



Japan Bowl Possible Formats

JASW has designed three possible formats for one-day Japan Bowl competitions. The organizers are free to establish their own format for the competition, provided the essential character of the Japan Bowl is maintained.

Morning "PowerPoint Rounds" All three formats begin with a morning competition at each academic level. It consists of two rounds, with 25 PowerPoint slides and questions in each round. This is a total of 50 questions, worth two points each. Including instructions, the two Power Point rounds will take about 90 minutes to complete.

At the National Japan Bowl, the "PowerPoint Rounds" are held simultaneously, so three rooms and three sets of moderators and room monitors are required.

You should allow **45 minutes for each 25-question PowerPoint round.**

- It takes 5-10 minutes to welcome and seat the students, pass out answer sheets, and read the instructions for the first round, and about 5 minutes to do this for the second round.
- It takes about 30 minutes to read and answer 25 questions.
- It takes about 5 minutes to collect the answer sheets and scratch paper after each round.
- The review of all 50 questions at the end will take 10-15 minutes.

Students then move to **lunch and cultural activities**, while their answers are scored by the judges.

Afternoon Format Following the morning PowerPoint rounds, there are three possible formats for the afternoon: a Japan Bowl championship round, a speech contest, or a Japanese cultural festival.

(1) **Championship Round.** The top three teams at each level, based on the scores from the morning's PowerPoint rounds, participate in a "live," on-stage competition to determine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. At the National Japan Bowl, the three championship rounds are held consecutively, so everyone can witness their excitement.

There are two possible ways to conduct the championship round: National Japan Bowl-style and "It's Academic" style:

- ❖ **National Japan Bowl-Style.** 15 toss-up questions (with spoken answers), followed by 10 team questions (with written answers). Teams will have 60 seconds



to write their answers to each of the team (written) questions. A total of 25 questions are required for each level.

- ❖ **"It's Academic" Style.** 10 questions (5 with spoken answers, 5 with written answers), are directed separately to each team. Teams will have 30 seconds to answer each of the first five questions and 60 seconds to write their answers to the second five questions. That is followed by a toss-up round with 10 questions. A total of 40 questions are required at each level.

You should allocate 30 minutes for the championship round at each level:

- It takes 5 minutes to bring students to the stage, make introductions and test the microphones and buzzers/bells at the beginning.
- It takes 25 minutes to read the instructions for the 15 toss-up and 10 team (written) questions and then to ask, answer and judge them.

(2) **Speech Contest.** Some locations already hold speech contests, so combining a Japan Bowl in the morning with a speech contest in the afternoon is a good way to introduce a different experience to students.

In this case, the 1st through 5th place winners at each level in the Japan Bowl competition are determined by the scores in the morning PowerPoint rounds. The afternoon speech contest is judged independently.

Students in the morning Japan Bowl competition do not have to participate in the afternoon speech contest, and vice versa.

(3) **A Japanese Cultural Festival.** Part of the excitement of coming to a Japan Bowl is the chance to experience Japanese culture.

In our surveys over the years, we have learned that most students decide to study Japanese because of their interest in Japanese popular culture. As they continue their study of Japanese, they become interested in other aspects of Japan and Japanese culture. Not only does a Japan festival meet their interests, it also encourages other young people to want to study Japanese.

In this case, the 1st through 5th place winners at each level in the Japan Bowl competition would be determined by the scores in the morning PowerPoint rounds. Then in the afternoon, the organizers hold a major Japanese festival for the students and their friends to enjoy. The winners of the morning Japan Bowl competition are announced in the afternoon.