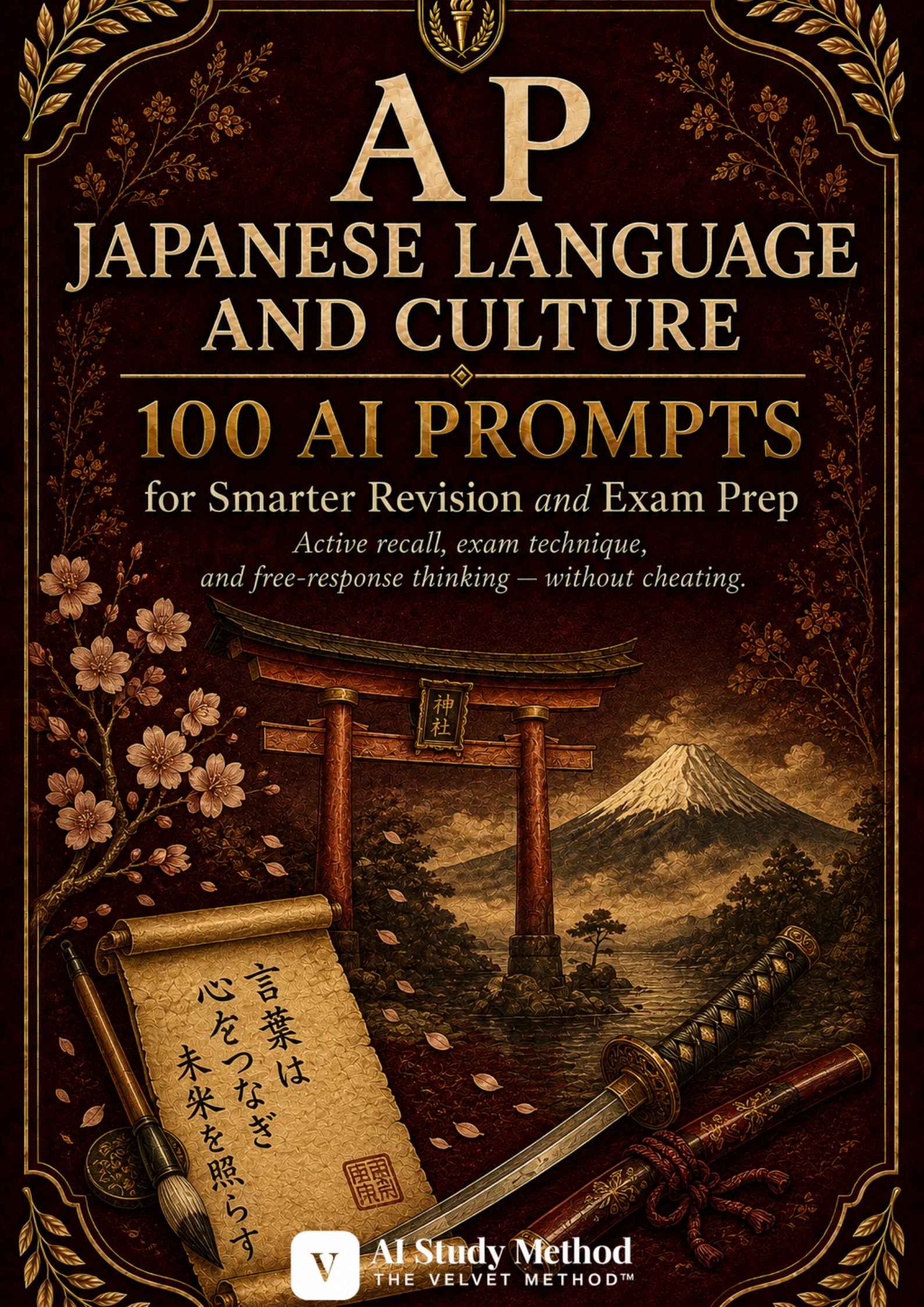


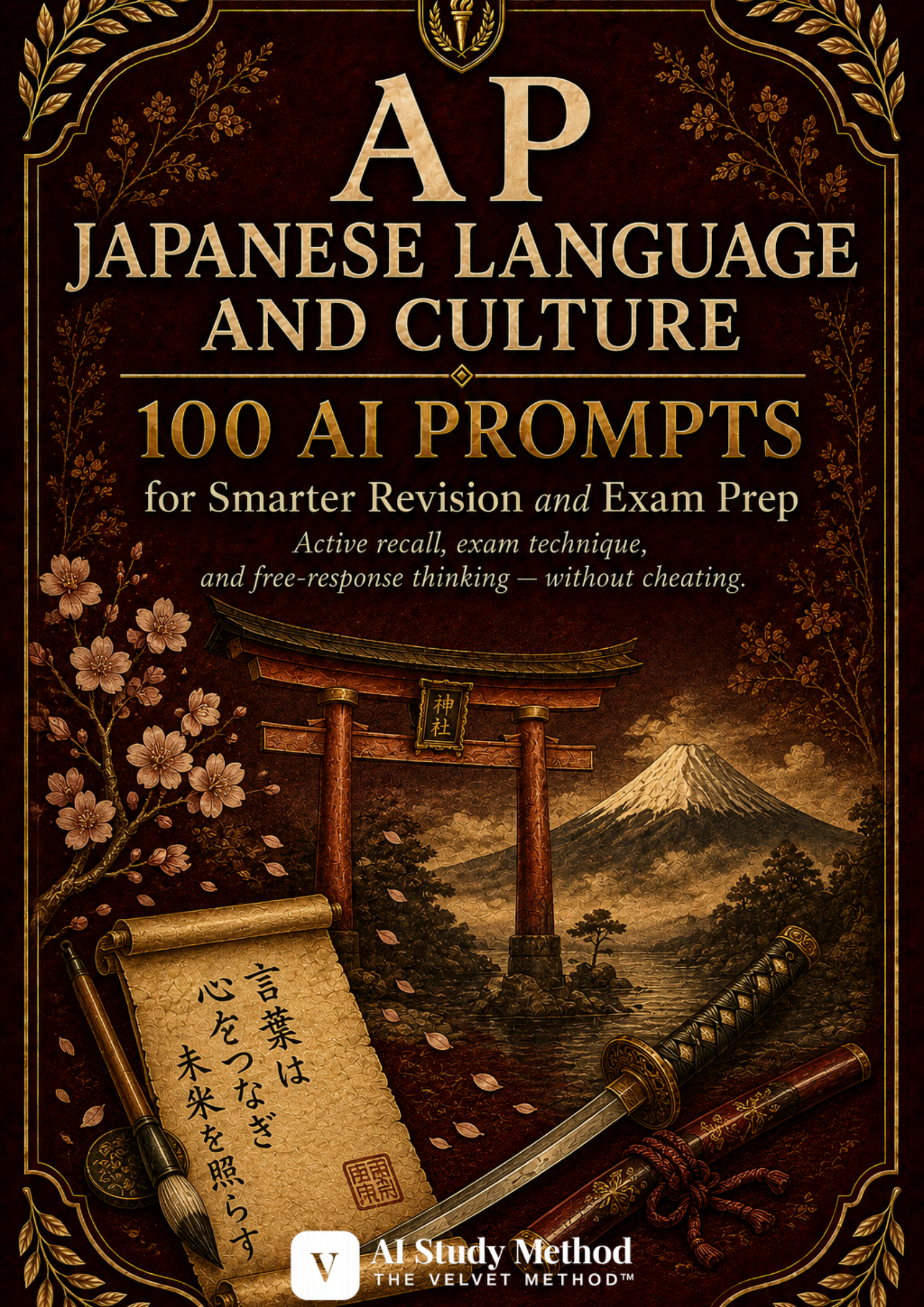


AP JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

100 AI PROMPTS

for Smarter Revision *and* Exam Prep

*Active recall, exam technique,
and free-response thinking — without cheating.*



言葉は
心をつなぎ
未来を照らす



AI Study Method
THE VELVET METHOD™

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A six-step AI study system

AP Japanese Language and Culture

100 AI Prompts for Smarter Revision & Exam Prep

Active recall, exam technique, and mark-scheme thinking — without cheating.

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We use artificial intelligence tools to help draft and structure example material; all educational guidance has been reviewed and curated for quality and accuracy. This book is designed to support revision and exam preparation and does not replace formal teaching, textbooks, or official specifications.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all work submitted for assessment is their own.

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What Is the Velvet Method?

The Velvet Method is a six-step framework for using AI as a study partner — not a shortcut. Each letter is a stage of effective revision, and each is grounded in what cognitive science says actually works: building understanding, retrieving it under pressure, and spacing your review over time.

V — View See the whole picture of a topic before you study the detail.

E — Evaluate Run a diagnostic to find exactly where your gaps are.

L — Learn Fill those gaps in a way that genuinely sticks.

V — Verify Prove you know it with exam-style questions and examiner-style feedback.

E — Explore Push into top-grade thinking: application, analysis, and unseen problems.

T — Transform Reflect, plan your next session, and lock it in with spaced repetition.

Used in order, the six stages turn AI from a machine that hands you answers into a tutor that strengthens your own thinking — so the work stays yours, and so does the understanding you carry into the exam.

How This Book Is Organised

This book follows the Velvet Method exactly. Its six chapters are the six stages, and the prompts in each chapter do that stage's job for AP Japanese Language and Culture. View prompts help you map the course; Evaluate prompts diagnose your gaps; Learn prompts help you understand; Verify prompts test you against mark schemes; Explore prompts stretch you into top-grade thinking; and Transform prompts help you reflect and remember.

Work through the stages roughly in order when you tackle a whole topic, or dip into a single stage when you need it — a quick diagnostic before a test, or some examiner-style marking the night before.

Every prompt is a starting point, not a script. Adapt them, raise the difficulty, swap in your own topic, and ask the AI to challenge your thinking rather than do it for you. The goal is never to get answers from AI. It is to use AI to test, challenge, and sharpen what you know.

How to Run a Velvet Session

Having a hundred prompts is not the same as knowing how to use them. Here is how the six stages fit together in a real study session — and how to turn them into a habit rather than a one-off.

For a new topic, work roughly in order: View to map it, Evaluate to find your gaps, Learn to fill the most important ones, Verify to prove they're fixed, Explore to stretch, and Transform to lock it in and plan your next review. You won't always use all six — before a test you might go straight to Evaluate and Verify.

A worked example

