

＜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(3)

テキスト

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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③」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9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.

Sightseeing

1. *Will you tell me about one of Japan's World Heritage sites? (2009)*
2. *When and where can I see cherry blossoms? (2009)*
3. *Where in Tokyo would you recommend I visit? (2009)*
4. *What is the most comfortable season to travel in Japan? (2009)*
5. *There are many hot springs in Japan. Please recommend one of them. (2008)*
6. *I want to go to Hakone. Could you tell me something about Hakone? (2008)*
7. *Please tell me how to get to Mt. Fuji from Tokyo. (2007)*
8. *What is the best way to go to Osaka from Tokyo? (2007)*

Shopping

9. *Where do you recommend if I want to go shopping in Tokyo? (2009)*
10. *Where would you recommend if I want to eat some inexpensive food in Japan? (2009)*
11. *I would like to buy some traditional Japanese items as souvenirs. Where do you recommend? (2007)*
12. *I want to buy some modern Japanese things. Where and what do you recommend? (2007)*

Lesson 2

Food (1)

1. *What is the difference between udon and soba? (2008)*
2. *What is the difference between sake and shochu? (2008)*
3. *What is the typical diet of the Japanese?*
4. *Is rice still the mainstay of the Japanese diet? Do people eat it every day?*
5. *What is the favorite food of the Japanese?*
6. *How long has shoyu (soy sauce) been used in Japan?*
7. *What is tempura?*
8. *What is sukiyaki?*
9. *What are some of the characteristics of Japanese cuisine?*
10. *What is kaiten-zushi?*
11. *What is shabu-shabu?*
12. *What is osechi-ryori?*

Lesson 3

Food (2)

1. *Why do Japanese people eat sea bream on happy occasions? (2008)*
2. *How long has miso (soybean paste) been used in Japan?*
3. *Why is tofu said to be a health food?*
4. *What is the proper way to hold chopsticks?*
5. *What types of cooking techniques are used to prepare fish commonly eaten in Japan?*
6. *How is sake or Japanese rice wine made?*
7. *What is kaiseki-ryori?*
8. *What is miso?*
9. *What is yakitori?*
10. *What is yatai?*
11. *What is shojin-ryori?*
12. *What is oden?*

Lesson 4

Japanese Holidays and Festivals (1)

1. *How do you explain Obon to foreign tourists? (2009)*
2. *What is shichi-go-san? (2009)*
3. *What is tanabata? (2009)*
4. *What do the Japanese do during the New Year holidays? (2006)*
5. *When did the custom of flower viewing start?*
6. *What do people do in hana-matsuri (the Flower Festival)?*
7. *What do people do on tsukimi?*
8. *What is setsubun?*
9. *What is hina-matsuri?*
10. *What is higan?*
11. *What is tango-no-sekku?*
12. *What is bon-odori?*

Lesson 5

Japanese Holidays and Festivals (2)

1. *What do people do on New Year's Eve?*
2. *What is the significance of festivals for the Japanese?*
3. *What are the three largest festivals in Japan?*
4. *What is hatsumode?*
5. *What is hanami?*
6. *What is koinobori?*
7. *What is seibo?*
8. *What is bonenkai?*
9. *What is Joya-no-kane?*
10. *What is Gion-matsuri?*
11. *What is Aoi-matsuri?*
12. *What is Jidai-matsuri?*

Lesson 6

Sports

1. *Tell me about Japanese martial arts. (2009)*
2. *What is sumo? (2009)*
3. *Why do sumo wrestlers throw salt into the ring and stomp their feet before their match? (2008)*
4. *I heard that there is a ski resort in Hokkaido where many Australians visit. Where is it? (2008)*
5. *Where is the best place for skiing in Japan? (2007)*
6. *What is the national sport of Japan? (2006)*
7. *What is the most popular sport in Japan? (2006)*
8. *What is hanetsuki?*
9. *What is dojo?*
10. *What is koko-yakyu?*
11. *What is aikido?*
12. *What is kyudo?*

Lesson 7

Housing

1. *How do you explain shoji and fusuma to foreign tourists? What is the difference between them? (2009)*
2. *What are the advantages in the wooden structure of Japanese houses? (2008)*
3. *What is kakejiku?*
4. *What is byobu?*
5. *What is tatami?*
6. *What is tokonoma?*

Gardens

7. *Tell me about Japanese gardens. (2009)*
8. *What is shakkei?*
9. *I want to visit a Japanese garden. Where do you recommend? (2008)*
10. *I saw gardeners wrapping tree trunks with straw mats or straw blankets in early winter. What is that for? (2008)*
11. *What is karesansui?*
12. *What is bonsai?*

Related questions:

What is noren?

What is ishidoro?

What is Koraku-en?

What is Kenroku-en?

What is Kairaku-en?

