Three JLPT test-takers in Japan talk about Japanese language, culture, and the JLPT

Why Study Japanese?

Oliver Kawanishi (Dr.)

I thought I was a big fan of Japanese anime and manga, but I never heard of the Japanese language being studied in college. In Germany, however, there weren't many opportunities to study Japanese.

A. I studied Japanese literature in college.
B. I studied Japanese language in college.
C. I didn't take any Japanese courses in college.

Oliver (Dr.)

The JLPT qualification was also very important when I applied to the company that I will start working at in January.

A. It was important for my job.
B. It was important for my application.
C. It was important for my company.
D. It was important for my friends.

The qualification is also important when going back home to visit a job, since there are many Japanese companies in Indonesia. My friends are studying hard too, since their salary depends on the level you pass. With the JLPT qualification, it can be a great advantage.

A. I felt that the Japanese language is important for my job.
B. I felt that the Japanese language is important for my company.
C. I felt that the Japanese language is important for my future.
D. I felt that the Japanese language is important for my friends.

The Japanese language is difficult because there are lots of ambiguous expressions. Even at work, sometimes I don't know what my colleagues are trying to say. Like, 'what exactly do you mean by “that may be?”'

A. Yes, unlike German and English, words come at the end of the sentence in Japanese, so you can't understand the meaning of the whole sentence until the end.
B. Yes, unlike German and English, words come at the middle of the sentence in Japanese, so you can't understand the meaning of the whole sentence until the end.
C. Yes, unlike German and English, words come at the beginning of the sentence in Japanese, so you can't understand the meaning of the whole sentence until the end.
D. Yes, unlike German and English, words come at the end of the sentence in Japanese, so you can't understand the meaning of the whole sentence until the end.

The four seasons in Japan are beautiful—cherry blossoms in the spring, fireflies in the summer, autumn leaves in the fall, and snow in the winter. I enjoy the differences and changes of each season.

A. There are many things you can't be able to do in winter unless you live here.
B. There are many things you can't be able to do in summer unless you live here.
C. There are many things you can't be able to do in spring unless you live here.
D. There are many things you can't be able to do in autumn unless you live here.

The more I learn about regional traditions, culture, and history in Japan, the more interesting it gets. Right now, I am interested in Japanese historical novels and dramas. I passed the JLPT level, and I can understand daily conversation and contemporary drama. I am now studying to pass the N1. My next goal is to understand the N4 historical dramas.

Lo Pei Wen (Dr.)

From Taiwan. Moved to Japan in 2011 after working in Taiwan. Currently working in Tokyo. Likes to visit Hakata on weekends.

The More You Know About Japan

The Japanese language is different from other languages because it has a tonal quality, so the "bon odori" festival is held almost weekly in neighborhood parks in the summer. I enjoyed the music and the food.

D. The more I learn about regional traditions, culture, and history in Japan, the more interesting it gets. Right now, I am interested in Japanese historical novels and dramas. I passed the JLPT level, and I can understand daily conversation and contemporary drama. I am now studying to pass the N1. My next goal is to understand the N4 historical dramas.

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