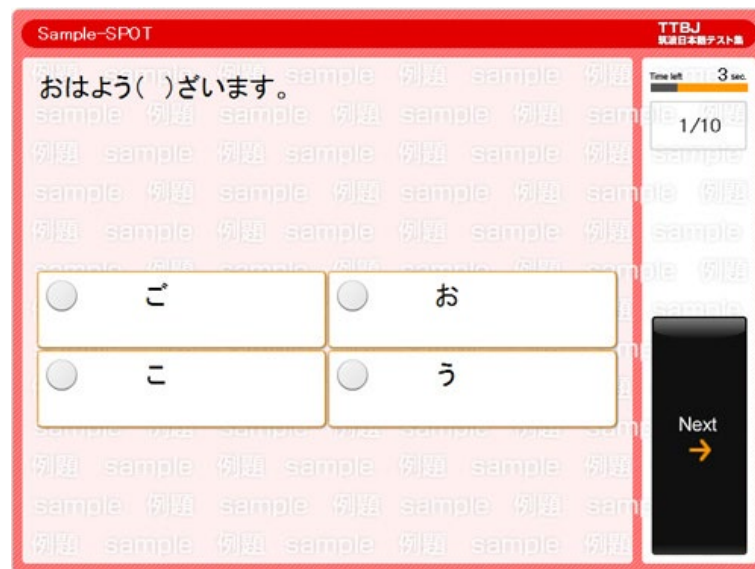# SPOT90

What kind of test is SPOT90?

For this test, examinees listen to a sentence/phrase read aloud at natural speed while reading the same sentence/phrase written on the screen, then select a hiragana character to insert in the blank space. Response time is 3 seconds for each question. By examining the degree to which the examinee is able to process Japanese in the moment, the test indirectly measures Japanese language proficiency. The sentences/phrases may seem slightly difficult to hear or the response time too short, but if the examinee has sufficient proficiency, they should have no difficulty hearing the sentence/phrase and should find the response time to be sufficient.

Test Composition

Audio information read aloud at a natural speed and the same sentence/phrase written on the screen are presented simultaneously, and answer options are displayed after the sentence/phrase has been read completely. For the most difficult level, 90-3, the audio has been adjusted to make the sentence/phrase more difficult to hear.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
- Before starting the test, please check the audio volume.
- Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
- An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice using the example as many times as they like. Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to the previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
- Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

1. What can/cannot SPOT be used for?

SPOT is a tool for measuring overall general Japanese language ability, including proficiency, in a short period of time.

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<SPOT is useful for>	<SPOT cannot be used for>
・**Measuring overall Japanese language ability, including proficiency.** ・**Separating a group of learners with comparatively large differences in Japanese language ability into two to four levels.**	・Determining language capability in terms of specific knowledge (grammar, vocabulary, kanji ability) or individual skills ・Achievement testing ・Separating a group of learners with only light difference in Japanese language ability into levels.

２． What is SPOT (Simple Performance-Oriented Test)?

  SPOT is a dictation test whereby examinees listen to a sentence/phrase read aloud by a native speaker of Japanese at a natural speed while reading the same sentence/phrase written on the answer sheet, then select a hiragana character to insert in the blank space in the sentence/phrase (selected for its relation to the sentence's grammar)The sentences/phrases are all unrelated, standing alone. Usually there are around 60 questions in total.

  Hearing just one hiragana character extracted from a sentence/phrase being spoken at a natural speed is extremely difficult. However, when the character is within a cluster of sounds such as a word or phrase, it becomes clearly audible. For example, the character ku in the word tsukue (desk) is difficult to identify when the sound is heard in isolation, but becomes audible when heard as part of the word tsukue. This is undoubtedly because we "listen with our heads". Native Japanese speakers are able to guess the sound based on their knowledge of the Japanese phonetic system, vocabulary, and syntax, etc., identifying the soundas it occurs. SPOT is a test that was devised with cognitive aspects such as this in mind (Kobayashi and Ford 1992, Ford et al. 1995, Kobayashi et al. 1996, etc.). Because the hiragana characters to be inserted in the blank space in the sentences in SPOT tests are read aloud without being muffled or concealed with noise, the answer is provided by the audio; however, if the examinee's Japanese language ability is insufficient, they will be unable to hear the sound and write the correct character on the answer sheet.

３．   Credibility of the test

    There are people who, after simply glancing at the question screen, criticize the SPOT test, saying that it "lacks credibility". Certainly, the test is unable to directly measure abilities required for reading and listening comprehension, such as grasping the flow of a conversation and correctly understanding its context. In the real world, there are no situations in which a person would listen to numerous unrelated sentences with no connecting logic between them in quick succession, and so in that sense, this criticism is appropriate.

