

Qualifications Framework Level Definitions (Level Descriptors)

L E V E L	Learner Profile	Knowledge and Understanding	Versatile Skills	Work Skills				Autonomy and Responsibilities	Ethics and Professionalism
				Technical and Practical Skills	Interpersonal Skills*1	Analytical Skills*2	Management and Leadership Skills		
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will demonstrate a critical understanding of the most advanced knowledge at the frontier of their fields of study/professional practice. Independently conduct, manage and lead advanced research that contributes to new and original knowledge and/or practices. Produce research outputs in the form of theses, patents, products, new advanced professional practices, advanced technologies, creative models, works of art or music. Demonstrate with confidence and knowledge the ability to present and defend points of view, theses and ideas in their fields of specialization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate comprehensive, systematic, integrated, new, complex and abstract ideas relevant to current issues at the frontier of their fields of study/professional practice. Adopt interdisciplinary perspectives, knowledge and understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically analyze, evaluate and synthesize new, complex and abstract concepts and issues at the frontier of their fields of study/professional practice, and refine existing concepts and practices. Solve complex, abstract and emerging issues and challenges by independently applying advanced research and analytical methods and skills to creatively generate new knowledge, theories, novel solutions and/or new practices in their fields of study/practice. Create new knowledge, theories, solutions and practices through highly original research that satisfies peer reviews and international standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a mastery of practical and technical skills/practices as well as scientific skills, which are, in turn, used to develop new skills, techniques or solutions to resolve highly complex problems emerging at the forefront of multiple fields. Demonstrate the ability to design, implement and/or improve highly advanced, specialized research methodologies in multiple fields. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively communicate research findings in their fields of expertise to peers, scholarly communities and society at large. Work to deal with diverse people in learning and working communities as well as in ethnically and professionally different groups and networks. Convey cogently and coherently information, insights, ideas, problems and solutions relevant to their fields of specialization to peers, scholarly communities and society at large. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use, select and improve existing methods and methodologies or develop new appropriate ones to enhance the quality of research and practical activities. Critically evaluate numerical and graphical data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with autonomy, independence and authority in research and resource management, and contribute to the creation of new knowledge and advancement of practices, processes and products. Demonstrate leadership, professionalism and management skills, and cooperate effectively with various partners. From academic and professional perspectives, contribute to social and cultural progress in dealing with emerging issues at the professional/expert level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assume full responsibility for their own work, and where relevant, be accountable for overall management of their organizations. Integrate knowledge for lifelong learning with newly developed ideas, solutions and systems. Initiate and lead entrepreneurial ventures and projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to legal, professional and ethically sound codes of practice. Identify emerging ethical and professional issues, and disclose their complexities and implications to advance research in their fields of specialization and society at large. Contribute professionally to social, technological and economic development.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on strong theoretical knowledge, critical thinking, and an understanding of creative and innovative skills, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate originality and independence in undertaking analytical and critical evaluations and synthesizing complex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use advanced technologies, methods and skills to adopt a wide range of comprehensive approaches to create new ideas or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through standard, specialized research methods and approaches, apply the practical skills, methods or research techniques learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate methods to clearly communicate knowledge, skills, ideas, critiques, conclusions and rationales to peers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competently use a wide range of suitable digital technologies and appropriate software to enhance the quality of study/practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate significant autonomy, independence, leadership and interpersonal skills at work and in class. In complex and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show self-advancement through continuous academic and/or professional development. Initiate and/or lead entrepreneurial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to legal, ethical and professional codes of practice. Demonstrate confidence when giving advice and

