

**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES  
SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 9 August 2020

---

Partially  
Confidential

In 1989 I was teaching Japanese at Forest High School. Among the classes was an advanced class. In this class were students who had learnt Japanese in Primary School (from the Sydney Japanese School) as well as those who wanted to learn Japanese as part of their Heritage. Japanese teachers were grateful to the NSW government for their open-mindedness. At a Saturday School in Chatswood in the 1990s, three courses for Native Japanese Speakers were provided. I was preparing programmes and was in search of learning materials to complement my teaching in those classes.

Now after 30 years, students can learn Japanese at an appropriate level for them, with the creation of the “Heritage” now known as “In Context”, and “Native” now known as “Japanese Literature” courses. During that period when the Heritage course was made, despite there being some issues, I was grateful to the state government.

However, the way in which the HSC is scaled does not appreciate the efforts of the students learning Japanese at an advanced level. The ATAR system is quite unfair in this regard and is taking away from students the desire and appeal of learning Japanese. Whilst the higher levels for Maths and English such as Extension 1 and 2 are scaled well, I cannot accept the fact that the extension courses for Japanese, no matter how high the level, are not. The HSC seems more like a game in which students try to pick the subjects that will not push them to their best, instead picking the easier ones that will scale the same. Accordingly, the fact that the “Japanese Literature” course is going to be cut will only bring about more of what has been discussed above.

I would like to see the continuation of the “Japanese Literature” course for the sake of those students who wish to take their ability to learn two languages as far as possible, and thus become the bridge that will foster a strong connection between both countries, here in Australia. At the same time, I would also like the ATAR scaling of language subjects to be revised.