Say you have ninety minutes on the Global Challenges theme. Open with a View prompt to map the sub-topics in Japanese — environmental issues, economic disparities, conflict, migration, technology and human rights, with how each is discussed in Japan. Run the Evaluate diagnostic and find that producing the Cultural Comparison FRQ structure and using high-register Japanese are shaky. Use two Learn prompts: an analogy for what a Cultural Comparison really demands, and a Walk-Me-Through prompt for the Email Reply task. Then Verify with an examiner-marked Cultural Comparison FRQ. Finally, a Transform prompt schedules a review of theme-specific vocabulary.

Spread it out

The method works partly because it spaces your learning, so resist racing through this whole book in one sitting. A realistic rhythm is one or two topics a week through the full cycle, with short Verify and Transform reviews of earlier topics layered on top. The spacing is not a delay — it is the mechanism.

Lean on the prompts less over time

At first, use the prompts word for word. As you grow more confident, strip the scaffolding away — shorten them, raise the difficulty, and eventually run a whole stage from memory. The aim is to need this book less and less.

Trust, but Verify

AI is a powerful study partner, but it is not always right — and the danger is that you are using it precisely because you don't yet know the material well enough to notice when it's wrong. Treating its output as automatically correct is the single biggest risk in studying with AI.

What to watch for in AP Japanese Language and Culture especially: AI can invent CED unit numbers and learning objectives that don't appear in the official Course and Exam Description; it can confuse free-response rubric wording (College Board rubrics are very specific about what earns a point); it can blur the line between AP content and college-level content beyond the syllabus; and it can quote scoring percentages or score distributions that are out of date. It can use idioms above the AP register, get verb conjugations wrong, fabricate cultural statistics about Japan, or produce a Cultural Comparison FRQ that's actually a description. Always cross-reference with the official AP CED and recent free-response scoring guidelines.

So build the habit of checking. Keep your specification and a trusted textbook to hand, and cross-reference anything that will go into your memory. Ask the AI to show its reasoning and where a mark point comes from, so you can judge it. When a marked answer surprises you, challenge it — ask why that is the model answer. And use the Verify-stage prompt that asks the AI to include a deliberate error, to keep your own eye sharp. If the AI and your specification ever disagree, the specification wins.

This is not a reason to distrust the tool. It is the skill that makes you safe to use it — and learning to check AI well is itself one of the most valuable things this method will teach you.

Quick Start: Which Prompt, When

Not sure where to begin? Match your situation to a stage:

Starting a brand-new topic: View (Prompts 1–10), then run a diagnostic.

A test tomorrow, short on time: the diagnostics (Prompts 11–25), then a few Verify prompts on your weak spots.

You've revised but it won't stick: Learn (Prompts 26–43), especially Feynman and draw-from-memory.

You know it but keep losing exam marks: Verify (Prompts 44–71), especially examiner marking and command words.

Aiming for the top grades: Explore (Prompts 72–88).

End of a session or week: Transform (Prompts 89–100).

When in doubt, run the Whole-Topic Diagnostic (Prompt 11) — it will tell you what you need.

These prompts are your toolkit.

The Velvet Method course is where you learn to wield them.

Six steps taught in full, worked examples for every stage, and a complete prompt library across your subjects.