	<p>learners will acquire knowledge in specific fields of study/ practice through continuous learning, research and/or professional practice, and be able to generate new solutions to problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act with confidence in the international arena backed by knowledge and skills. 	<p>information, specialized concepts, theories, methods and practices in their fields of study/practice.</p>	<p>revolutionary practices, apply knowledge critically and comprehensively, and manage and solve complex problems or issues in their fields of study/practice.</p>	<p>from the most advanced knowledge and the latest developments in their fields of study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to solve and manage complex problems or issues in their fields of study/ practice. Demonstrate the competence to work and undertake advanced study in one or more foreign languages. 	<p>experts, and non-experts in one or more global languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together and collaboratively with diverse people in learning and working communities as well as in ethnically and professionally different groups and networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt applications and systems to deal with new solutions and problems, and use a wide range of information, media and technological applications to support study/ research/practice. Demonstrate the ability to design evaluation operation plans by applying mathematical and other quantitative or qualitative methods to analyze and evaluate numerical and graphical data for study/work. 	<p>unpredictable situations, assume substantial responsibility in planning, resource management, supervision, problem solving and work management in their own teams or in collaboration with other teams.</p>	<p>ventures and projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> making decisions on complex issues based on critical insights and ethical considerations. Contribute professionally to social, technological and economic development both nationally and internationally. Demonstrate the ability to engage meaningfully in a range of civic and global issues in their fields of specialization. 	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will demonstrate comprehension of a broad-based and coherent body of knowledge and skills for paraprofessional work that requires research and development, creativity and innovation in their fields of specialization. Demonstrate professionalism, resilience and a commitment to an ethical work culture and sustainability; and show an awareness of being a global citizen in alignment with Japan's national aspirations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe in words advanced and comprehensive, theoretical and technical knowledge, and demonstrate relevant skills in their fields of specialization, or those of a multidisciplinary nature related to their fields of study/work/ practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate intellectual independence in applying knowledge in their fields of study/work/practice by applying critical, analytical and evaluation skills. Manage and resolve complex applications and handle unpredictable issues with creative and innovative solutions. Apply skills and knowledge to a range of approaches in their fields of study/work/ practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply broad-based basic methods and procedures to solve a wide range of complex problems. Review, adjust and supervise practices and processes in their fields of specialization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With confidence, accuracy and coherence, convey ideas and thoughts to diverse audiences in appropriate written and oral forms of presentation. Work together with different people in various learning and working communities as well as with diverse people from different regions or countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a broad range of information technology tools, media and applications to support study/work. Combine and use numerical and graphical/visual data for study/work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within various organization parameters, work autonomously and display leadership and professionalism in work management. Undertake a significant level of responsibility for their own and others' work. Demonstrate decision-making abilities and professionalism by working towards pre-determined goals and outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate entrepreneurial competency in selected projects. Pursue self-directed lifelong learning and professional pathways. Demonstrate an awareness of a broad range of socio-political, economic and cultural issues at local, national and international levels. Fulfill accountability in their fields of specialization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to adhere to moral values, identify ethical issues, make decisions in an ethical manner, and act professionally in socially and professionally diverse environments and practices. Demonstrate a deep awareness and knowledge of local and global science, technology, business, social and environmental issues.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will have a significant amount of theoretical and technical knowledge, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a wide range of theoretical, conceptual and technical knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, interpret, apply, analyze and evaluate detailed technical, conceptual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a wide range of practical skills in applying essential methods and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For social, academic and professional purposes, communicate and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a range of information technology tools, media and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with a substantial degree of autonomy and a significant level of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate entrepreneurial skills in relevant specific situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to fulfill social responsibilities and to follow professional,

	<p>and be able to deal with complex situations at work and understand and meet organizational and professional demands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will demonstrate the ability to apply sustainable practices in an ethical manner in living and working in local and/or international communities. 	<p>and comprehension to deal with varied and unpredictable tasks/work/study in fields that require advanced specialized knowledge.</p>	<p>and theoretical knowledge in their fields of specialization or at work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solve problems and issues independently in broadly defined, complex, routine and non-routine contexts or under unpredictable circumstances, with a limited scope of approaches and autonomy. 	<p>procedures to complete a variety of studies and complex tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and adjust relevant practices and processes and supervise other people. 	<p>interact with others effectively and cogently in a comprehensible manner to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to diverse audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display a high level of oral and written proficiencies in two or more languages. 	<p>applications to support study and/or work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret and apply routine and non-routine, complex numerical and graphical/visual data. 	<p>responsibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make management decisions independently on resource allocation and the performance of others in the workplace. Demonstrate the ability to take responsibility and accept accountability. Demonstrate team leadership in new environments, including when the area of work is not well-defined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage effectively in self-directed lifelong learning and participate independently in professional collaborations. Demonstrate competencies working or studying in local and/or global multicultural, multilingual and multiethnic communities. 	<p>ethical and sustainable practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the development of sustainable local and global communities.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will have broad-based knowledge of general theories and principles, and demonstrate skills for study/discipline in specific fields, enabling them to undertake specialized work leading to a career path in technical, professional or management fields. Learners will express interest in pursuing further education. Learners will be committed to appropriate ethical behaviors and appreciate Japan's national aspirations from a global perspective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand systematically a broad range of complex technical and theoretical knowledge and skills to undertake complex, routine and non-routine tasks/study in relevant fields of study/discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, interpret, apply and evaluate general concepts, theory and/or operational principles with minimal supervision when the content of study/work is well-defined. Solve well-defined common problems as well as irregular ones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply practical skills, techniques and methods to a limited extent to meet the demands of tasks/work. Consider and adjust, as necessary, the practices and processes to complete routine or non-routine tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate clearly, in oral and written form, ideas, information, problems and solutions to others including peers, experts and non-experts. Individually or as a team member, interact effectively with supervisors, peers and subordinates. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages besides Japanese. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a wide range of digital tools to support study/work as well as examine and process data relevant to work or study. Demonstrate skills to use and interpret given, complex numerical and graphical/visual data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform work with a significant degree of responsibility and autonomy under broad-based guidance and direction on well-defined, non-routine study/tasks performed in a variety of contexts. Lead and manage a variety of teams to handle issues at work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore and engage in entrepreneurial activities. Identify self-improvement initiatives and possibilities for further education, and develop realistic career and professional goals. Show interest and participate in professional and civic activities leading to local and region-wide community building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to understand and comply with organizational and professional ethics at work. Demonstrate the ability to apply sustainable practices in living and working in local and global communities.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will have fundamental, theoretical and technical knowledge of facts and principles at an intermediate level, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a significant range of knowledge about a field of study or discipline, describe in words the basic principles, theories and skills to take on a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply knowledge, familiar methods and skills to solve predictable problems in routine tasks/study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use appropriate methods, tools, technologies and materials to organize, operate and complete efforts and solutions to deal with routine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individually or as a team, communicate effectively and clearly, in oral and written form, ideas, information, problems and solutions to peers, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use basic information technology applications to support study/work to look at and process data relevant to their study/work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to work with considerable autonomy and minimal supervision. Provide guidance to others in the context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With minimal guidance, initiate self-improvement through study or training and seek further education. Display an awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to comply with work ethics in performing study/tasks in diversified, multicultural