Lesson 8

Clothing

1. *When did the Japanese start wearing Western clothes? (2006, 2007)*
2. *On what occasions do Japanese wear kimono? (2006, 2007)*
3. *What is yukata?*
4. *What is hakama?*
5. *What is hachimaki?*
6. *What is kimono?*
7. *What is furisode?*
8. *What is haori?*
9. *What is tabi?*
10. *What is zori?*
11. *What is geta?*
12. *What is montsuki?*

Lesson 9

Important questions for a tour guide

1. *What do you think of the fact that there are far more people going abroad than people coming to Japan? (2009)*
2. *What would you do as a tour guide, if a woman on your tour bus says that she wants to go to the restroom in a traffic jam? (2009)*
3. *Why is tourism so important to Japan? (2009)*
4. *Why do you want to be a tour guide? (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)*
5. *What do you think are the most important qualities for a tour guide? (2007)*
6. *Your tour bus has got stuck in a traffic jam and doesn't move. What would you do? (2008)*
7. *What would you do, if a group of foreign tourists you are guiding missed the Shinkansen they were supposed to take? (2008)*
8. *If a foreign tourist left his camera on the train, what would you do? (2008)*
9. *I have no cash and I only have credit cards. How can I get cash? (2008)*
10. *I lost my passport. What should I do? (2006)*
11. *Suppose I am a foreign tourist with my daughter and my daughter has a sudden stomachache, what should I do? (2006)*
12. *Why do Japanese like to travel abroad on package tours?*

Lesson 1 Model Answers

Sightseeing

1. *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.

2. *When and where can I see cherry blossoms? (2009)*

Cherry blossoms (or “Sakura”) can be viewed at many locations throughout Japan from late January (in Okinawa) through mid-May (in Hokkaido). The blossoms reach their peak earlier in the south than the north, but usually last for only ten days or so. Nearly all Japanese cities have local parks with beautiful cherry blossoms. Popular viewing places in Tokyo include Chidorigafuchi, Ueno Park, Shinjuku-gyoen Park and Koganei Park.

3. *Where in Tokyo would you recommend I visit? (2009)*

[Ex. 1] I would recommend Meiji Shrine, the largest Shinto shrine in Tokyo. This shrine is dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken, who oversaw Japan's entry into the modern world following the Meiji Restoration of 1868. The shrine buildings are made of Japanese cypress and built in a classic Shinto architectural style that is simple but grand. It is a special oasis in the midst of all the big-city hustle and bustle.

[Ex. 2] I would recommend Tokyo Tower in Minato Ward. Having been built in 1958 and modeled after the Eiffel Tower in Paris, this 333m structure is a beloved landmark in the city's landscape. The tower boasts two observatories, both of which offer spectacular, panoramic views of Tokyo.

[Ex. 3] I would recommend Sensoji Temple in Asakusa. It is dedicated to Kannon, or the Buddhist goddess of mercy, and is therefore popularly called the Asakusa Kannon Temple. This temple is Tokyo's oldest and most popular one, with a history dating from 628. Its colorful Nakamise-Dori, a pedestrian lane leading to the temple, is lined with traditional shops and souvenir stands, and is a great place to buy your gifts as well.

4. *What is the most comfortable season to travel in Japan? (2009)*

Although each season has its own charm, most Japanese would agree that the most comfortable seasons are spring and autumn. As the climate is stable, these are generally the best times of year for travel and sightseeing.

5. *There are many hot springs in Japan. Please recommend one of them. (2008)*

[Ex. 1] I would recommend Noboribetsu hot-spring resort. Noboribetsu is part of Shikotsu-Toya National Park, and is the most famous hot-spring resort in Hokkaido. It is beautifully surrounded by forested hills. Noboribetsu's major attraction, besides its baths, is Jigoku-dani, or "Hell Valley," where you can smell natural fumes of sulfurous steam, and see stunning streams and ponds.

[Ex. 2] I would recommend Dogo Onsen in Ehime Prefecture. It is one of Japan's oldest and most famous hot springs, located on the outskirts of Matsuyama City. Its main attraction is the Dogo Onsen Honkan. It is a wooden public bathhouse constructed in the Meiji period, dating back to 1894. Besides bathing, the elegant complex offers tea, Japanese sweets, and private rooms for relaxation after the bath. Dogo Onsen is most easily accessed by tram. The tram ride from JR Matsuyama Station takes about 15-20 minutes.

6. *I want to go to Hakone. Could you tell me something about Hakone? (2008)*

Hakone is a popular all-year tourist site because of its many hot-spring resorts, beautiful scenery, and comfortable climate. Its easy access from Tokyo, views of Mt. Fuji, and the plentiful facilities in the district also add to its attraction.