  However, SPOT can be regarded as being "credible" in terms of the cognitive aspect of immediate language processing. This is because it is impossible for examinees to answer the questions if they are unable to process the audio and written text simultaneously. That is to say, being able to answer a SPOT question correctly means that the examinee's ability to process the language used in that question is more-or-less automatic (the ability can be used unconsciously). Reading comprehension and conversation performed while slowly manipulating language knowledge within one's head is not practical in the real world. Because an examinee's scores are influenced by their level of automation of these processing functions, SPOT may not measure performance directly, but it is thought to do so indirectly.

Grammar90

What kind of test is Grammar90?

This test measures knowledge of grammar. Examinees select appropriate words to insert into blank spaces within sentences. The sentences are all unrelated, standing alone. Grammar90 is comprised of three sections (Beginner – Advanced), with 90 questions in total. Depending on the language level, furigana readings are written above difficult kanji characters.

The response time for each section (30 questions each) is 10 minutes, with a total response time of 30 minutes for the three sections (90 questions in total). Examinees may answer the questions at their own pace. If an examinee encounters a question they cannot answer, they should click the → (Next) button to proceed to the next question, continuing on to the end of the test.

Questions are presented in the following format as one set comprising three sections—Grammar 90-1, 90-2, and 90-3—each with 30 questions. The total number of questions is 90.

Test Composition

This test focuses on the connection between grammatical knowledge, grammatical form, and meaning.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
- Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
- An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice using the example as many times as they like.
- Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Audio Grammar30

What kind of test is Audio Grammar30?

Examinees listen to a sentence/phrase read aloud part-way through at a natural speed and then select the appropriate word to follow to complete the sentence/phrase. Answer options are also read aloud. Examinees select one answer from three options.

Unlike with general grammar questions, which are presented to examinees in written form for them to consider and answer at their own pace, when listening to audio information and predicting what words should follow to complete the sentence/phrase, examinees may not be able to answer using just grammatical knowledge. Answering these questions also requires the ability to think about and hear the meaning within a sentence/phrase, even when the audio is unclear. The questions have been created with the objective of estimating examinees' proficiency in not only comprehending grammar as knowledge but also utilizing it in actual conversation and listening comprehension. Altogether, the test presents 30 questions regarding grammar points ranging from the Beginner level to Intermediate/Advanced levels.

Questions are presented in the following format, with 30 questions in total.

Example：二つ目の駅で電車を

　a：降りてください。

　b：乗ってください。

　c：行って下さい。

Test Composition

Ability to understand grammar and predict what word/phrase comes next from audio information read at a natural speed.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
- Headphones are used for this test. Please check that the sound is audible during the example question.
- An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice using the example as many times as they like.

Audio Vocabulary

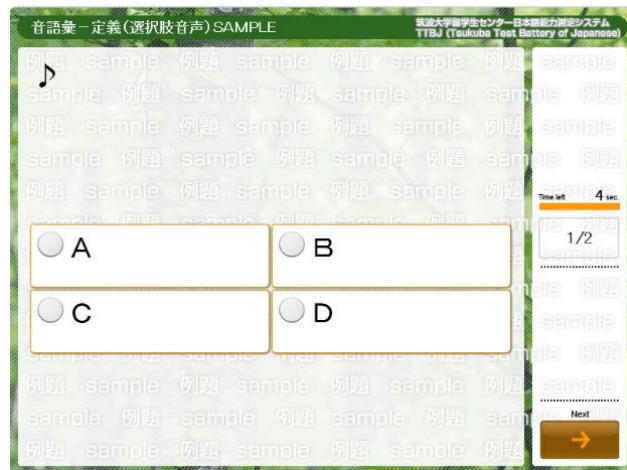## What kind of test is Audio Vocabulary?

For these questions, examinees listen to an explanation read aloud at a natural speed and select the word/phrase that expresses what was spoken. In addition to synonyms, these questions also test knowledge of kanji homophones and antonyms.

Two kinds of answer options are provided: written and audio. For both types, examinees select one answer from four options.

Total of 20 questions providing written answer options.

Total of 10 questions providing audio answer options.