Learn the method at aistudymethod.co.uk/courses

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Note on Exam Boards and Syllabi

This book supports AP Japanese Language and Culture students preparing for the College Board's exam, scored on the 1-5 scale.

AP Japanese Language and Culture is organised by the College Board around 6 Thematic Contexts (Beauty and Aesthetics; Contemporary Life; Families and Communities; Global Challenges; Personal and Public Identities; Science and Technology). Six Skill Categories are assessed: Comprehension, Connections, Source Analysis, Cultural Awareness, Word Choice and Phrasing, Synthesis. The exam is 95 minutes Section I (MCQ — listening and reading, ~50%) plus 88 minutes Section II (Free Response: Email Reply, Argumentative Essay, Conversation, and Cultural Comparison, ~50%). The free-response sections are all scored on 5-point rubrics anchored to AP-specific descriptors.

Always cross-reference with your own specification and use it as the definitive guide to what you will be examined on. This book is a powerful revision companion; your specification remains the final word on content.



View

Before you revise a single detail, build the big picture. The View stage uses AI to map the syllabus, find the core ideas a topic depends on, and see how everything connects — so that when you study the detail, it has somewhere to attach. Start here for any new topic.

Prompt 1: Map the Whole CED

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as an AP Japanese Language and Culture tutor. Give me a structured overview of the entire course as the College Board's CED organises it: the six Thematic Contexts (Beauty and Aesthetics; Contemporary Life; Families and Communities; Global Challenges; Personal and Public Identities; Science and Technology) and the six Skill Categories (Comprehension, Connections, Source Analysis, Cultural Awareness, Word Choice and Phrasing, Synthesis). For each, list the key sub-topics in a single line.

What this helps you practise: Seeing the whole course as one connected map before revising any single part.

How to use it well: Keep this overview somewhere visible and tick off each Theme as you secure it.

Prompt 2: Build the Big Picture of a Theme

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Before I study [Theme, e.g. Global Challenges] in detail, give me a one-paragraph big-picture summary in Japanese: what this Theme covers in Japan, the key vocabulary clusters, and how it overlaps with the other five AP Themes.

What this helps you practise: Building a mental framework that vocabulary and example sentences can attach to.

How to use it well: Read this before your textbook chapter, not after.

Prompt 3: Create a Personalised CED Checklist

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Using the AP Japanese Language and Culture CED for [Theme], produce a checklist of what I must be able to do, written as 'I can...' statements (for example, 'I can write an Email Reply at AP Level register on the Theme of Global Challenges').

What this helps you practise: Turning a vague theme into a concrete, testable list of skills.

How to use it well: RAG-rate each statement so revision targets reds first.

Prompt 4: Find the Spine of a Theme

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Identify the five or six most important vocabulary clusters and cultural references in [Theme]. Explain in one line why each matters and what falls apart in the Email Reply or Argumentative Essay if I don't have it.

What this helps you practise: Distinguishing the core ideas from the peripheral detail.

How to use it well: Master the spine first.

Prompt 5: See How a Theme Connects to the Course

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Show me how [Theme] links to the other five AP Japanese Themes. Give me a map: for each connection, name the other Theme and explain the link in one sentence in Japanese (for example, Global Challenges connect to Contemporary Life via the everyday consequences of climate change).

What this helps you practise: Thinking across Themes — exactly what the Argumentative Essay rewards.

How to use it well: Build these maps early so connections feel natural by exam season.

Prompt 6: Prioritise by Past FRQ Themes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Based on past AP Japanese FRQs, tell me which Themes appear most frequently in the Email Reply and Argumentative Essay, and which Themes underpin the Conversation and Cultural Comparison. Help me rank what to prioritise.

What this helps you practise: Spending limited revision time where it earns the most marks.

How to use it well: Treat this as guidance, not gospel — always cross-check against the official CED.

Prompt 7: Get a Five-Minute Primer Before a Lesson

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'm about to study [topic, e.g. environmental policy in Japan] for the first time. Give me a five-minute primer in Japanese: the key vocabulary, common phrases for opinion-giving and connecting, and the three questions I should be able to answer.

What this helps you practise: Priming your brain so new teaching lands on prepared ground, in the target language.

How to use it well: Previewing in {LL} doubles as vocabulary input.

Prompt 8: Turn CED Points into FRQ-Style Tasks

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take these CED statements for [Theme] and, for each one, write the kinds of FRQ tasks the College Board could realistically set, including the likely register (formal email, journalistic essay, conversational reply, comparative oral).

What this helps you practise: Seeing your syllabus through the AP grader's eyes.

How to use it well: Keep the tasks to test yourself with later.

Prompt 9: Sketch a Grammar Reference Sheet

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Describe a one-page set of AP-level Japanese grammar I should deploy from memory: complex verb tenses, agreement, complex sentence structures, the subjunctive (where applicable), pronoun systems, and connectors that earn Word Choice and Phrasing points. For each, give one model example.

What this helps you practise: Organising the grammar toolkit you'll deploy across every FRQ.

How to use it well: Draw it yourself rather than copying — the act of building it is where the learning happens.

Prompt 10: Set a Clear Goal for a Revision Session

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me set a specific, achievable objective for a 45-minute revision session on [topic, e.g. opinion connectors in Japanese]. Define exactly what I should be able to do by the end and break it into three concrete checkpoints.

What this helps you practise: Giving each session a clear purpose instead of vague 'reading'.

How to use it well: A session with a defined endpoint is far more effective than open-ended revision.

E

Evaluate

You can't fix gaps you haven't found. The Evaluate stage uses AI as a diagnostic: it tests you, catches the things you only think you know, and tells you precisely where to spend your time. Honest answers here save you hours later.

Prompt 11: Whole-Theme Diagnostic with Confidence Rating

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

You are an AP Japanese examiner running a diagnostic. Write 12 short questions in Japanese spanning [Theme], mixing vocabulary, grammar and content. I will answer each in Japanese and tag my confidence as (Sure), (Unsure) or (Guess). Then mark against model answers, flag the (Sure)+wrong as my most dangerous gap, the (Guess)+right as not yet secure, and rank weakest sub-topics. Finally, give me a one-sentence summary of my top three dangerous gaps I can paste into my revision tracker. Before you write the questions, ask me to predict which two or three sub-topics I expect to find hardest. At the end, compare my prediction with where I actually struggled — the gap between the two is what I most need to calibrate.

What this helps you practise: Pinpointing exactly where your understanding is weakest before you revise.

How to use it well: The confidence tags catch the gaps a normal quiz hides.

Prompt 12: Rapid Recall Audit

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me 15 quick recall questions in Japanese covering the breadth of [Theme], one at a time, no notes allowed. At the end, sort every topic into three buckets: secure, shaky, missing.

What this helps you practise: A fast, honest snapshot of what's actually in your memory.