7. *Please tell me how to get to Mt. Fuji from Tokyo. (2007)*

If you plan to take a train, use the Shinkansen from Tokyo Station and go to Shin-Fuji Station in Shizuoka Prefecture. It takes about one and a quarter hours. From the station, you can take the Tozan Bus to the last stop called "Fujinomiya New 5th Station" on Mt. Fuji. Or, if you don't want to use a train, you can take the Tomei Highway Bus from Tokyo Station. In about two hours and 45 minutes you can get to Kawaguchi-ko and take the Tozan Bus from there. In about 50 minutes, you can get to a stop called Kawaguchi-ko 5th Station on Mt. Fuji.

8. *What is the best way to go to Osaka from Tokyo? (2007)*

By Shinkansen. The fastest type of the Shinkansen, Nozomi, will take you from Tokyo to Osaka in about two and a half hours. An airplane will get you there faster than the Shinkansen, but Haneda Airport of Tokyo, Osaka International Airport, and Kansai International Airport are not located in the center of each city. So if you take into consideration the time spent on reaching the airports from the center of the city, the total amount of time is more or less the same as the time spent in using the Shinkansen.

Shopping

9. *Where do you recommend if I want to go shopping in Tokyo? (2009)*

[Ex. 1] Tokyo is one of the largest cities in the world, so you can find a lot of shopping complexes in areas such as Shinjuku, Akasaka, Roppongi, and Marunouchi. Stores dealing in famous brands like Gucci, Louis Vuitton, and Hermes are plentiful in these shopping complexes. In addition, large hotels have shopping arcades with stores that can send goods anywhere in the world.

[Ex. 2] If you are interested in buying some electronic devices, such as digital cameras or portable game consoles, good stores can be found in areas such as Shinjuku, Ikebukuro, and Akihabara.

10. *Where would you recommend if I want to eat some inexpensive food in Japan? (2009)*

[Ex. 1] I would recommend that you go to Izakaya. Izakaya is a Japanese-style tavern that serves a wide range of food and drinks at relatively low prices. It is popular with mostly office workers and young people.

[Ex. 2] I would recommend family restaurants. Family restaurants are almost everywhere in big cities, and there the food are reasonably priced. Besides, many of these establishments display, at the front, the plastic samples of the food they offer. This will make it a lot easier for you to order exactly what you want to eat.

11. *I would like to buy some traditional Japanese items as souvenirs. Where do you recommend? (2007)*

If you are looking for traditional Japanese things, the Oriental Bazaar at Harajuku in Tokyo or souvenir shops at Asakusa in Tokyo is recommended, since they offer a wide range of fans, paper lanterns for room decorations, kimono-clad dolls, paper dolls, happi coats and so on.

12. *I want to buy some modern Japanese things. Where and what do you recommend? (2007)*

Go to an electronics store and buy a digital camera or a portable game console. If you are in Tokyo, such stores can be found in areas such as Shinjuku, Ikebukuro, and Akihabara. If you are in Osaka, you should go to Nipponbashi. In any large city, it is easy to find one or two electronics stores in the downtown area.

Lesson 2 Model Answers

Food (1)

1. *What is the difference between udon and soba? (2008)*

Soba are long, thin brownish noodles made from buckwheat flour mixed with wheat flour, egg and yam starch. Udon are white noodles made from wheat flour, and are thicker than soba. Both are eaten either hot in a soup or as a cold dish with a dipping sauce.

2. *What is the difference between sake and shochu? (2008)*

Sake is a fermented alcoholic beverage, whereas shochu is a distilled alcoholic beverage. Sake is made exclusively from rice, but shochu can be made from rice, barley, sweet potatoes, or buckwheat. Both can be served either cold or warmed, and the alcoholic content of sake ranges from 12 to 18 percent, while shochu is from 20 to 45. Shochu is considered a low-grade liquor, but is also used as the base in making high-quality fruit liquor such as “umeshu,” or plum wine.

3. *What is the typical diet of the Japanese?*

The diet of the Japanese is quite diverse ranging from traditional Japanese food (such as rice, fish and/or meat, vegetables, and miso soup) to various kinds of Asian and Western foods. Japanese children, however, often prefer Western foods (such as hamburgers and spaghetti) over Japanese food. The popularity of bread (known as “pan”) is probably the biggest Western influence on the Japanese diet.

4. *Is rice still the mainstay of the Japanese diet? Do people eat it every day?*

Though not as popular as it once was, rice is still the most common source of carbohydrates in the Japanese diet and most people eat it at least once a day. Noodles and bread are also popular, as well as other types of foods such as fish, meat, dairy products, and fruits.

5. *What is the favorite food of the Japanese?*

Eating habits in Japan are quite diverse, so it is difficult to say what the favorite food of the Japanese is. Hamburgers, curry and rice, and spaghetti are some of the most typical foods eaten at home and in family-style restaurants. And although foreigners may think that sushi, tempura, and sukiyaki are popular dishes in Japan, Japanese people do not eat these foods every day.

