

Mandatory Questions (*Hisshuu Mondai*) in the National Nursing Examination and the Pedagogical Grammar of Japanese

Kazunari IWATA and Isao IORI

This paper analyzes the mandatory questions (*Hisshuu Mondai*) in the National Nursing Examination on the basis of the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test). We show that grammatical knowledge at JLPT level 3 (now known as level N4) is not necessary to solve the questions and that vocabulary is much more important. Under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), foreign nurse candidates have come to Japan from Indonesia and the Philippines. They need to pass the National Nursing Examination in order to stay and work here, but only 4% of them were able to pass it in the recent examination. We should reconsider the Japanese education they receive in order to improve their present situation.