Relation between JFS-based evaluation and JLPT pass or fail determination

April 2017
The Japan Foundation

JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education (JFS)
A1–C2 (6 levels)

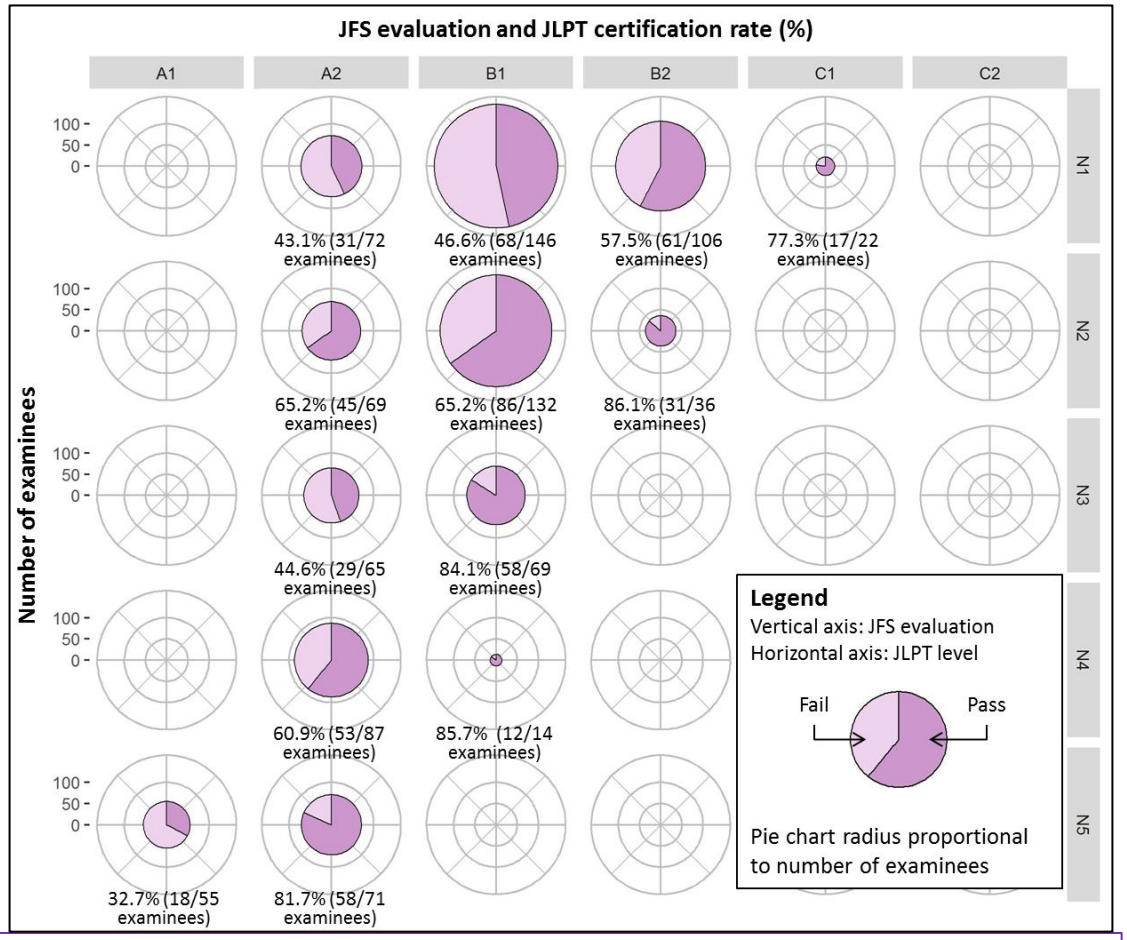
Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
N1–N5 (5 levels)

Trial relation survey
(2011)
Sample size: 96 participants in the Japan Foundation language courses

Relation survey
(2013–2016)
Sample size : 967 Japanese-language learners in and outside Japan

JLPT Pass or fail determined by measurement

JFS Learner's JFS level evaluated by teachers who have completed the JFS training course



- Survey results suggest a moderate relation between JFS-based evaluation and JLPT pass or fail determination. Specifically, the lower the JLPT level, the higher the certification rate was observed among the sample learners at the same JFS evaluation level.
- One-to-one correspondence between particular levels was not observed. This is presumably due to their difference in ability measurement criteria.
- Interpretation of the graph must take into account the sample learners' circumstances such as their native languages and learning environment. Certification rates at each JLPT level in the survey also tended to exceed those of the overall number of JLPT examinees worldwide, primarily because the survey samples are institution-based learners.