6. *How long has shoyu (soy sauce) been used in Japan?*

The original form of soy sauce dates back to the pre-Nara period (before 710), but the first mention of it in literature appeared during the middle of the Muromachi period (1336-1573). The form of soy sauce used today became popular among ordinary people during the end of the 16th century.

7. *What is tempura?*

Tempura is seafood and vegetables that are dipped in batter, deep-fried and served with a special sauce.

8. *What is sukiyaki?*

Sukiyaki is a dish of thinly sliced beef, onions, tofu, and shiitake mushrooms cooked in a pan at the table. Sugar, soy sauce, and sake are added for flavor.

9. *What are some of the characteristics of Japanese cuisine?*

The majority of Japanese cuisine makes the most of the natural flavors of fresh fish and shellfish, and most of them are prepared so as to go well with rice and sake. The season is an important factor in the selection of ingredients and of the way in which to prepare them. The food is aesthetically placed on dishes of various sizes, because Japanese food is supposed to delight the eye as well as the palate.

10. *What is kaiten-zushi?*

Kaiten-zushi literally means “circulating sushi.” Plates of sushi are set on a conveyor belt encircling the serving bar, and as the plates pass by, the customers select what they want. Prices for kaiten-zushi are generally lower than at regular sushi restaurants.

11. *What is shabu-shabu?*

Shabu-shabu is a dish of thinly sliced beef and vegetables, cooked in a shallow pan. The ingredients are quickly boiled in broth, and then eaten after being dipped in a special sauce.

12. *What is osechi-ryori?*

Osechi-ryori are special dishes for the New Year holidays. A variety of ingredients such as fish, black beans, rolled kelp, and vegetables are prepared and arranged artfully in a set of layered lacquer boxes.

Lesson 3 Model Answers

Food (2)

1. *Why do Japanese people eat sea bream on happy occasions? (2008)*

On festive occasions such as wedding banquets, Japanese people eat sea bream, often complete with its head and tail. It is because “tai,” the Japanese word for sea bream, sounds similar to, and thus is associated with, a Japanese word “medetai,” meaning “auspicious.” Also, sea bream is red, and red has traditionally been the color of celebration in Japan because it is associated with the sun.

2. *How long has miso (soybean paste) been used in Japan?*

Although miso has been widely used in Japan since the Muromachi period (1336-1573), the original form of miso is said to have existed as early as the Nara period (710-794).

3. *Why is tofu said to be a health food?*

Tofu is considered a health food because it is low in calories, high in protein, and contains less fat than meat or milk. It is also rich in calcium, potassium, and vitamin B.

4. *What is the proper way to hold chopsticks?*

Place the lower chopstick in the crook of your thumb and index finger, using the ring finger (the fourth finger) to support the lower part of the stick. The upper stick should be held like a pen using the tips of the thumb, index and middle fingers. Pivot the upper stick up and down towards the stationary lower stick, while making sure that the tips line up.

5. *What types of cooking techniques are used to prepare fish commonly eaten in Japan?*

Though Japanese are famous for eating raw fish, they also eat cooked fish. The most common cooking technique is grilling, which is done after the fish is lightly salted or, in some cases, marinated in teriyaki sauce. Fish, such as mackerel, are sometimes broiled over low heat using soy sauce or miso. Also shrimp, squid, and white-meat fish are eaten in tempura, or deep-fried.

6. *How is sake or Japanese rice wine made?*

Seishu, or pure sake, is made from rice, rice-fermented koji, and water. Rice is washed, drained, steamed, mixed with koji (malted rice) and water, and fermented. The mixture is compressed and separated into sake and sakekasu (leavings). The sake is left to stand, which separates the seishu from the ori (dregs). After it is filtered, pasteurized, and cured at a temperature under 20°C for 6-12 months, the seishu is re-pasteurized, blended, diluted and bottled.

7. *What is kaiseki-ryori?*

Traditionally, kaiseki-ryori is the meal served prior to a tea ceremony. The ingredients are fresh, seasonal, and carefully prepared without adornment. Today, kaiseki-ryori can be enjoyed at restaurants specializing in these dishes. As a kind of Japanese haute cuisine, kaiseki-ryori is usually very expensive.

8. *What is miso?*

Miso is fermented soybean paste. It is used in a variety of dishes such as miso soup.

9. *What is yakitori?*

Yakitori is grilled chicken. Chunks of chicken and vegetables are arranged on bamboo skewers, broiled over a charcoal fire and dipped in a sweet soy sauce.

10. *What is yatai?*

Yatai are stalls or stands set up in the evening, off the main streets. They offer specialized dishes, such as Chinese noodles, oden, and grilled chicken, together with drinks.

11. *What is shojin-ryori?*

Shojin-ryori is a vegetarian meal prepared for Buddhist monks. Following the Buddhist prohibition on taking any life, it contains no fish or meat.

