



## AP<sup>®</sup> Japanese Language and Culture Q & A

<p><b>What is the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>)?</b></p>	<p>In 2004, more than one million high school students participated in the College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP), each student taking one or more of the Program's 34 college-level AP courses. Based on their performance on the rigorous end-of-course AP Examinations, students earn credit or advanced placement for college, or both, and demonstrate their ability to succeed in college-level studies. The tremendous growth in AP participation attests to a strong commitment from educators and students to elevating the standards in America's classrooms. AP Japanese will be offered beginning in the 2006-07 school year.</p>
<p><b>How will the AP Japanese course and exam be developed?</b></p>	<p>An AP Japanese Task Force will be formed and charged with creating an outline for the course and drafting the exam specifications. An AP Japanese Development Committee will then be formed to refine the course outline, finalize the exam specifications, write the AP Japanese Course Description, begin the writing of exam questions, and assemble the first forms of the exam.</p>
<p><b>What will be taught and assessed in AP Japanese?</b></p>	<p>The AP Japanese Exam will assess students' interpersonal communication skills, their abilities to present and interpret language in spoken and written forms, and their functional familiarity with Japanese culture.</p>
<p><b>Who will be on the AP Japanese Task Force and the AP Japanese Development Committee?</b></p>	<p>Outstanding educators in the field identified by the College Board and organizations such as the Association of Teachers of Japanese and the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers.</p>
<p><b>How long will the development process take?</b></p>	<p>Approximately two years.</p>
<p><b>When will the first AP Japanese course be offered?</b></p>	<p>Fall 2006.</p>
<p><b>When will the first administration of the AP Japanese Examination take place?</b></p>	<p>May 2007.</p>

<p><b>What level of Japanese language ability and what aspects of Japanese culture will be taught in the AP Japanese course and assessed in the AP Japanese Exam?</b></p>	<p>The current AP courses and exams in Spanish, French, and German represent the equivalent of third-year college study of the language, and AP Japanese may be targeted at this level as well. The AP Japanese course and exam will incorporate Japanese cultural information within the teaching of reading, writing, and speaking the language. The AP Japanese Task Force will convene in fall 2004 to define and describe the parameters of the course and exam, in preparation for the release of the official AP Japanese Course Description (which will answer these questions more fully by providing an overview of the course and exam, including sample exam questions) in 2005.</p>
<p><b>Do schools have to pay a registration fee to offer AP Japanese?</b></p>	<p>No. The AP Program is funded through the individual students' AP Exam fees.</p>
<p><b>How will schools register to offer AP Japanese?</b></p>	<p>Each fall, all secondary schools in the United States and Canada and select schools in other countries are invited to register for participation in the AP Program through a Participation Form that asks the schools to indicate which AP subjects and examinations will be offered in the school that academic year and approximately how many students per subject will participate in the Program. In fall 2006, they will be able to select AP Japanese.</p>
<p><b>Will professional development be made available to teachers of AP Japanese?</b></p>	<p>The College Board intends to offer a variety of professional development activities both during the summer and during the academic year. These activities will begin in the summer of 2005.</p>
<p><b>Are teachers required to participate in a College Board–sponsored professional development event to teach an AP course?</b></p>	<p>It is not a prerequisite that AP teachers participate in a College Board–sponsored professional development event to teach an AP course. Nevertheless, the College Board strongly encourages attendance at an AP Summer Institute prior to teaching an AP course, attendance at one-day AP workshops during the academic year, and frequent use of the AP Central® Web site: <a href="http://apcentral.collegeboard.com">apcentral.collegeboard.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>How can I make sure that I receive information and updates about the AP Japanese course and exam, as well as professional development opportunities? How can I make sure that my school receives an AP Participation Form in fall 2006 so that we can register to offer the AP Japanese Exam?</b></p>	<p>Please send an e-mail to: <a href="mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org">apexams@info.collegeboard.org</a>, providing us with your name, school affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address, and letting us know what information you would like to receive.</p>