



# Global Society and Japan : A Questionnaire on intercultural communication between Japan and Australia



スーパーグローバルハイスクール

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## 1 Background and Aim

In the future, Japan will certainly take on the great wave of globalization and play an important part in the international world society. For that, we think deep communication with people around the world is essential. Communication skills mainly consist of four elements—Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. We focused on these four and tried to find out “What ability is truly required for the Japanese now?”

## 2 Method

We conducted a questionnaire survey as below both in our school (JAPAN) and Sydney City (Australia) in August, 2017. In Australia, we visited some public parks, local schools and the University of NSW.

アンケート

年齢: 性別:

※Number of valid responses was...  
Japanese...194  
Australian...79

Questionnaire

Age: Male / Female

※Number of valid responses was...  
Japanese...194  
Australian...79



First, we created a Rubric for each ability to evaluate achievement degree by themselves and asked people to tick all boxes that apply to him or her.

Then we totaled the results on Excel and calculated the **average** and **standard deviation**. Furthermore, **correlation coefficients** were obtained between each abilities. **F test** and **t test** were also conducted to check the quality of data.

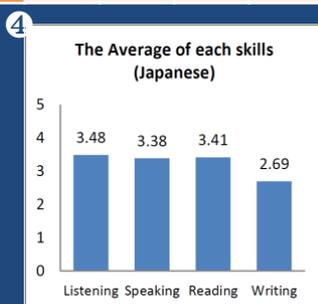
## 3 Results and Analysis

<Japanese> →

JAPANESE	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Average	3.48	3.38	3.41	2.69
Standard deviation	1.31	1.19	1.22	1.17

t test	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Listening		0.43	0.58	0
Speaking			0.81	0
Reading				0
Writing				

Correlation coefficients	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Listening		0.68	0.43	0.45
Speaking			0.47	0.56
Reading				0.57
Writing				



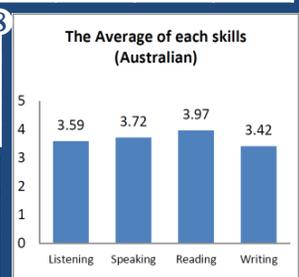
From the results of Japanese questionnaire, we can say the Japanese have a weak consciousness in “Writing.” Looking at the individual question, the Level 2 question of Speaking, “Can convey own opinion.” was 0.15 points higher than the Level 1 question, “Speak with good eye contact.” Many Japanese feel that they are not good at taking good eye contact. But compared to other skills in the vertical column, there is a possibility that the Writing question was more difficult than the others. So we reconsidered the content of Rubric and recognized the necessity of creating new one that can measure communication skills more accurately.

<Australian> →

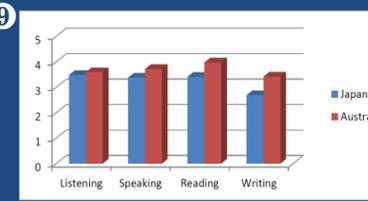
AUSTRALIAN	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Average	3.59	3.72	3.97	3.42
Standard deviation	1.34	1.43	1.36	1.4

t test	Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Listening		0.57	0.08	0.42
Speaking			0.26	0.18
Reading				0.01
Writing				

Correlation coefficients	Listening	Speaking	Writing	Writing
Listening		0.67	0.74	0.6
Speaking			0.69	0.74
Reading				0.73
Writing				



From the results of English questionnaire, similar things can be said to the Australians. Writing score was the worst of the four. But their Reading ability stands out. Then we made a hypothesis that Australians like reading books.



⑩ AUS

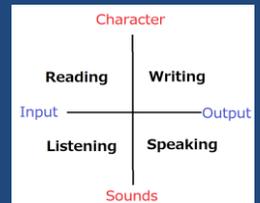
t test	L	S	R	W
L	0.53	0.19	0.01	0.42
S	0.2	0.05	0	0.84
R	0.28	0.07	0	0.98
W	0	0	0	0

Comparing the data between Japan and Australia, we can say Speaking, Reading and Writing skills of Australian are better than those of Japanese. Especially, there is a comparable difference on Reading and Writing. According to a research conducted by NOP world in 2013, Australians spend 6.3 hours reading books in a week. On the other hand, Japanese spend only 4.1 hours.

NOP world (<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nop-world-culture-scoretm-index-examines-global-media-habits-uncovers-whos-tuning-in-logging-on-and-hitting-the-books-54693752.html>)

It is said that the Japanese are potentially poor at expression. But we think that we should improve not only Output skills, but also Input skills which are the fundamental basis of understanding and acquisition.

Communication skills can be classified as shown on the right. We constantly conscious of this image and consider which ability needs to be improved.



## 4 Conclusion and Future Tasks

As we mentioned in the aim of research, communication skills are essential to join the intercultural society. However, from our questionnaire survey, we found that Japanese may think that Output skills, especially which are related to characters are more difficult than input-type skills.

And also, we came to know that our Rubric was not perfect. Originally, we made those questions in order of difficulty. However, the actual results were not in that order. So we improved the Rubric and will do the same questionnaire research again.

Finally, we would like to appreciate to everyone who cooperated in this research. Thank you.