Japanese

General senior subject

General

The need to communicate is the foundation for all language development. People use language to achieve their personal communicative needs — to express, exchange, interpret and negotiate meaning, and to understand the world around them. The central goal for additional language acquisition is communication. Students do not simply learn a language — they participate in a range of interactions in which they exchange meaning and become active participants in understanding and constructing written, spoken and visual texts.

Additional language acquisition provides students with opportunities to reflect on their understanding of a language and the communities that use it, while also assisting in the effective negotiation of experiences and meaning across cultures and languages. Communicating with people from Japanese-speaking communities provides insight into the purpose and nature of language and promotes greater sensitivity to, and understanding of, linguistic structures, including the linguistic structures of English. As students develop the ability to explore cultural diversity and similarities between another language and their own, this engagement with other languages and cultures fosters intercultural understanding.

Language acquisition occurs in social and cultural settings. It involves communicating across a range of contexts for a variety of purposes, in a manner appropriate to context. As students experience and evaluate a range of different text types, they reorganise their thinking to accommodate other linguistic and intercultural knowledge and textual conventions. This informs their capacity to create texts for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

Central to the capacity to evaluate and create texts are the skills of critical and creative thinking, intellectual flexibility and problem-solving. Acquiring an additional language provides the opportunity to develop these interrelated skills, and requires students to use language in a meaningful way through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives relevant to their life experiences.

For exchanges to be relevant and useful, additional language acquisition must position students at the centre of their own learning. When students communicate their own aspirations, values, opinions, ideas and relationships, the personalisation of each student's learning creates a stronger connection with the language. Activities and tasks are developed to fit within the student's life experience.

The ability to communicate in an additional language such as Japanese is an important 21st century skill. Students develop knowledge, understanding and skills that enable successful participation in a global society. Communication in an additional language expands students' horizons and opportunities as national and global citizens.

Additional language acquisition contributes to and enriches intellectual, educational, linguistic, metacognitive, personal, social and cultural development. It requires intellectual discipline and systematic approaches to learning, which are characterised by effective planning and organisation, incorporating processes of self-management and self-monitoring.

Pathways

A course of study in Japanese can establish a basis for further education and employment in many professions and industries, particularly those where the knowledge of an additional language and the intercultural understanding it encompasses could be of value, such as business, hospitality, law, science, technology, sociology and education.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- comprehend Japanese to understand information, ideas, opinions and experiences
- identify tone, purpose, context and audience to infer meaning
- analyse and evaluate information and ideas to draw conclusions
- apply knowledge of language elements of Japanese to construct meaning
- structure, sequence and synthesise information to justify opinions and perspectives
- communicate using contextually appropriate Japanese.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
私のくらし — My world • Family/carers • Peers • Education	**私達の世界をたんけんする — Exploring our world** • Travel and exploration • Social customs • Japanese influences around the world	**私達の社会、文化とアイデンティティー — Our society; culture and identity** • Lifestyles and leisure • The arts, entertainment and sports • Groups in society	私の現在と将来 **— My present; my future** • The present • Future choices

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete four summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — short response	20%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Multimodal presentation and interview	30%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Examination — extended response	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — combination response	25%