



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2010 HSC Japanese Extension Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answers could include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’, they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.



Section I — Response to Prescribed Text

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

Yubaba wants Sen to get on with job of bathing the stink god with out saying anything more.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

Miyazaki conveys the sense of smell of the stink god in this scene in numerous ways. Visually we see the stain on the curtain before he enters – he is covered in oozing mud, popping purple bubbles. We see Sen’s and Yubaba’s hair rise – implying an unbearable stench. Sen shivers and her eyes open wide, the smell is so bad, and she walks stiffly as if trying not to breathe in. Miyazaki also shows us other characters covering noses, scrunching up faces and running away, and the rice rotting. Miyazaki cleverly uses sound to convey smell as well: the stink god makes a squelchy sound as he moves. Yubaba and Sen cannot talk properly as they are trying to hold their breath, many characters utter sounds conveying the idea that they find the smell very bad, and finally discordant music plays on the soundtrack, indicating to the viewer that something is off. This layering of techniques gives the viewer an impression of how malodorous the stink god is.

Question 1 (c)

Sample answer:

Chichieki takes his job seriously and is professional. We can see this from him being polite to the customer (*miemo shita*) even though he smells really bad. His serious attitude towards his job is also evident when he tells his boss, Yubaba, who is laughing about the uneasy situation of the stink god, it’s no laughing matter (*waraikoto dewa arimasen*). His use of polite form also shows his respect of the relationship of employer and employee. He is narrow-minded, he does not focus on the big picture that they are a bathhouse to serve gods, but he is concerned only about profit (*kitanai te de kabe ni sawariotte*) – the mess Sen is creating will cost them to clean up – ‘how dare she touch the walls’ (*sonna mottainai*), what a waste for Sen to have the good tokens and (*anna kookana kusuriyu o*) all that precious herbal water. These phrases also show that he thinks Sen is worthless, beneath him and is costing him money.

Question 1 (d)

Answers could include:

Students need to describe Yubaba’s attitude at the beginning (eg Sen is useless and a waste of time), comment on the fact that in this scene we see her testing Sen by giving her her first job. That her trust of Sen grows – we can see her amused by Sen’s initiative and ability to cope with the difficulty of bathing the stink god (*anoko dou suruka ne*), finally through to admiration of Sen’s ability in cleansing the river spirit and showing her as an example to everyone. We can see onlookers genuinely surprised by the warm hug she gives Sen. The relationship has changed from no relationship, to a ruthless boss, then to a proud boss showing gratitude.

Finally, students need to comment on how her attitude continues to change thereafter, that she thinks of her almost as an enemy (when Sen takes Bou away and saves Haku) and then her subtle admiration that Sen answers her trick about the parents correctly.