OP SUBJECT

WHY STUDY JAPANESE?

- It contributes to student’s personal, educational, intellectual and cultural development.
- It increases self-esteem through the acquisition of new and different communication skills and through learning to interact with people of other cultures.
- It provides an awareness and understanding of the nature and purposes of languages in general.
- It develops greater sensitivity to and understanding of English and improves students’ use of English.
- It promotes clear thinking, clarity of expression and problem solving, all of which have important applications for other learning areas.
- It fosters cross-cultural understanding and develops a respect for people of other languages and cultures.
- It enhances career opportunities when combined with other vocational competencies, for example in Law, the Arts, Engineering, Commerce and Education.

WHAT IS STUDIED IN JAPANESE?

Students learn to communicate in the language using the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing for practical purposes. To enhance their ability to communicate, they also focus on grammatical and other structures of the language. Key themes include family and community, leisure, recreation and human creativity, school and post-school options and social issues. Through studying these, students gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures of other people. Fine arts and performing arts of these cultures will also be given consideration. By the end of Year 12, students should be able to:

- listen to and comprehend a wide range of spoken language.
- speak confidently and sustain a conversation on a range of topics.
- read, understand and respond to a wide variety of material
- write with sufficient clarity and accuracy to satisfy their communication needs

HOW IS JAPANESE STUDIED?

Students learn by using the language in communicative activities and through interacting with other speakers of the language. These activities include:

- participating in class discussions and role plays
- viewing documentaries and films
- reading brochures, magazines, newspapers, short stories and literature
- communicating with students in other schools and countries via letter, audio tape or electronic mail
- using word processors for writing stories and letters
- using computer software in the second language
- playing language games.

HOME STUDY REQUIREMENTS:

- Revision of class work every night.
- Specific tasks to practice the four basic skills – writing a letter, reading a newspaper, practising a conversation etc.

HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED?

Student’s ability to use the language is assessed through a variety of communicative tasks.
They include:

5 Listening
- comprehending conversations
- announcements
- reports

6 Speaking
- role-playing
- having a conversation in the Language other than English
- presenting a talk on a familiar topic

7 Reading
- Responding to a range of written materials such as magazine articles, cartoons and brochures.

8 Writing
- letters
- postcards
- school magazine articles

Formative assessment takes place throughout Year 11, while summative assessment occurs during Year 12.

WHERE DOES THE STUDY OF JAPANESE LEAD?
As a discipline in its own right, the study of a language can lead to a career in teaching, translating or interpreting. For many other fields of study, especially such diverse fields as foreign affairs, engineering, journalism, the arts, international trade and tourism, the study of a language can offer many advantages.

A sound Level of Achievement in all macroskills in Year 10 is recommended for the study of a Modern Language in the Senior years.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND and GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY OFFER BONUS POINTS FOR A LOTE
The University of Queensland and Griffith University recognise that there are some subjects undertaken by high school students that require a high level of skill and knowledge and that better prepare students for the rigour and diversity of tertiary study. A LOTE is one of these subjects.

As a result of this, these universities have introduced a Bonus Rank Scheme for OP eligible students who successfully complete a language course in Year 12. They will automatically be granted a 2 rank point bonus (equivalent to 1 OP) when enrolling into courses at these universities. For some students the extra points could mean the difference that gets them over the line to their chosen course.