12. *What is oden?*

Oden is a dish in which a variety of ingredients such as tofu, eggs, white radish, fried fish paste, and potatoes are boiled together in a large pot of seasoned fish broth. Hot mustard is served as a condiment.

Lesson 4 Model Answers

Japanese Holidays and Festivals (1)

1. *How do you explain Obon to foreign tourists? (2009)*

Obon is a three-day Buddhist holiday, usually August 13, 14, and 15. During this time the spirits of the dead are said to return to their former homes and families. People light lanterns to guide the spirits and perform bon dances for their entertainment. The week of obon is considered bon-yasumi, or bon vacation, and many people return to their hometowns or take trips.

2. *What is shichi-go-san? (2009)*

Shichi-go-san is a festival to celebrate the growth of children. On November 15, girls of seven, boys of five and three-year-old children of either sex are taken to shrines by their parents to give thanks and pray for a divine blessing.

3. *What is tanabata? (2009)*

Tanabata, or the Star Festival, is held on July 7 to celebrate the once-a-year meeting of two lovers, Kengyu, the cowherd (Altair) and Shokujo, the weaver (Vega). The rest of the year the two lovers are separated by the Milky Way.

4. *What do the Japanese do during the New Year holidays? (2006)*

On New Year's Day family members gather to wish one another good health. They drink otoso, a kind of rice wine thought to promote longevity, and eat rice cake soup (ozoni) and other specially prepared dishes (osechi-ryori). Also, most Japanese visit Shinto shrines or Buddhist temples (hatsumode) to pray for good health and success for the year.

5. *When did the custom of flower viewing start?*

The custom of flower viewing, called hanami, is said to have started during the Nara period (710-794). Though plum blossoms were first admired, by the Heian period (794-1192), cherry blossoms (or sakura) became more popular. The custom was originally limited to members of the Imperial Court, but soon spread to samurai society and, by the Edo period (1603-1867), to the common people.

6. *What do people do in hana-matsuri (the Flower Festival)?*

During hana-matsuri (the Flower Festival) on April 8, people celebrate the birth of Gautama Buddha by pouring amacha, or sweetened tea, onto the statue of Buddha.

7. *What do people do on tsukimi?*

Tsukimi, which literally means “moon-gazing,” is a Japanese custom in which people sit and view the beauty of the full moon in mid-September. This is the ideal time, when the moon is at its fullest and brightest, to appreciate it and celebrate the abundance of the summer’s harvest.

8. *What is setsubun?*

Setsubun is the day before the first day of spring according to the lunar calendar, usually February 2 or 3. Bean-throwing ceremonies are held in homes, shrines, and temples in the belief that this will bring in good fortune and drive away evil spirits.

9. *What is hina-matsuri?*

Hina-matsuri is the Doll Festival or Girls’ Festival observed on March 3. Dolls dressed in beautiful Heian-period costumes and representing the Emperor, Empress, and their court are displayed to celebrate the growth of the family’s girls and to express their hopes that they will become as graceful and beautiful as the Heian nobility.

10. *What is higan?*

Higan are the weeks centering around the vernal equinox and autumnal equinox. During these periods, Buddhist temples hold special services and people pay their respects at their ancestors' graves.

11. *What is tango-no-sekku?*

Tango-no-sekku is the Boys' Festival observed on May 5 to celebrate the healthy growth of boys. Warrior dolls and miniature suits of armor are displayed inside the home, and carp-shaped streamers called koinobori are flown outside.

12. *What is bon-odori?*

Bon-odori is a festive folk dance held in the evenings during the bon season. The stage is set in shrine or temple precincts, and yukata-clad men and women dance in a circle until late at night. The original purpose was to welcome and console departed souls.

Lesson 5 Model Answers

Japanese Holidays and Festivals (2)

1. *What do people do on New Year's Eve?*

New Year's Eve is an important day for wrapping up the old and preparing for the new. After completing any New-Year-Day preparations — such as making New Year's dishes called osechi-ryori — families generally eat dinner together, and stay up late to listen to the temple bells, which are customarily rung 108 times beginning at midnight on January 1.

2. *What is the significance of festivals for the Japanese?*

Traditional Japanese festivals are typically associated with Shinto shrines. Since it is believed that gods visit during these festivals, the festivals are intended to welcome the gods to the material world. Among the many gods, however, there are some that bring about diseases or natural disasters. So festivals are also sometimes intended to ward off evil gods.

3. *What are the three largest festivals in Japan?*

There are different opinions regarding which are the three largest festivals in Japan. Some people say that the Sanja Festival in Tokyo, the Gion Festival in Kyoto, and the Tenjin Festival in Osaka are the three largest. But others say that the Sanno Festival in Tokyo, the Aoi Festival in Kyoto, and the Tenjin Festival in Osaka are the largest.

4. *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.