How to use it well: Do this closed-book — the value is in the honest result.

Prompt 13: Find My Misconceptions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to explain [grammar point, e.g. when to use the subjunctive in Japanese]. As I answer, probe for the specific misconceptions AP Japanese students commonly hold, and tell me clearly which ones I'm showing.

What this helps you practise: Surfacing the subtle wrong ideas that quietly cost marks.

How to use it well: Misconceptions are dangerous because they feel like knowledge.

Prompt 14: Pre-FRQ Triage

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I have an AP Japanese FRQ practice tomorrow. Run a quick diagnostic to find where my understanding is weakest, then tell me precisely which two or three areas to spend tonight on, and roughly how long on each.

What this helps you practise: Turning night-before panic into a focused, prioritised plan.

How to use it well: Be honest in your answers — a diagnosis based on bluffing sends you to revise the wrong things.

Prompt 15: Email Reply Skill Diagnostic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test my Email Reply skills: give me a simulated formal email in Japanese from a Spanish/French/German/etc. organisation. Ask me to respond, addressing all required elements, with appropriate register. Mark me strictly against the 5-point Email Reply rubric.

What this helps you practise: Catching Email Reply weaknesses that quietly cost the most predictable points.

How to use it well: The Email Reply is the most rule-bound FRQ. Drill the format.

Prompt 16: Listening-Skill Diagnostic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on AP-style listening: provide a simulated audio transcript in Japanese (you can write realistic ones — an interview, a news clip, a conversation). Ask me to answer comprehension questions in English. Tell me where my listening is thinnest — vocab, accent, or speed.

What this helps you practise: Diagnosing the specific bottleneck in your listening.

How to use it well: Listening is rarely 'a weakness'; it's usually one specific bottleneck.

Prompt 17: Diagnose My Vocabulary Range

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the active vocabulary for [Theme]. Ask me to give the Japanese for 15 AP-level concepts. Tell me where my Theme vocabulary is thin.

What this helps you practise: Catching the thematic vocabulary gaps that limit your essays.

How to use it well: Drill thematic vocabulary until each cluster is automatic.

Prompt 18: Diagnose My Grammar Accuracy

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test my grammar accuracy with a focused set on [feature, e.g. subjunctive triggers in Japanese]. Mark me strictly on errors of agreement, conjugation, and word order. Tell me which grammar feature I need to drill.

What this helps you practise: Catching the recurring grammar errors that lose marks across FRQs.

How to use it well: Grammar errors compound.

Prompt 19: Test a Linked Concept

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a diagnostic that specifically checks whether I can connect [Theme A] and [Theme B] in Japanese, not just discuss each separately. Tell me whether my weakness is in the individual Themes or in linking them.

What this helps you practise: Diagnosing thematic-link weakness — exactly what the Argumentative Essay rewards.

How to use it well: Linking Themes earns the high-band Synthesis points.

Prompt 20: Self-Explanation Check

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'm going to explain [topic, e.g. the role of family in contemporary Japan] in Japanese. Listen, then identify every grammar error, weak vocabulary choice, and missing point, in order of importance.

What this helps you practise: Forcing the gaps in your spoken and written {LL} to reveal themselves.

How to use it well: Speaking or writing in the target language exposes far more than reading.

Prompt 21: Exam-Readiness Score

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as a strict AP Japanese examiner. Ask me the hardest questions you realistically could on [Theme], then rate my readiness on the AP 1-5 scale and justify each score.

What this helps you practise: Getting a frank, examiner's-eye assessment of where you stand.

How to use it well: Ask it to be strict. A flattering score the week before an exam helps nobody.

Prompt 22: Confidence vs Competence Audit

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For [Theme], first ask me how confident I feel about each sub-area in Japanese. Then test me on each. Finally, show me where my confidence and my actual performance don't match.

What this helps you practise: Exposing over-confidence, which is where careless marks are lost.

How to use it well: The mismatches matter most: areas you feel sure about but perform poorly on are where exam disasters happen.

Prompt 23: Diagnose from a Mistake

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here is an FRQ in Japanese I got marked low: [paste]. Don't just give me the right answer — diagnose the underlying gap (vocab, grammar, register, content) that caused the mark loss.

What this helps you practise: Learning from errors at the level of the cause, not the symptom.

How to use it well: One weak FRQ often points to a recurring fault.

Prompt 24: Listening Speed Diagnostic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Diagnose how my listening comprehension changes with speed: provide me with a passage in Japanese (as text) and ask me to read it at three different speeds, summarising in English after each. Tell me which speeds I lose at.

What this helps you practise: Diagnosing the speed-specific bottleneck in listening.

How to use it well: Most lost listening marks are speed-related.

Prompt 25: Weekly Diagnostic Sweep

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Run my weekly diagnostic across everything I've revised this week in AP Japanese: [list Themes]. Compare my performance and tell me what has improved and what is slipping.

What this helps you practise: Tracking progress and catching topics that fade over time.

How to use it well: Knowledge decays without review.

L

Learn

Now fill the gaps in a way that sticks. The Learn stage uses AI to explain, analogise, roleplay, and break concepts down — and crucially to check your understanding, not just deliver information. One rule for every prompt here: when an explanation finally clicks, close the chat and reproduce it from memory, out loud or on paper, before moving on. Understanding something as you read it is not the same as being able to recall it later — the moment of 'I get it' is the cue to test yourself, not to stop.

Prompt 26: Explain a Grammar Point with an Analogy

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Explain [tricky grammar point, e.g. when to use the subjunctive in Japanese] using a clear everyday analogy. Then ask me to test the analogy by producing example sentences, to check I've understood.

What this helps you practise: Grasping an abstract grammar rule by anchoring it to something familiar.

How to use it well: Always test the analogy by producing sentences.

Prompt 27: Use the Feynman Technique

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'm going to explain [grammar feature or thematic concept] in Japanese as simply as if I were teaching a younger student who has never studied this. Listen, then point out where my Japanese broke down. When you spot a gap in my explanation, do not correct me immediately. Give me one 60-second attempt to re-explain that part from memory first; only after my retry do you give the correction. This iteration is where the encoding consolidates.

What this helps you practise: Achieving genuine understanding by teaching it plainly.

How to use it well: If you can't explain it simply in the target language, you don't fully own the topic.

Prompt 28: Roleplay the Conversation FRQ

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Roleplay as the audio prompt of an AP Conversation FRQ in Japanese on [Theme]. Give me five conversation turns, with 20 seconds for me to respond to each. After I finish, mark my conversation against the AP Conversation rubric.

What this helps you practise: Practising the Conversation FRQ in realistic conditions.

How to use it well: The Conversation FRQ is the only fully-spoken section. Drill it under time.

Prompt 29: Build a Mnemonic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me create a memorable mnemonic for [list, e.g. the most common irregular verbs in past tenses in Japanese, or the six AP Themes]. Test me on whether I can reconstruct the list.

