



117 Clarence Street
Sydney 2000
GPO Box 9326
Sydney 2001
NSW Australia
Fax: (02) 9387 6487
Tel: (02) 9387 4776
enquiries@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au
www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Our reference:
D2008/66

Your reference:

Associate Professor Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson
The Japanese Studies Association of Australia
c/-School of Languages and Linguistics
University of New South Wales
UNSW Sydney NSW 2052

Dear Professor Thomson

Thank you for your letter in which you raised concerns on behalf of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia about the provision of Japanese courses for the Higher School Certificate (HSC). You make a number of important points.

The review of courses for the new Higher School Certificate in 2001 confirmed the need for differentiated courses in Japanese to take account of the diverse linguistic backgrounds of the students studying the language. The Board of Studies approved four HSC Japanese courses to cater for students with varying backgrounds and experience in the language. The courses provided for Stage 6 Japanese include:

- a Beginners course designed for students who wish to begin their study of Japanese at senior secondary level
- a Continuers course for students who have typically studied the language for 400-500 hours as a second (or subsequent) language
- an Extension course which provides opportunities for students to build upon the skills and knowledge acquired in the Continuers course, and
- a Background Speakers course.

The *Japanese Background Speakers Stage 6 Syllabus* (page 6) describes the target group as *students with a cultural and linguistic background in Japanese*. This differentiation is consistent with that of other Stage 6 languages courses in NSW and nationally.

The Board has clearly defined eligibility rules that must be applied to distinguish between students who are eligible to do a Continuers course and those deemed Background Speakers. There are also very strict eligibility criteria for students wishing to do the Beginners course. The application of eligibility rules is considered the best way to preserve the integrity of the HSC examinations and to ensure that no student will be inappropriately advantaged or disadvantaged.



JSAA
100/100
100/100
100/100
100/100
100/100
100/100
100/100

Associate Professor Chikako Ichinomiya Thomson
The Japanese Studies Association of Australia
School of Languages and Linguistics
University of New South Wales
UNSW Sydney NSW 2053

JSAA
100/100
100/100

Dear Professor Thomson

Thank you for your letter in which you raised concerns on behalf of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia about the provision of Japanese courses for the Higher School Certificate (HSC). I do make a number of important points.

- The review of courses for the new Higher School Certificate in 2001 confirmed the trend for differentiated courses in Japanese to take account of the diverse linguistic backgrounds of the students studying the language. The Board of Studies approved four HSC Japanese courses to cater for students with varying backgrounds and experience in the language. The courses provided for Stage 6 Japanese include:
- Beginner's course: Designed for students who wish to begin their study of Japanese at senior secondary level.
 - Continuers course: For students who have typically studied the language for 400-500 hours or a second (or subsequent) language.
 - Extension course: which provides opportunities for students to build upon the skills and knowledge acquired in the Continuers course, and
 - Background Speakers course.

The Japanese Background Speakers Stage 6 syllabus (page 6) describes the target group as students with a cultural and linguistic background in Japanese. This differentiation is consistent with that of other Stage 6 language courses in NSW and nationally.

The Board has clearly defined eligibility rules that must be applied to distinguish between students who are eligible to do a Continuers course and those deemed Background Speakers. There are also very strict eligibility criteria for students wishing to do a Beginner's course. The application of eligibility rules is considered the best way to preserve the integrity of the HSC examination and to ensure that no student will be inappropriately advantaged or disadvantaged.