5. *What is hanami?*

Hanami is “Cherry Blossom Viewing.” In spring, when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, people picnic under the trees. Sometimes the parties last late into the night and can become quite lively.

6. *What is koinobori?*

Koinobori are cloth streamers in the shape of a carp which are flown on a tall pole on May 5 (originally called “Boys’ Day” but now called “Children’s Day”). The flying of koinobori symbolizes the wish that the boys in the family will grow to be as strong and courageous as the carp.

7. *What is seibo?*

Seibo is a year-end gift which we give to our superiors, customers, and teachers to express appreciation for the special services they have extended to us. The gift is apt to be more expensive than a mid-year gift.

8. *What is bonenkai?*

Bonenkai literally means “Forget-the-Year Party.” It is a year-end party to forget the unpleasant memories of the passing year, and to welcome the new year with a fresh mind. It is usually held among office colleagues or friends.

9. *What is 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.

10. *What is Gion-matsuri?*

Gion-matsuri, held in honor of Yasaka Shrine, is one of the three great festivals of Kyoto. Conducted throughout the month of July, it reaches its high point on the 17th with a parade of floats, some of which carry groups of musicians.

11. *What is Aoi-matsuri?*

Aoi-matsuri, held in honor of the two Kamo Shrines, is one of the three great festivals of Kyoto. The festival is held on May 15. The name of the festival comes from the leaves of the aoi (hollyhock) plant that are used to decorate the heads of the participants in the procession.

12. *What is Jidai-matsuri?*

Jidai-matsuri, or “Festival of the Ages,” is held in honor of Heian Shrine and is one of the three great festivals of Kyoto. The festival is held on October 22, and its highlight is a procession of people dressed in costumes representing various periods of Kyoto’s 1,200-year history.

Lesson 6 Model Answers

Sports

1. *Tell me about Japanese martial arts. (2009)*

Traditional Japanese martial arts, which are practiced as sports today, include Judo, Karate and Kendo. Judo and Karate are both unarmed self-defense. Judo developed from jujutsu, martial-art styles evolved among the samurai of feudal Japan. Karate originated in China and was developed in Okinawa. Kendo is the Japanese martial art of swordsmanship and is somewhat similar to fencing.

2. *What is sumo? (2009)*

Sumo is the time-honored Japanese style of wrestling. Two contestants are matched against one another in a ring. One contestant loses when any part of his body other than the soles of his feet touches the ground or when he is pushed out of the ring.

3. *Why do sumo wrestlers throw salt into the ring and stomp their feet before their match? (2008)*

Sumo is a time-honored sport, and, historically, it was done as part of a Shinto ritual as well. Purification rites are a vital part of Shinto, and, in Japan, salt is believed to have the sacred power to purify the impure. This is why sumo wrestlers throw salt into the ring in order to purify their sacred fighting ground before their match. Also, they stomp their feet so that they can ward off or placate evil spirits hidden in the earth of the ring.

4. *I heard that there is a ski resort in Hokkaido where many Australians visit. Where is it? (2008)*

It is Niseko, one of the major ski resorts in Hokkaido. Around 7,500 Australians used to visit here annually. It is because; (1) many of them are attracted to the top quality powdery snow, (2) the time difference between Australia and Japan is only an hour, and (3) there are direct flights between Sapporo and major Australian cities in winter.

5. *Where is the best place for skiing in Japan? (2007)*

[EX. 1] I would recommend going to Zaozan, a group of volcanoes located on the border of Miyagi and Yamagata Prefectures, both in northern Honshu. The area is well known for its skiing and ice-covered trees in winter. They look like huge white chess pieces, and it will be great fun slaloming in and out of the scattered ice monsters.

[EX. 2] Among a lot of noted ski resorts in Japan, I would say it is Niseko. Niseko is one of the major ski resorts in Hokkaido, and its powdery snow is regarded as the best. Annually it receives an incredible 11-plus meters of snow. Niseko offers a wide variety of runs for skiers and boarders of various levels. The ski lifts are generally available until 8:30 every night.

6. *What is the national sport of Japan? (2006)*

Sumo is generally said to be the national sport of Japan. In ancient times, it was a sacred event to foretell an abundant harvest. In the Heian period (794-1192), sumo was adopted as a court ritual. Even today, sumo includes many ceremonial elements. Today, sumo is one of the most popular spectator sports, and we can see many foreign sumo wrestlers on TV.

7. *What is the most popular sport in Japan? (2006)*

By far the most popular are baseball and soccer. Among amateur baseball events, the high school baseball championship games are the most popular. They are held each spring and summer, and broadcast nationwide. Japanese professional baseball attracts fans of all ages. Soccer shares the same popularity as baseball. It is particularly popular among the young.

8. *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.

9. *What is dojo?*

Dojo is a hall for the practice of martial arts. According to the activity being practiced, the floor is either wooden or covered with tatami mats.