What this helps you practise: Locking ordered lists into long-term memory.

How to use it well: Make the mnemonic slightly absurd or personal.

Prompt 30: Walk Me Through, Then Blank It Out

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Walk me through [grammar construction, e.g. forming a conditional sentence in Japanese] step by step. Then give me sentences with the verb forms blanked out for me to fill in.

What this helps you practise: Moving from guided understanding to independent grammar production.

How to use it well: The blank-it-out step is the learning.

Prompt 31: Compare and Contrast Grammar

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Build a comparison table for [X vs Y, e.g. perfect vs imperfect tense in Japanese]. Include when to use each, with example sentences from an AP Theme. Then quiz me specifically on the differences.

What this helps you practise: Sharpening the grammatical distinctions that FRQs reward.

How to use it well: Confusable pairs are exam favourites.

Prompt 32: Teach the Hard Bit Three Ways

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Explain [tricky concept, e.g. the use of formal vs informal register in AP Email Reply] in three completely different ways — a rule-led way, an analogy, and a worked example.

What this helps you practise: Finding the explanation that actually works for you.

How to use it well: Different concepts yield to different explanations.

Prompt 33: Ground the Abstract in the Concrete

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take this abstract AP Theme — [e.g. 'Personal and Public Identities'] — and give me two concrete, specific examples (with named places, policies, or events) in Japanese, then ask me to generate a third myself.

What this helps you practise: Connecting abstract AP Themes to real examples.

How to use it well: Generating your own example is the test of understanding.

Prompt 34: Memorise a Set of Idiomatic Expressions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Guide me through 10 high-frequency idiomatic Japanese expressions appropriate to AP-Level register on [Theme]. Then test me on producing each in a sentence appropriate to the AP Theme.

What this helps you practise: Building the idiomatic range that lifts FRQs from average to high band.

How to use it well: Idiomatic phrases earn Word Choice and Phrasing points.

Prompt 35: Why Does the Grammar Work That Way?

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Don't just tell me the rule for [grammar point in Japanese] — explain why the rule exists, with reference to Japanese's structure or history.

What this helps you practise: Replacing rote memorisation with structural understanding.

How to use it well: Understanding the 'why' makes the rule transferable.

Prompt 36: Unpack an AP-Theme Term Word by Word

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take a key AP Japanese Theme term in Japanese — [e.g. the Japanese for 'civic engagement', 'sustainable development', 'cultural identity'] — and unpack it word by word, explaining why each term is in there.

What this helps you practise: Mastering precise terminology AP graders reward.

How to use it well: Theme-specific vocabulary is the cheapest way to lift your FRQ writing.

Prompt 37: Link Theme to Country-Specific Example

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For [Theme, e.g. Global Challenges], give me three specific examples from Japan, each with a relevant statistic, named event or policy. Test me by giving the Theme and asking for the example.

What this helps you practise: Building the country-specific example bank the Cultural Comparison FRQ rewards.

How to use it well: Country-specific examples earn cultural-awareness marks.

Prompt 38: Interleave Two Confusable Tenses

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Alternate between explaining and quizzing me on [grammar A] and [grammar B] in Japanese, which I keep mixing up. Deliberately switch so I have to tell them apart each time.

What this helps you practise: Building the discrimination to keep similar forms separate.

How to use it well: Interleaving feels harder than studying one form at a time.

Prompt 39: Turn My Notes into Understanding

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are my notes on [Theme in Japanese]: [paste]. Turn them into a clear, well-organised summary in Japanese, and point out anything I've written without actually understanding.

What this helps you practise: Converting copied notes into genuine target-language production.

How to use it well: Notes can hide a lack of understanding.

Prompt 40: Explore What Happens If a Word Changes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

For [phrase or sentence in Japanese], walk through what would change if one element changed — switching from a definite to indefinite article, or changing tense.

What this helps you practise: Deepening understanding by examining substitutions.

How to use it well: Substitution practice is how you internalise grammar at the production level.

Prompt 41: Build AP Theme Vocabulary

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Generate the key technical vocabulary for [Theme, e.g. Science and Technology] in Japanese, each with a precise definition and a sentence showing correct use. Then test me by giving definitions and asking for the term.

What this helps you practise: Building the exact vocabulary that earns marks.

How to use it well: Imprecise vocabulary loses marks even when the idea is right.

Prompt 42: Translate a Tricky Passage

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Walk me through translating a short tricky passage from English into Japanese that includes idiom, complex tense, and register choices appropriate to an AP Theme. Explain each translation decision.

What this helps you practise: Building the decision-making mindset translation requires.

How to use it well: Translation is decision-making, not substitution.

Prompt 43: Make a Theme into a Story

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Turn [Theme topic, e.g. migration in Japan] into a short, vivid story in Japanese, then quiz me on the order, key vocabulary, and cultural references.

What this helps you practise: Using narrative structure to remember vocabulary and theme content.

How to use it well: Stories anchor vocabulary.



Verify

Familiar is not the same as known. The Verify stage uses AI as an examiner: it asks exam-style questions, marks you against realistic mark schemes, and shows you exactly where marks are won and lost. This is the heart of the method, so this is the longest chapter.

Prompt 44: AP-Style FRQ Marking

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as an experienced AP Japanese grader. Give me an Argumentative Essay FRQ in Japanese on [Theme]. After I answer, mark it against the 5-point AP rubric: Task Completion, Topic Development, Conventions of Language, Connections of Cultural Sources, Word Choice and Phrasing. Tell me the score and the single most valuable improvement.

What this helps you practise: Practising the Argumentative Essay and learning how the 5-point rubric is awarded.

How to use it well: Note which criterion you keep underweighting — that pattern is your improvement plan.

Prompt 45: Closed-Book Retrieval Quiz

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on [Theme] in Japanese with ten questions, no notes allowed. Don't give me the answer until I've committed to mine. Before you confirm or reject my answer, ask me to articulate in one sentence how I arrived at it. Mark me on the reasoning as well as the conclusion — a right answer from shaky reasoning is not yet secure.

What this helps you practise: Strengthening memory through the act of retrieval itself.

How to use it well: Retrieval, not re-reading, is what builds durable memory.

Prompt 46: Drill the Opinion-and-Justification Move

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a question on [Theme] in Japanese. Mark me specifically on whether my answer formed a complete chain of opinion + justification + example, not a list.

What this helps you practise: Building the opinion-and-justification structure FRQs reward.

How to use it well: Opinion without justification scores below half marks.

Prompt 47: Find the Missing Vocabulary

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Write a model FRQ answer in Japanese on [Theme], then remove two high-register lexical items and present it to me. Ask me to identify which two are missing.

What this helps you practise: Training your eye to see what a top-mark answer relies on.