The test includes questions that determine the examinee's understanding of katakana notation and kanji homophones in cases where written answer options are provided, and that determine their ability to distinguish between sounds in cases where audio answer options are provided.
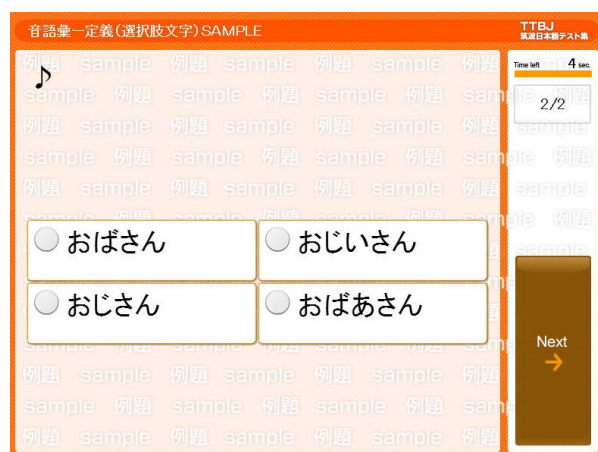

Answer options (audio)

Example:：今日は３日です。きのうは何日でしたか。

　A：２日　　　　　B：３日　　　　　C：４日　　　　　D：５日

Answer options (written)
おとうさんのお兄さんです。

a：おばさん　　　　　b：おじいさん　　　　　c：おじさん　　　　　d：おばあさん

Test Composition

Vocabulary ability and ability to comprehend sentences/phrases from audio read aloud at a natural speed

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
- Headphones are used for this test. Please check that the sound is audible during the example question.
- An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice using the example multiple times.

Kanji SPOT50

What kind of test is Kanji SPOT50?

This test measures examinees' kanji vocabulary audio processing skills. While listening to audio information read aloud at a natural speed, examinees select a kanji character to insert in the blank space in the sentence/phrase. For learners with high listening ability, the audio information may provide hints for selecting the correct kanji character. However, for learners with low listening ability, it is difficult to process both the audio information and written information within a short period of time, and so this test has been created with the objective of estimating examinees' proficiency with regard to kanji vocabulary they can actually use.

Questions are presented in the following format, with 50 questions in total: 20 questions for the Beginner level and 30 questions for the Intermediate/Advanced levels.

Test results are displayed as follows.

漢字SPOT-SAMPLE

TTBJ 筑波日本語テスト集

Ex1. 私のへやは[ ]さいです。

Time left 4 sec.

1/5

○ 少   ○ 大

○ 天   ○ 小

Next →

Test Composition

Audio information read aloud at a natural speed and corresponding written information are presented simultaneously.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
- Before starting the test, please check the audio volume.
- Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
- An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example multiple times.   Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to a previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
- Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Kanji Reading30

What kind of test is Kanji Reading30?

This test measures examinees' ability to read kanji vocabulary and is comprised of multiple-choice questions with four answer options.

Questions are presented in the following format, with a total of 30 questions ranging from the Beginner level to Intermediate/Advanced levels.

Test Composition

Examinees select the correct reading (shown in hiragana) for kanji vocabulary in a sentence/phrase.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
・ Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
・ An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example answering multiple times. Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to a previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
・ Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Kanji Writing30

What kind of test is Kanji Writing30?

The test measures examinees' ability to write using kanji vocabulary and is comprised of multiple-choice questions with four answer options. In the case of kunyomi, the test measures examinees' ability to select the correct notation, including okurigana.

Test Composition

Words in a sentence are shown in hiragana, and examinees select the correct notation using kanji characters from the answer options.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
・ Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
・ An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example multiple times. Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to a previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
・ Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Kanji Vocabulary30

What kind of test is Kanji Vocabulary30?

This test measures examinees' proficiency in using kanji vocabulary. Examinees select the kanji character that can be inserted in the blank space within a sentence from four answer options. A total of 30 questions are presented ranging from the Beginner level to Intermediate/Advanced levels.

Test Composition

Sentences with blank spaces and corresponding answer options for the kanji to insert in each blank space are presented.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
- ・ Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
- ・ An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example multiple times. Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to a previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
- ・ Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Kanji Diagnostic Test (Beginner Level)

What kind of test is Kanji Diagnostic Test (Beginner Level)?

This test analytically measures examinees' ability regarding the shapes, readings, meanings, and usage of beginner-level kanji characters. The test is comprised of the following 12 sections.

1. Questions where examinees select kanji characters with the opposite meaning to the kanji character shown
2. Questions where examinees select the reading of a "kanji word" within a sentence
3. Questions where examinees select a kanji character with the same onyomi reading as the kanji character shown
4. Questions where examinees select a kanji character matching a "word" within a sentence
5. Questions where examinees select the components of a kanji character
6. Questions where examinees select a kanji character matching the okurigana shown
7. Questions where examinees select an appropriate form depending on the part of speech of a kanji word
8. Questions where examinees select an appropriate kanji word depending on the context (grammatical co-occurrence)
9. Questions where examinees select an appropriate kanji word depending on the context (semantic collocation knowledge)
10. Questions where examinees select the kanji character common to three kanji words that they hear spoken aloud
11. Questions where examinees select the kanji word with the meaning given them through audio information
12. Questions where examinees select kanji character structural patterns