10. *What is koko-yakyu?*

Koko-yakyu is high school baseball, and is comparable to American college football in popularity. A nationwide tournament is held twice a year. It is televised and draws enthusiastic viewers from all over Japan.

11. *What is aikido?*

Aikido is a form of unarmed self-defense. Various holds and circular movements are used to cause an attacker's strength and weight to work against him or her.

12. *What is kyudo?*

Kyudo is the art of traditional Japanese archery. The bow is longer than the Western bow, and is made of wood and bamboo.

Lesson 7 Model Answers

Housing

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

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

2. *What are the advantages in the wooden structure of Japanese houses? (2008)*

Earthquakes are relatively frequent in Japan, and wooden houses are better at withstanding minor quakes. When wood is subjected to a force it may bend and warp, but it does not break easily. And when the force is removed, the wood returns to its former shape. Because wood is flexible, it can absorb seismic stresses. Also, Japan's summer is hot and humid, but wood breathes and absorbs moisture. In severe cold winter, wood is not as cold to the touch as stone.

3. *What is kakejiku?*

Kakejiku is a long hanging scroll with a painting or calligraphy on it. It is usually displayed on the wall of the alcove in a Japanese house. The subject depicted on the scroll is selected to suit the season or occasion.

4. *What is byobu?*

Byobu is a folding screen that is used as a room divider or a room decoration. It has a wooden frame covered with thick Japanese paper or cloth, usually silk.

5. *What is tatami?*

Tatami are straw mats which are used as flooring in traditional Japanese rooms. They are usually rectangular in shape, have a straw base and are covered with tightly woven rushes. The edges are hemmed with decorative cloth.

6. *What is tokonoma?*

Tokonoma is an alcove in a Japanese-style room. It is where a hanging scroll, a vase of arranged flowers or other ornaments are displayed.

Gardens

7. *Tell me about Japanese gardens. (2009)*

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.

8. *What is shakkei?*

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

9. *I want to visit a Japanese garden. Where do you recommend? (2008)*

[Ex. 1] I recommend Hama Rikyu Garden 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. A seawater pond (“Shioiri-no-ike”), which changes its 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 garden and Shiodome’s skyscrapers in the background.

[Ex. 2] 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.

10. *I saw gardeners wrapping tree trunks with straw mats or straw blankets in early winter. What is that for? (2008)*

The practice is called "komo-maki," or literally, "straw-mat wrapping." Some people do this in order to protect pine or cedar trees from noxious insects. Some caterpillars or insects harmful to those trees try to live underneath the bark or dead leaves during winter. By wrapping the trunks with a straw mat about 1 or 2 meters above the ground, they can draw insects in under the mats. In early spring, they remove the mats from the trees and burn them together with the noxious insects, thus protecting the trees.

11. *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.

12. *What is bonsai?*

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.

Lesson 8 Model Answers

Clothing

1. *When did the Japanese start wearing Western clothes? (2006, 2007)*

Western clothes were first introduced during the Meiji period (1868-1912), when the Japanese government adopted Western-style uniforms for military personnel, as well as for all public officials, mailmen and railroad workers. Western clothes gained popularity among ordinary people soon thereafter.

2. *On what occasions do Japanese wear kimono? (2006, 2007)*

Japanese women wear silk kimonos on Coming-of-Age Day (in mid-January), and sometimes when attending weddings and on other formal occasions. Women working in the traditional arts and at Japanese-style restaurants and inns wear kimonos more often. Young girls wear kimonos during the Shichi-go-san festival held in November. Yukata, which is made of cotton, is a casual kind of kimono worn in summer and it is also worn by guests at Japanese-style inns.

3. *What is yukata?*

Yukata is a light cotton kimono for summer wear. It is used for general relaxation and as sleeping wear. Yukata is also commonly worn at some summer events such as local festivals and fireworks displays.

4. *What is hakama?*

Hakama is a divided or pleated skirt worn over a kimono. It is worn mostly by men on such ceremonial occasions as weddings.

5. *What is hachimaki?*

Hachimaki is a cloth headband which is usually red or white. It is tied around the head as a symbol of determination or high spirit, and is usually seen at festivals and athletic meets.

6. *What is kimono?*

Kimono is the long robe with wide sleeves and a broad sash that is traditionally worn as an outer garment by Japanese.

7. *What is furisode?*

Furisode is a formal kimono with long flowing sleeves worn by single women on formal or festive occasions.

8. *What is haori?*

Haori is a short coat worn over a kimono on formal occasions. It is fastened loosely in front by short braided cords.

9. *What is tabi?*

Tabi are Japanese-style socks with a separate division for the big toe. The division is made to allow the wearer to grip the strap of a sandal or clog.

10. *What is zori?*

Zori are Japanese sandals consisting of a flat sole with a V-shaped thong between the big and second toe.