How to use it well: Learning to spot what's missing from a good answer is how you stop leaving lexical marks on the table.

Prompt 48: Demand Precise Tense

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the precise use of tenses in Japanese when writing about [Theme]. If I mix or use the wrong one, tell me exactly which tense would have been correct.

What this helps you practise: Producing the precise tense use that the rubric requires.

How to use it well: Wrong tense changes meaning.

Prompt 49: Mark a Cultural Comparison

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a Cultural Comparison prompt in Japanese. After I respond (2 minutes prep, 2 minutes speak in Japanese), mark me against the Cultural Comparison rubric — especially on whether I compared my own community with a target-culture community using SPECIFIC examples.

What this helps you practise: Producing Cultural Comparisons that earn the cultural-awareness points.

How to use it well: Cultural Comparison rewards specificity. Generic descriptions score low.

Prompt 50: Mark a Synthesis Essay

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an Argumentative Essay FRQ in Japanese with three sources (one print, one print, one audio). Mark me on whether I integrated all three sources, used citation language (Japanese-appropriate), and developed an argument rather than summarising.

What this helps you practise: Producing synthesis essays that integrate sources.

How to use it well: Failing to integrate all three sources caps your score.

Prompt 51: Structure an Argumentative Essay

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an Argumentative Essay prompt on [Theme] in Japanese. Before marking content, assess the structure: clear thesis, source integration, persuasive register, justified conclusion. Is each section identifiable?

What this helps you practise: Structuring the AP Argumentative Essay so every rubric point is reachable.

How to use it well: AP rubrics reward structure as well as content.

Prompt 52: Check a Listening Comprehension

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Present me with a simulated audio transcript on [Theme] in Japanese. Ask me to answer the MCQ-style comprehension questions. Mark me on accuracy.

What this helps you practise: Practising the listening-comprehension skill the MCQ tests.

How to use it well: Read the questions before the audio.

Prompt 53: Check a Reading Comprehension

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a short Japanese text on [Theme] and ask me to answer comprehension questions.
Mark me on accuracy and on whether my answers stick to what the text says.

What this helps you practise: Practising the reading-comprehension skill the MCQ tests.

How to use it well: Reading comprehension rewards textual fidelity, not prior knowledge.

Prompt 54: Cross-Theme Retrieval Challenge

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me a question in Japanese that requires me to pull vocabulary from at least three different AP Themes to answer fully.

What this helps you practise: Retrieving across Themes — what the Argumentative Essay tests.

How to use it well: FRQs reward range.

Prompt 55: Same Theme, Different FRQs

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me three FRQs on [Theme] in Japanese — an Email Reply, an Argumentative Essay paragraph, and a Cultural Comparison opening. Mark each against what that specific FRQ requires.

What this helps you practise: Matching your answer to what each AP FRQ demands.

How to use it well: Different FRQs reward different things.

Prompt 56: Drill Complex Structures

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an FRQ task on [Theme] in Japanese and mark me on whether I used at least three complex structures (subjunctive, conditional, relative pronoun, complex connector) appropriately.

What this helps you practise: Lifting Word Choice and Phrasing marks by deploying complex structures.

How to use it well: Top-band AP writing shows range.

Prompt 57: Spring the Common Error Trap

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions on [Theme] in Japanese designed around errors AP Japanese students most commonly make (agreement, false friends, wrong preposition with a verb). Catch me if I fall for one.

What this helps you practise: Inoculating yourself against the classic mistakes.

How to use it well: Graders know the common errors and grade for them.

Prompt 58: Rapid-Fire Vocabulary

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Fire 15 high-frequency words from [Theme] at me in English, one at a time, and ask me to give the precise Japanese as fast as I can. Then list the ones I got wrong or vague.

What this helps you practise: Making core thematic vocabulary fast and automatic.

How to use it well: Speed matters.

Prompt 59: Predict the Rubric

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Show me a past-FRQ-style task on [Theme] in Japanese. Before answering, I'll predict what the AP rubric rewards. Then reveal a realistic AP rubric and tell me how accurate my prediction was.

What this helps you practise: Learning to think like the AP grader.

How to use it well: If you can predict the rubric, you can target your answer at it.

Prompt 60: Verify a Conjugation from Memory

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to conjugate [verb in Japanese] across all required AP tenses. Then critique my conjugations.

What this helps you practise: Producing accurate conjugation under recall.

How to use it well: Conjugation errors compound across FRQs.

Prompt 61: Drill the Concession-and-Refutation Move

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an Argumentative Essay prompt on [Theme] in Japanese and mark me specifically on whether I conceded the opposing view before refuting it.

What this helps you practise: Building the move that lifts argument essays.

How to use it well: An essay with no concession is one-sided.

Prompt 62: Practise a 'Compare' Question

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a 'compare' Cultural Comparison FRQ in Japanese on life in Japan vs my own community. Mark me on whether I made genuine comparative statements (linking the two) rather than describing each separately.

What this helps you practise: Writing true comparisons rather than parallel descriptions.

How to use it well: A real comparison uses linking words.

Prompt 63: Practise an 'Opinion' Task

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an opinion question in Japanese on [Theme]. Mark me on whether I presented evidence on more than one side and reached a justified opinion.

What this helps you practise: Building the balanced opinion answers FRQs require.

How to use it well: Opinion tasks want a justified conclusion.

Prompt 64: Practise an 'Explain' Task

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an 'explain' task in Japanese that puts [Theme] in a real-world Japan context. Mark me on whether my explanation forms a chain of reasoning.

What this helps you practise: Building the explanation skill.

How to use it well: Explanation rewards causal chains.

Prompt 65: Climb the Vocabulary-Grammar-Argument Ladder

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

On [single concept], ask me first to give precise vocabulary, then to construct grammatical sentences, then to embed both in an argumentative paragraph.

What this helps you practise: Seeing exactly where your language production shifts from solid to shaky.

How to use it well: The rung where your output weakens shows the boundary of your real fluency.

Prompt 66: Mark My Real Essay

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here is my essay in Japanese: [paste]. Mark it strictly to score 5 standard against the AP rubric. Rewrite one paragraph to show what top-mark Japanese looks like.

What this helps you practise: Getting precise, personalised feedback on your actual writing.

How to use it well: The rewritten paragraph is a model to imitate.

Prompt 67: Fill a Retrieval Grid

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Create a retrieval grid for [Theme]: a set of cells covering vocabulary, grammar examples, country-specific facts and opinion phrases in Japanese, which I'll fill in from memory.

What this helps you practise: Wide-coverage recall practice in one efficient exercise.

How to use it well: Retrieval grids cover a lot of ground fast.

Prompt 68: Simulate a Timed FRQ

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a single AP Japanese FRQ in Japanese with realistic exam timing. I'll answer under time pressure, then you mark it.

What this helps you practise: Practising FRQ writing at exam pace.

