INTRODUCTION
1. (1) How many native speakers of Japanese are there?
   → “estimated Japanese nationality”: approx. 126 million as of 2008 (confined mainly to Japan)
   (2) Where does it rank among the world's languages?
   → The 6th after Chinese, English, Russian, Spanish, & Hindi (i.e. more than German, French)

2. (1) Does the author suggest that a language influences the people or that people’s experience influences it?
   (2) What do you think, and why? Illustrate with examples.

1. A HISTORY OF JAPAN
1.1. The early years – Contact with China and the evolution of the writing system
3. (1) In the footnote on page 243, the author discusses the Japanese unit of timing. How many “moras” are there in each of the following: Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Hokkaido? ____; ____; ____; ____
   (NOTE: 1 mora corresponds to 1 hiragana, except for small ya, yu, yo, which are not counted separately)
   (2) How many syllables are there in each of the words above?

4. What were the 3 important things brought in to Japan from China during or before the 6th century?

5. (1) What is the percentage of Sino-JPN words in contemporary JPN?
   → 55% (Shibatani 1990:145)
   (2) Why was it difficult to write JPN using Chinese characters?
   (3) How did the ancient Chinese and Korean scholars solve the problem?

6. (1) How were hiragana and katakana developed, respectively?
   (2) What are the three sets of symbols (hiragana, katakana, & kanji) generally used for?

7. (1) How many kanji are authorized to be used in newspapers and popular reading materials without providing the pronunciation?
   → 1945 (The information in the article is outdated.)
   (2) What would be the advantages and disadvantages of using just kana (i.e. hiragana and katakana) or just Romaji (Roman alphabet) to write JPN, instead of the current mixed system?

8. (1) When did various levels of speech (e.g. keigo ‘honorisﬁces’) and the distinction between men’s and women’s speech begin to develop?
   (2) What does this fact reﬂect? → Complex social stratification, and different status/treatments of men and women.

1.2. The Middle Ages – The rise and fall of a feudal society
9. When did ﬁrst and second person pronouns in JPN proliferate, and why?

10. (1) When and by whom were the ﬁrst dictionaries and grammars of JPN compiled in Romaji?
   (2) What are the major contributions of these works? → The pronunciation of JPN then was recorded more accurately than ever. (Also, linguistic analyses of JPN from Westerners’ perspectives)
11. What concept was emphasized in the Tokugawa government that is still important in JPN society?

1.3. Modern times – The Meiji Restoration (in 1868) and the road to modernization
12. (1) From what language, in particular, have many words been borrowed into JPN recently?
   (2) From what other languages did JPN borrow words in the late 19th century?
   (3) From where else did JPN borrow words earlier in history?

2. THE STRUCTURE OF JAPANESE
2.1. Sentence Formation in Japanese
13. Is JPN related to Chinese and/or to Korean?

2.1.1. Japanese – A verb-final language
NOTE: In spoken JPN, the verb can, and often do, occur in positions other than sentence-final, contrary to the author’s claim. They are called “postposed” sentences, which will be discussed later.

2.1.2. Japanese postpositions (i.e. “particles”)
14. (1) What are the three types of postpositions in JPN?

(NOTE: If you don’t understand 2.1.3.- 2.1.7, don’t worry. Please just skim these pages.)
2.1.3. Question formation; 2.1.4. Japanese – A left branching language; 2.1.5. Backward gapping;
2.1.6. Temporal expressions; 2.1.7. Negation in Japanese

2.2. Some Japanese expressions reflecting the speaker’s perspective
2.2.1. How Japanese marks topics
NOTE: It is important to distinguish the topic of ‘conversation’ from the topic of a ‘sentence.’ When talking about a movie, for example, the sentences in the discourse may be about the director, actors, and/or various aspects of the movie. The topic of a sentence will be marked by wa, and the non-topic subject by ga. The mechanism of introducing/ marking the topic of discourse is more complicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wa and ga each has two functions each (Kuno 1973):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wa: (1) theme (or topic); (2) contrast (usually accented)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ga: (1) exhaustive listing; (2) neutral description</td>
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The following rules are useful to remember.

TOPIC-wa + COMMENT.
shared info. new info.

SUBJECT-ga + PREDICATE.
(1) new info. shared info. (ga for ‘exhaustive listing’)
(2) The whole sentence represents new info. (ga for ‘neutral description’)

2.2.2. How Japanese represents psychological distance
   The objective-reportative sense of the progressive with -te i-ru
   Focus and the sense of adversity in passivization

2.2.3. How Japanese distinguishes sensations of self and nonself

2.2.4. How Japanese deals with the notions of ‘existence’ and ‘possession’
NOTE: (1) p. 277: The correct (literal) translation of (97) is ‘I caught a cold, and the result is still in effect’ (stative/resultative reading).

(2) There are many other ‘have’ sentences that do not translate into iru/aru ‘exist’ or motte i-ru ‘own, possess’;
   a. Mako wa me ga ookii. ‘Mako has big eyes. (lit. As for Mako, her eyes are big.)’
   b. Mako wa omoshiroi kangae-kata o suru. ‘Mako has an interesting way of thinking.’
      (lit. As for Mako, she does and interesting way of thinking.)