11. *What is geta?*

Geta are Japanese wooden clogs raised off the ground by two wooden supports under the sole with a V-shaped thong between the big and second toe.

12. *What is montsuki?*

Montsuki is a formal kimono bearing the family crest on the back and sleeves.

Lesson 9 Model Answers

Important questions for a tour guide

1. *What do you think of the fact that there are far more people going abroad than people coming to Japan? (2009)*

I think that it is inevitable, because prices in Japan are one of the highest in the world, and also because the yen has been quite strong against major foreign currencies these days. But, at the same time, I think that the Japanese government should further strengthen its publicity campaigns so that Japan can attract even more foreign tourists. The Japan National Tourism Organization and the Japanese government have been trying hard to increase the annual number of foreign travelers to Japan. I really hope that this policy will work out and that it will have a positive effect on our society.

2. *What would you do as a tour guide, if a woman on your tour bus says that she wants to go to the restroom in a traffic jam? (2009)*

I would ask her to hold on for a moment and ask the bus driver to find the nearest bathroom or rest-stop area. If the traffic is jammed solid and the bus doesn't move at all, I may walk her or run with her to the nearest bathroom. In that case, I will make sure to keep in contact with the bus driver or other passengers by cell phone so that they can pick us up later.

3. *Why is tourism so important to Japan? (2009)*

Japan's labor force is shrinking because of its falling birthrate and the aging population. The Japanese economy is now also in recession. It is clear that we won't be able to expect steady growth of our domestic economy in the future if we do not take any action. Therefore, it is important for the Japanese government to attract more foreign tourists to Japan, as we will depend more than ever on international tourism as a source of income.

4. *Why do you want to be a tour guide? (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009)*

[EX. 1] I'm very interested in cultural exchange. I would like to tell others about Japan as well as learn more about other cultures and countries around the world. I also wish to clear up any misconceptions or stereotypes that foreign people may have about Japan. If many people were to get involved in cultural exchange at the grass-roots level, I'm sure it would further improve understanding and relationships between countries.

[EX. 2] First, I've always been very interested in the history of Japanese temples and shrines. In fact, one of my favorite pastimes is visiting them all over the country. For example, I've trekked to all 33 temples on the Bando pilgrimage trail in the Kanto area. Second, I like meeting people from different backgrounds and telling them about the attractions of Japan. For these reasons, I think a tour guide would be a very suitable job for me.

5. *What do you think are the most important qualities for a tour guide? (2007)*

[Ex.1] I think being knowledgeable, friendly, and patient are all important qualities for a tour guide. Of course, having a good command of English or other languages is also very important.

[Ex.2] There are many important qualities, but I think being outgoing and knowledgeable about a wide range of topics are among the most essential. In addition, having an open mind and being tolerant of others' beliefs are also important qualities.

6. *Your tour bus has got stuck in a traffic jam and doesn't move. What would you do? (2008)*

In that type of situation, it would be quite tough because you would run out of the usual things to guide about, such as places or things they can see through the bus windows. So I would try to teach them how to sing a simple Japanese song, or teach them some easy Japanese phrases or even kanji characters using drawing paper. That way, the tourists could still enjoy themselves during an otherwise very boring period in their tour.

7. *What would you do, if a group of foreign tourists you are guiding missed the Shinkansen they were supposed to take? (2008)*

I would tell them not to worry. The Shinkansen trains run quite often. In the case of the Tokaido Shinkansen Line, the super-express trains run every 10 minutes or even more often. So we can take the next train and get an unreserved seat using the same ticket of ours.

8. *If a foreign tourist left his camera on the train, what would you do? (2008)*

I would call up the nearest lost & found office of a major station on the line that the person had just used. If I weren't able to get the number or get through, I would go to a nearby police box, and a police officer should be able to help us solve the problem.

9. *I have no cash and I only have credit cards. How can I get cash? (2008)*

If you hold a major credit card such as Visa, Master, or Amex, you can borrow money, with interest, at ATMs located across all major cities in Japan.

10. *I lost my passport. What should I do? (2006)*

You should get in touch with your embassy or consulate, and apply for a passport. Most likely you can have your passport reissued in two or three weeks.

11. *Suppose I am a foreign tourist with my daughter and my daughter has a sudden stomachache, what should I do? (2006)*

[EX. 1] Please do not worry. I have stomach medicine with me. Have your daughter take it, and she will get well soon.

[EX. 2] Let's go and get some stomach medicine at a drugstore. If she doesn't get well with the medicine, we should take her to a nearby hospital.

12. *Why do Japanese like to travel abroad on package tours?*

One reason is that many Japanese have a language problem when traveling abroad. In a package tour, their tour guide serves as both an interpreter and a guide, and takes care of almost everything. Besides, Japanese tend to act in groups. Staying in a group of compatriots gives them a sense of security, especially during a trip in a foreign country. Another reason is that package tours are less expensive because of group discounts.