How to use it well: FRQs unfinished score nothing for what wasn't written.

Prompt 69: Sit a Mini FRQ Set

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a short set of three exam-style tasks covering the breadth of [Theme], mixing Email Reply, a translation comprehension and a Cultural Comparison opening. Mark the whole set.

What this helps you practise: Rehearsing the mixed demands of a real AP paper.

How to use it well: Mixed sets reveal which task types you fear.

Prompt 70: Catch the AI's Deliberate Error

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Answer this question yourself in Japanese: [question]. Include exactly one subtle but real error — for example, a wrong agreement, a misused subjunctive, or a false-friend mistranslation — and challenge me to find and correct it. Tell me if I got it, then explain the error so I learn the spotting pattern. After I respond, ask me how confident I felt before checking. The gap between my confidence and my accuracy is the most important thing for me to learn — I want to surface where I'm certain but wrong, not just where I'm wrong.

What this helps you practise: Building the critical eye to spot when AI (or you) is wrong in {LL}.

How to use it well: AI is notorious for fluent-sounding errors in target languages.

Prompt 71: Mixed Whole-Exam Retrieval

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me with 12 questions in Japanese drawn from across the AP Japanese course: [list Themes]. Mix Themes, grammar and culture randomly.

What this helps you practise: Retrieving under the topic-switching conditions of a real exam.

How to use it well: Random order is harder than block revision — and exactly what the exam does.

E

Explore

Top grades come from thinking, not just knowing. The Explore stage uses AI to push you into application, analysis, unseen data, and synoptic links across the course — the level that separates good answers from excellent ones.

Prompt 72: Tackle an Unseen Source

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a novel short Japanese text on [Theme] that I won't have seen — a news article or a short opinion piece. Ask me to summarise it in English, identify three useful lexical items, and comment on the writer's stance.

What this helps you practise: Applying reading skills to genuinely new texts.

How to use it well: Unseen texts reward identification of stance and register.

Prompt 73: Build a Synoptic Chain

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Challenge me to connect at least three different AP Themes into a single chain of reasoning in Japanese about [topic, e.g. how migration, technology and family life interact in Japan].

What this helps you practise: Constructing the extended, cross-Theme reasoning that lifts FRQs.

How to use it well: Top candidates connect Themes.

Prompt 74: Apply a Theme to a New Country

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take [Theme] and give me an unfamiliar Japanese-speaking country I haven't studied. Ask me to apply the Theme there, in Japanese, then judge whether I applied it correctly.

What this helps you practise: Transferring a Theme beyond the example you learned it with.

How to use it well: Real understanding is shown by transfer.

Prompt 75: Critique an Argument in the Language

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Describe a position on [Theme] in Japanese. Ask me to identify its strengths, weaknesses, and the strongest counter-argument, in Japanese.

What this helps you practise: Building the critique skill the Argumentative Essay rewards.

How to use it well: Critique in {LL} is a high-band skill.

Prompt 76: Predict and Justify

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Set me a scenario about [Theme, e.g. a policy debate in Japan] and ask me to predict the outcome, then justify my prediction in Japanese.

What this helps you practise: Reasoning forward in the target language to predicted outcomes.

How to use it well: Justification in {LL} earns marks.

Prompt 77: Investigate an Open Question

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pose me a genuinely open question in Japanese related to [Theme] — challenge my reasoning at each step.

What this helps you practise: Practising the exploratory thinking behind the hardest FRQs.

How to use it well: Sit with open questions rather than rushing to one answer.

Prompt 78: Connect to a Real Story

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Link [Theme] to a real news story or cultural event from a Japanese-speaking country — for instance a recent election, festival, or social campaign — and ask me application questions in Japanese.

What this helps you practise: Seeing how AP Themes show up in real {LL}-speaking news.

How to use it well: Examiners reward use of named real events.

Prompt 79: Compare Two Cultural Contexts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pick two cultural contexts (regions of Japan, or Japan vs another Japanese-speaking country). Ask me to compare them on [Theme]. Mark me on the depth of comparison.

What this helps you practise: Building the comparative-cultures skill the Cultural Comparison FRQ requires.

How to use it well: Always link the comparison back to a theme.

Prompt 80: Interpret a Statistic or Graph

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Show me a graph or statistic (in words) from a Japanese-speaking country about [Theme]. Ask me to describe and interpret it in Japanese.

What this helps you practise: Reading data in the target language, which FRQs reward.

How to use it well: Data interpreted in {LL} earns content marks.

Prompt 81: Reason Across the Themes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me a question in Japanese that requires me to reason across multiple AP Themes for [topic]. Judge whether I kept the chain of cause and effect intact.

What this helps you practise: Building the multi-Theme reasoning the Argumentative Essay demands.

How to use it well: Keeping a chain coherent across Themes is a high-band skill.

Prompt 82: Design a Cultural Comparison Outline

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to design a Cultural Comparison FRQ response on [Theme]. Require me to state my chosen target-culture community, my own community, the specific point of comparison, and the structure. Then critique my outline.

What this helps you practise: Building the Cultural Comparison structure under planning conditions.

How to use it well: A strong Cultural Comparison has a sharp point of comparison.

Prompt 83: Challenge My Argument

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I'll advance an argument in Japanese about [Theme]. Your job is to challenge it — find the flaw, the missing evidence, or the better counter-argument.

What this helps you practise: Strengthening arguments by stress-testing them in target language.

How to use it well: Having your argument challenged in {LL} is uncomfortable and valuable.

Prompt 84: Choose the Right Register

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a context (formal email, journalistic essay, casual conversation, oral presentation) and a topic. Ask me to produce a short response in Japanese at the appropriate register.

What this helps you practise: Applying register judgement — central to all four AP FRQs.

How to use it well: Register mismatch costs marks.

Prompt 85: Debate an Ethical Issue

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Set me an opinion question in Japanese on a contested area such as immigration, climate action, or cultural identity in Japan. Mark me on whether I presented a balanced argument with evidence on both sides.

What this helps you practise: Building the balanced, evidence-based judgement opinion FRQs need.

How to use it well: Opinion FRQs want both sides and a reasoned verdict.

Prompt 86: Solve a Novel Problem

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a problem on [Theme] in Japanese that I can only solve by combining vocabulary from two AP Themes. Don't tell me which.

What this helps you practise: Combining vocabulary banks to solve unfamiliar essays.

How to use it well: The hardest FRQs hide which Theme to draw on.

Prompt 87: Apply Synoptic Thinking to a Region

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pick a single Japanese-speaking region — for example a city in Japan — and ask me to analyse it across Themes in Japanese.

What this helps you practise: Integrating multiple Themes around a single real place.

How to use it well: Places are natural hooks.

Prompt 88: Re-Read a Famous Passage

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Pick a famous song, advertisement or short text in Japanese. Ask me to discuss it in Japanese in two different ways — literal and symbolic — then evaluate my readings.