Each section is comprised of 10 questions for a total of 120 questions. All questions are multiple-choice questions with four answer options. The response time for each section is five minutes or less. If examinees answer the questions quickly, they will finish the test early; even if they answer the questions slowly, the test finishes within 60 minutes. This test comprehensively analyzes examinees' knowledge and proficiency with regard to kanji characters and kanji words, providing feedback through the test results. Since the test does more than simply measure how many kanji an examinee knows, or can read, or can write, please instruct examinees to use the knowledge that they have to answer questions even when a kanji character they have not yet learned appears. When the test is completed, results for each section will be presented in graph form, showing the examinee's areas of weakness, and so the test can be regarded as providing useful information for determining the future direction of the examinee's kanji study.

The following is a question from Section 1, where examinees must select a kanji with the opposite meaning to the kanji character shown.

There are also various other questions in different sections as well as sections in which audio is used, but for every section an example question is provided before the test to give examinees practice answering, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.

Test Composition

The test is comprised of questions that present only written information and questions that present both audio and written information simultaneously.

Points to Note When Conducting the Test
・ Before starting the test, please check the audio volume.
・ Once the test has begun, instruct examinees to be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
・ An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example multiple times.　Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to a previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
・ Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Kanji Diagnostic Test (Intermediate Level)

What kind of test is Kanji Diagnostic Test (Intermediate Level)?

This test analytically measures examinees' ability regarding the shapes, readings, meanings, and usage of Intermediate-level kanji characters. The test is comprised of the following 12 sections.

1. Questions where examinees select kanji characters with the opposite meaning to the kanji character shown
2. Questions that divide kanji characters into units of meaning
3. Questions where examinees select the reading of a "kanji word" within a sentence
4. Questions where examinees select a kanji character with the same onyomi reading as the kanji character shown
5. Questions where examinees select a kanji character matching a "word" within a sentence
6. Questions where examinees select the radical of a kanji character
7. Questions where examinees select a kanji character matching the okurigana shown
8. Questions where examinees select an appropriate form depending on the part of speech of a kanji word
9. Questions where examinees select an appropriate kanji word depending on the context (grammatical co-occurrence/semantic collocation knowledge)
10. Questions where examinees select the kanji character common to three kanji words that they hear spoken aloud
11. Questions where examinees select the kanji word with the meaning given them through audio information
12. Questions where examinees select related kanji characters based on a kanji's meaning, part of speech, reading, and form, etc.

Each section is comprised of 10 questions for a total of 120 questions. All questions are multiple-choice questions with four answer options. The response time for each section is four minutes or less. If examinees answer the questions quickly, they will finish the test early; even if they answer the questions slowly, the test finishes within 48 minutes. This test comprehensively analyzes examinees' knowledge and proficiency with regard to kanji characters and kanji words, providing feedback through the test results. Since the test does more than simply measure how many kanji an examinee knows, can read, or can write, please instruct examinees to use the knowledge that they have to answer questions even when a kanji character they have not yet learned appears. When the test is completed, results for each section will be presented in graph form, showing the examinee's areas of weakness, and so the test can be regarded as providing useful information for determining the future direction of the examinee's kanji study.

Kanji Diagnostic Test results are shown on the last page of each section, with each answer marked with a "○" (correct) or "×" (incorrect). If you wish to view a question again, whether or not it was answered correctly, just click the question number and the question will be displayed. After checking the answers, click the "Close" button to proceed to the next section.

Test Composition

The test is comprised of questions that present only written information and questions that present both audio and written information simultaneously.

> Points to Note When Conducting the Test
> ・ Before starting the test, please check the audio volume.
> ・ Once the test has begun, be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.
> ・ An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example multiple times. Once the test has begun, it is not possible to go back to a previous page, so please instruct examinees to practice the example question as many times as they need to before beginning the test.
> ・ Start the test, answer the questions, and end the test in accordance with the instructions displayed on the screen.

Common Points (from questions already answered, etc.)

1. Press the "Start" button displayed on the screen to start the test.

2. An example question is provided before the test to allow examinees to practice answering, and examinees may practice with the example multiple times.

3. Once the test has begun, be very careful not to click the browser's "Back" button, as this will cause the program to close prematurely.

4. Answer options may be re-selected multiple times within the prescribed response time.

5. Answer options that are selected before the examinee presses the "Next" button or that are selected before "Time-over" are stored as your answer.

6. If an examinee encounters a question they cannot answer, they should click the → (Next) button to proceed to the next question.

7. When the last question has been completed, the examinee's results will be automatically displayed on the screen.

8. To proceed to the next question set, please select "Next".