

中学校外国語 学習指導要領 改訂の概要（英語版）

Junior High School Foreign Languages
-Course of Study: Outline of the Revision-

The Framework

The *I. OVERALL OBJECTIVE* of each subject corresponds to the Three Pillars of Qualities and Abilities.

- (1) Knowledge and skills
- (2) Ability to think, to judge, to express oneself, etc.
- (3) Power to learn, character etc.

In *2. Contents*, It is stated that each subject be divided into two components, (1) and (2).

Four Skills to Five Areas

In *II. OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS FOR EACH LANGUAGE* of *1. Objectives*, Speaking is divided into the two areas of Interaction and Presentation, meaning the conventional four skills has been reorganized into five areas. An objective indicator (an objective in a CAN-DO format which describes what can exactly be done using English) is set for each area.

Language Materials

In *(1) Items Concerning English Features and Rules* of *2. Contents [Knowledge and Skills]* section, mentioned are as follows:

- 1 Speech sounds
- 2 Symbols
- 3 Words, collocations, and common expressions
- 4 Sentences, sentence structures, and grammatical items

Words, Collocations, and Common Expressions

Regarding vocabulary, “*around 1600 to 1800 words*” should be learned in addition to the “*600 to 700 words*” picked up in elementary school. This number is a big increase compared to the current guidelines in which students learn “*about 1200 words.*”

In addition, because collocations and common expressions are written in the new Course of Study for Foreign Languages in Elementary School, they are not written in the junior high school Course of Study. Instead, it is noted that “*highly utilized collocations and common expressions*” should be learned.

Sentences, Sentence Structures and Grammatical Items

With regard to Sentences, the current mention of “*Simple, compound, and complex sentences*” has changed to “*Compound and complex sentences.*” In addition, current mentions of “*affirmative and negative declarative sentences*” and “*affirmative and negative imperative sentences*” has moved to the elementary school Course of Study.

Additionally, the new Course of Study stipulates that “*Interrogative sentences that begin with an auxiliary verb (such as may, will, etc.), that contain or, and that begin with an interrogative (which and whose)*” to be learned. The stipulation of “*Interrogative sentences that begin with a verb and an auxiliary verb (can and do), and that begin with an interrogative (how, what, when, where and why)*” in the current Course of Study are items that will be learned in elementary school.

In addition, the “*Basic exclamatory sentences*” stipulated in a former Course of Study has been added.

For “*Sentence structures*”, the following have been transferred to the Course of Study in elementary school.

- [Subject + Verb]
- [Subject + Verb + Complement] (SVC)
Subject + “be” + {noun · pronoun · adjective}
- [Subject + Verb + Object] (SVO)
Subject + verb + {noun · pronoun}

In addition, the following items have been added.

- [Subject + Verb + Indirect object + Direct object] (SVOO)
Subject + verb + indirect object + {“that”-clause, “what”-clause, etc.}
- [Subject + Verb + Object + Complement] (SVOC)
Subject + verb + object + bare infinitive
- Clause beginning with Subject + “be” + Adjective + that

"Grammatical items", "Verb tenses, etc." in the current Course of Study has become "Verb tenses and aspects" and "Present perfect progressive" and "Basic subjunctive mood" have been added in the junior high school Course of Study.

Retention of Learning Contents from Elementary School

In (3) *Items Concerning Language Activities and Functions of Language* of section 2. *Contents*, it is required that teaching and learning practices are in connection with the learning material of elementary school through *Learning Content for Retention in Elementary School*, indicated in the Course of Study for elementary school *Chapter 2 Section 10, Foreign Languages Part 2 (3)*. 3. *LESSON PLAN DESIGN AND TREATMENT OF THE CONTENTS* also notes a requirement for "teachers to provide repeated instruction of simple phrases and fundamental expressions learned from Grade 3 to 6 in elementary school for retention".

Lesson Plan and Contents

When designing lesson plans, it is required to create opportunities for "student's independent, interactive, and deep learning" (in other words, to create opportunities for Active Learning). Furthermore, as stated in the current senior high school Course of Study, the statement "classes, in principle, should be conducted in English" has been included in the junior high school Course of Study.

As for the contents, instead of treating all language materials equally, they are required to be taught in two different levels; (receptive level) "items to be taught for understanding through listening and reading" and (productive level) "items to be taught for expression through speaking and writing." Additionally, a new provision has been added requiring teachers to "make sure students can plan and reflect on their own learning" during each unit and class.