiroshima Prefecture. It is designated as a World Cultural Heritage site, and the several buildings and possessions of the shrine are named National Treasures. This shrine extends over the sea on long pillars. Its large red torii is renowned for the impression it gives of floating on the sea.

8. *What is juyo-bunkazai?*

Juyo-bunkazai are important cultural assets. They are designated as such by the education minister and the most significant among these are classified as national treasures.

9. *What is yukei-bunkazai?*

Yukei-bunkazai are tangible cultural assets. They are designated as such by the education minister and include pictures, sculptures, architecture, and the like.

10. *What is mukei-bunkazai?*

Mukei-bunkazai are intangible cultural assets. They are designated as such by the education minister, and include plays, music, and artistic techniques.

11. *I can't use chopsticks. What should I do? (2006)*

Don't worry. Most restaurants or dining rooms of hotels you may stay at have knives and forks available for those who are not accustomed to using chopsticks.

12. *How are Living National Treasures designated?*

The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology may designate someone as a "Living National Treasure" if the person possesses: (1) special acting skills related to Japan's traditional performing arts, or (2) special skills related to the traditional crafts of Japan.

Lesson 10 Model Answers

Culture (6)

1. *What is haiku? (2009)*

Haiku is a very compact but evocative verse form of 17 syllables in a 5-7-5 line pattern. The themes of haiku may be inspired by intuitive perception into nature and life.

2. *What is waka?*

Waka is the general term for classical Japanese verse forms. It especially refers to Tanka, a 31-syllable verse form with five lines in a 5-7-5-7-7 pattern.

3. *What is hanko?*

Hanko is a personal seal which has the same legal status as the Western signature. Hanko is usually made of wood, stone, or ivory, and is engraved with the family name.

4. *What is Nishijin-ori?*

Nishijin-ori is the name of a silk fabric and brocade produced in the Nishijin district of Kyoto. The fabrics produced here are used in such items as kimono sashes, tablecloths, and neckties.

5. *What is Yuzen?*

Yuzen is a special craft of Kyoto in which silk fabrics are dyed with a wide variety of patterns and colors. Yuzen-dyed scarfs, handkerchiefs, and kimono are popular. The process is said to have been invented by Miyazaki Yuzen, an artist of the late 17th century.

6. *I heard that there are some dialects in Japan. Can you tell me something about them? (2008)*

Interestingly enough, although Japan is such a small island country, it has several distinctive local dialects in the Japanese language. For example, the standard Japanese word (also the word in the Tokyo dialect) for “thank you” is “arigatou,” whereas it is “ookini” in the Osaka dialect. Yet, people from all areas, including Okinawa, can communicate with one another in standard Japanese, which has evolved from the speech patterns used by people in the Tokyo area over the centuries.

7. *I heard that the Japanese language has three writing systems. What are they? (2007)*

To write Japanese, we use three different types of characters. They include “kanji,” or an adapted form of Chinese characters, and two other types of phonetic characters representing only phonetic sounds, namely, “hiragana” and “katakana.” The two types of phonetic characters were both simplified from the Chinese characters, but one of them, “hiragana,” is cursive, and the other, “katakana,” is angular. The angular ones are mainly used for writing foreign loanwords.

8. *Why can an individual kanji be read in more than one way?*

Most kanji, or Chinese characters, have at least two readings, that is, two ways they can be pronounced. One is the Japanese way called “kun-yomi,” and the other is the Chinese way called “on-yomi.” Before Japan’s adoption of Chinese characters, the Japanese language existed as a spoken language without its own writing system. When the Japanese adopted Chinese characters, they also adopted some of the Chinese pronunciations (i.e., their Japanese imitations or approximations of the original Chinese sound) of the characters. Thus, generally, there are more than one way of reading the same kanji.

9. *Why is there so much Japanese English?*

Japanese English comes in a number of different forms. For example, the Japanese-English word for “rear-view mirror” is “bakku-mira.” Such words were probably created because the real English was either hard to understand or difficult to pronounce. Another group of examples may include “paso kon” for “personal computer” and “seku hara” for “sexual harassment.” In these cases, the beginnings of two words were combined to create a new word, which is shorter and much easier for Japanese to pronounce. Also, sometimes, words are just thrown together in an English-like fashion to make up for a lack of proper vocabulary. One of such cases is Japanese “beddo taun” (“bed town”) for English “bedroom suburb.”

