

Humor Studies – Fall Task

There are four tasks. All tasks should be printed out, ready for submission. Submit them together. Tasks should be emailed or uploaded to Oh-o! Meiji by the end of class time on the last class day. Late Tasks will receive a grade of zero. **A paper version of the tasks is not needed.**

#1 — Bring the jokes

Search the internet for “chicken” and “knock-knock” jokes (or think of your own). Select three of each. They should be ones that you consider to be (quite) funny. Explain **in your own words** why you consider **each of the jokes** to be funny. Where is the humor? What kind of humor is being used? Each explanation should be roughly a paragraph.

#2 — Safe or taboo?

There are 43 listed jokes on this sheet. Choose five jokes across the varying types. Rank them from “the safest” to “the most taboo” based on your own opinion. Explain your ranking by explaining your reasoning. Use as many sentences as you need.

#3 — Cultural reflection

Pick two joke types discussed in this handout (including those listed at the end of the previous page). One joke type should be one that you think **could be considered funny** if typically said in Japanese or used in Japanese culture contexts. The other joke type should be one that you think **could be considered unfunny** if one tried to typically say in Japanese or use it in Japanese culture contexts. Explain your reasoning for each. Use as many paragraphs as you need.

#4 — Japanese joke types

While Japanese joke types may not be exactly the same as the English joke types explained in this sheet, there are nevertheless types, such as *dajare* (ダジャレ), *oyaji gag* (親父ギャグ), *nazokake* (なぞかけ), and *boke and tsukkomi* (ボケとツッコミ). There are others. They are all used for humorous purposes. Choose one type. Explain **in your own words** the type, its characteristics, where it might usually be encountered, and provide some examples. Use as many paragraphs as you need. You may not use GenAI like ChatGPT, but you may use the internet to gather (**not copy!**) information.

Tasks will be graded on factors including completion, reasonableness of explanations, grammar, vocabulary, and sentence construction.

Using AI like ChatGPT, Gemini, DeepL, etc. = semester failure

Notes: _____