What this helps you practise: Building the multi-layered reading skill that lifts answers.

How to use it well: A defensible second reading impresses graders.

T

Transform

Learning that isn't reviewed is learning that fades. The Transform stage uses AI to help you reflect on how you studied, log your mistakes, plan your next session, and schedule spaced reviews — turning effort today into memory that lasts to the exam.

Prompt 89: Review the Session

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Summarise what I worked on in this session on [Theme] in AP Japanese. Tell me what now looks secure, what's still shaky, and what I should revisit — and schedule reviews at widening intervals (1 day, 3 days, 7 days, 14 days) — this is the rhythm the cognitive-science research on spacing shows beats forgetting. Before you schedule the reviews, ask me to compress the single biggest insight from this session into one sentence — the thing I want to remember next year, not just next week. That compression is the learning consolidating.

What this helps you practise: Consolidating a session and planning the right review timing.

How to use it well: Ending each session with a review-and-schedule step is what turns effort into lasting memory.

Prompt 90: Build a Spaced-Repetition Schedule

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me build a spaced-repetition schedule for [Theme in AP Japanese] running up to my exam on [date]. Tell me what to do on each review day.

What this helps you practise: Scheduling reviews at the intervals that beat forgetting.

How to use it well: Spacing is one of the most powerful study principles there is.

Prompt 91: Build an Error Log

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me set up an error log for AP Japanese. Give me a simple structure to record each mistake (sentence, my version, the correct version, the cause: agreement, tense, vocab, register).

What this helps you practise: Turning mistakes into a targeted, personal revision resource.

How to use it well: Your errors are the most efficient thing you can revise.

Prompt 92: Plan Tomorrow from Today's Gaps

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Based on the gaps we found in today's session — [list them] — build me a focused plan for tomorrow's revision: what to do, in what order, and how long on each.

What this helps you practise: Converting today's diagnosis directly into tomorrow's action.

How to use it well: A plan built from real diagnosed gaps beats a generic timetable.

Prompt 93: Run a Metacognitive Check

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me reflective questions about how I just studied [Theme in AP Japanese]: did I produce target-language output, did I memorise vocabulary in chunks, did I practise speaking aloud, or did I just re-read? Then suggest one change to my method.

What this helps you practise: Becoming aware of, and improving, how you study.

How to use it well: Studying smarter starts with noticing how you study now.

Prompt 94: Set Up a Progress Tracker

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me create a simple progress tracker for AP Japanese: a list of the six AP Themes and the major grammar features with a confidence rating for each.

What this helps you practise: Keeping a clear, evolving picture of where you stand.

How to use it well: A tracker stops you over-revising comfortable topics.

Prompt 95: Find My Recurring Mistakes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are several mistakes I've made recently: [paste]. Look for the pattern — is there a recurring type of error (agreement, false friends, wrong tense, register slip)?

What this helps you practise: Spotting the systematic weakness behind scattered errors.

How to use it well: Individual mistakes are noise; the pattern is signal.

Prompt 96: Plan a Timetable to the Exam

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Work backwards from my exam date [date] to build a realistic AP Japanese revision timetable across all six Themes and skill areas. Build in review days and full FRQ practice near the end.

What this helps you practise: Turning a daunting syllabus into a paced, finishable plan.

How to use it well: Working back from the exam date keeps the plan realistic.

Prompt 97: Analyse a Mock FRQ Set

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Here are my results on a recent mock FRQ set: [paste]. Help me analyse: which rubric criterion cost me the most points, and what I should prioritise.

What this helps you practise: Mining a mock for everything it can tell you, criterion by criterion.

How to use it well: Tracking marks by criterion shows where to focus next.

Prompt 98: Turn Weaknesses into a To-Do List

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Take everything we've identified as weak across my recent sessions — [summarise] — and turn it into a concrete, prioritised to-do list of specific revision actions in AP Japanese.

What this helps you practise: Converting fuzzy weaknesses into clear next actions.

How to use it well: 'Revise grammar' is vague; 'do 30 subjunctive drills and 5 translations' is an action.

Prompt 99: Build a Phrase Bank

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me build and maintain a phrase bank in Japanese: opinion phrases, complex connectors, theme-specific vocabulary clusters, and idiomatic expressions appropriate to AP register.

What this helps you practise: Building the phrase bank that lifts FRQs.

How to use it well: A repertoire of high-band phrases is the cheapest way to lift FRQ marks.

Prompt 100: Consolidate the Week

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

It's the end of my study week in AP Japanese. I covered [list Themes]. Run a consolidation: a quick mixed quiz in Japanese, a note of what improved and what's slipping, and a plan for next week.

What this helps you practise: Closing each week with review, reflection, and re-planning.

How to use it well: A weekly consolidation stops topics quietly fading.

Final Closing Note

You have now worked through 100 prompts designed to help you think more clearly, revise more effectively, and prepare more confidently for your AP Japanese Language and Culture exams.

Remember: the goal was never to rely on AI for answers. It was to use AI as a tool to test, challenge, and strengthen your own understanding. The strongest students are not those who avoid difficulty, but those who engage with it deliberately. Each gap you found, each explanation you improved, and each mistake you corrected has strengthened your thinking.

As you continue, aim to depend less on the prompts and more on your own judgement. AI can support you — but your reasoning, clarity, and persistence are what earn the marks.

Approach your exams calmly. Think carefully. Write clearly. You are more prepared than you think.

Using AI Beyond This Book

The prompts in this book are starting points, not final forms. As you grow more confident, begin to modify them:

- Add constraints, for example “limit your answer to three key points”.
- Increase the difficulty gradually as you improve.
- Ask the AI to challenge your reasoning rather than agree with it.
- Request alternative explanations when the first doesn't click.
- Ask it to critique your thinking instead of handing you the answer.

The most powerful use of AI is not asking it to tell you things — it is asking it to test and refine your thinking. Treat AI as a tutor, not a shortcut. The skill of asking better questions will keep mattering long after these exams are over.

About the Velvet Method

The Velvet Method is a study system built by teachers who believe that AI, used well, can give every student the kind of personalised support that was once the preserve of expensive private tutoring.

Our resources are designed around cognitive science — retrieval practice, spaced repetition, schema-building, and metacognition — and around a single principle: AI should strengthen a student's thinking, never replace it.

Explore the full series of subject guides, free revision games and tools, and the Velvet Method course at aistudymethod.co.uk.

The Velvet Method Series

The 100 AI Prompts series supports students across GCSE, A-Level and IB DP. Every title is free to download.

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- Mathematics
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
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- History
- Computer Science
- Economics
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- Religious Studies
- Psychology
- French
- Spanish
- German

A-Level

- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- English Literature
- Psychology
- Computer Science
- Politics
- Business

IB DP

- Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches
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