10. *What is senbazuru?*

Senbazuru is a string of a thousand paper cranes. It is usually sent to a person who is ill or injured as a prayer for recovery. The crane is symbolic of happiness and long life.

11. *What is junishi?*

Junishi are the twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac. In yearly sequence they are: mouse, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, serpent, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and wild boar.

12. *What is kikuningyo?*

Kikuningyo is a life-size doll constructed of colorful chrysanthemum flowers and leaves. It usually represents a historical figure of the feudal ages.

Lesson 11 Model Answers

Culture (7)

1. *What is maneki-neko? (2009)*

Maneki-neko is a statue of a cat beckoning passers-by. The statue is often found in restaurants and shops and is displayed as a charm to attract customers.

2. *What Japanese arts and crafts are you interested in?*

[Ex.1] I'm interested in lacquered crafts. There are boxes, cases, and trays lacquered in black or red, on which beautiful designs are made with gold and shell.

[Ex.2] I'm interested in traditional Japanese painting. The paintings done on old fusuma (sliding doors) and byobu (folding screens) of the 15th to 17th centuries are very beautiful.

3. *What is netsuke?*

Netsuke is a small, toggle-like object carved out of wood or ivory. Originally, it was used to fasten a seal case, pouch, or purse to a kimono sash. Netsuke is usually about four centimeters big, and has intricate carvings which depict such subjects as people, animals, and daily utensils.

4. *What is oshibori?*

Oshibori are hand towels offered in a restaurant or tearoom. They are used to clean one's hands before eating.

5. *What are waribashi?*

Waribashi are disposable wooden chopsticks that are pre-cut so they can be split apart before use. Waribashi are usually provided in public eating places.

6. *Please explain giri and ninjo. (giri : 2009)*

Giri refers to the sense of social obligation which every individual is supposed to develop in life. Ninjo refers to the natural human feelings of love, sympathy, and sorrow, which everyone is assumed to have from birth.

7. *Please explain wabi and sabi.*

Wabi refers to an aesthetic of refined rusticity, and sabi refers to the elegant serenity of desolation. Wabi and sabi are among the highest of aesthetic qualities valued in traditional Japanese arts, particularly the tea ceremony and haiku.

8. *Please explain honne and tatemae.*

Honne refers to one's true feelings or motives, whereas tatemae is the face one wears in public. Honne may be expressed privately, while tatemae is an opinion designed for social acceptance.

9. *What is otaku?*

The word "otaku" began to be used in the 1980s. Its meaning varies slightly according to the times, but at first it had the following somewhat negative meaning: "people who are poor at communicating with others and who lose themselves in hobbies that they can do without reference to other people." At present, it still retains this negative aspect, but its scope has broadened so that it can be casually used as a synonym for "freak" or "enthusiast," such as in "railroad otaku" or "fitness otaku." Overseas, "otaku" refers to anyone who is interested in Japanese popular culture as a whole.

10. *Why and how have manga and anime become so popular throughout the world?*

Japanese manga and anime have attracted a great deal of attention because of their storytelling and the high quality of their artwork. Several pieces of work by Studio Ghibli of Hayao Miyazaki have become world famous. But even before that, Japanese anime, such as Astro Boy (Tetsuwan Atomu), Doraemon, and others, had been telecast on TV stations throughout the world and had already earned an excellent reputation.

11. *What is origami?*

Origami is the traditional Japanese art of folding paper into various shapes such as birds, animals, and flowers. They are made with square, colored pieces of paper without the use of scissors or paste.

12. *Why do Japanese like small things?*

It is said that the Japanese word for “beautiful” (utsukushii) originally included the meaning of “small.” Japanese do seem to love small things and admire anything that shows fine and delicate workmanship. Since Japanese are fairly clever with their hands, they are suited to making such objects. Some examples of Japanese miniaturization are “bonsai” (a dwarfed tree in a pot) and “hakoniwa” (a garden in a small box). In modern times, this talent led to the development of transistor radios, Walkmans, and much more.