	<p>demonstrate well-balanced working skills as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show an interest in study/disciplines pertaining to their own interest or work. Engage in an age-appropriate manner with local communities and display an awareness of global issues. Acquire an elementary level of proficiency in a language other than Japanese (e.g. English). 	<p>variety of well-defined, routine tasks/work.</p>		<p>and non-routine tasks/problems under a teacher's supervision.</p>	<p>experts and non-experts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an elementary level of proficiency in one or more global languages besides Japanese. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret and use familiar and comprehensible numerical and graphical data. 	<p>of study/work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake considerable responsibility for the quality and impact of outputs. Consider the outcomes and performance of study/work/tasks and assume responsibility for them. 	<p>and general knowledge of Japan and its neighboring countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a basic understanding of the knowledge and skills required for entrepreneurs. 	<p>environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue active engagement with local civic societies on matters of interest to local and global communities (e.g. environmental issues).
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will acquire knowledge and skills to carry out work as responsible and ethical professionals in a certain environment. Demonstrate interest in undertaking further studies and in making a commitment to lifelong learning. Develop skills to engage with local communities. Develop a basic level of proficiency in a foreign language (e.g. English). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to describe in words the knowledge of subjects/disciplines for study and take on a variety of routine and non-routine tasks/work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply knowledge and skills to well-defined routine study/tasks. Apply familiar solutions to solve predictable problems in well-defined routine study/tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to plan and complete well-defined tasks using common basic methods and materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with others in a limited range of contexts requiring simple and direct exchanges of information on familiar and routine matters. Develop a basic level of proficiency in a language other than Japanese. Assume responsibility and initiate preparatory studies for further education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under a teacher's supervision, use a limited range of basic applications and information technology tools adequate to perform a given set of tasks to process simple data. Interpret a small amount of simple and familiar numerical and graphical data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work under supervision in structured activities with almost no autonomy or substantial support. Work in a team and exchange views and feedback with others, assuming almost no responsibility and accountability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a teacher's guidance, assume a degree of responsibility for learning. Demonstrate the ability to consider tasks and personal actions and values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate the ability to make good use of personal values in learning or carrying out tasks. Deepen the understanding of cultural diversity by continued exposure to different cultures and value systems. Develop political and social awareness.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will have basic, foundational or general knowledge and skills. Learners will perform basic and highly routine tasks with guidance and prepare for further learning and for becoming responsible ethical professionals. Develop an awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe simple and basic knowledge and skills in a limited scope of fields/subjects to undertake highly routine and predictable tasks/study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With guidance, apply basic knowledge to well-defined, routine and predictable tasks. Demonstrate the ability to reflect on and improve performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate elementary skills in using a variety of common basic methods and materials for well-defined tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use familiar everyday expressions and simple phrases in a limited range of contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate competency in using basic mathematical methods (e.g. symbols). Under a teacher's guidance, use a few simple and basic applications adequate to perform given tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under direct guidance and support, work in structured activities/tasks. Demonstrate the ability to work independently or in a team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a teacher's encouragement and guidance, assume a degree of responsibility for learning. Demonstrate the ability to review and reflect on the tasks undertaken/performed under a teacher's guidance. Demonstrate the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as a responsible member of society and show sensitivity to cultures other than their own.

of community, local and national institutions as well as curiosity about the outside world.							ability to identify the personal values applicable to carrying out study/tasks.	
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*1 Communication-related and other skills are also included. *2 Digital, numerical and other skills are also included.

Level Criteria

- Level 8: 15-20 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 35-40), Doctoral Degree
- Level 7: 10-15 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 30-35), Master’s Degree, Master of xxxx(Professional)
- Level 6: 5-10 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 25-30), Advanced Diploma, Bachelor’s Degree, Bachelor’s Degree(Professional)
- Level 5: 2-5 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 22-25), Diploma, Associate Degree, Associate Degree(Professional), the title of Associate
- Level 4: 0-2 years after graduating from a specialized training college (2) (at the age of 20-22), Diploma, Associate Degree, Associate Degree(Professional), the title of Associate
- Level 3: High school graduate (at the age of 18), specialized training college (1)
- Level 2: Junior high school graduate (at the age of 15)
- Level 1: Elementary school graduate (at the age of 12)