

Adulthood

Listen and choose

1. The last time Japan changed the age of adulthood was in 1876. **T / F**
2. Eighteen-year-olds in Japan will be adults from the year 2020. **T / F**
3. Japan's 18-year-old adults will be able to smoke and gamble. **T / F**
4. Japan's 18-year-old adults will be able to take out loans. **T / F**
5. Japan's government hopes more young people will get married. **T / F**
6. The new adults should bring more tax revenue to Japan's government. **T / F**
7. Japan is making fewer pension payments. **T / F**
8. Young Japanese people want two Coming of Age ceremonies. **T / F**

Listen again and complete

Japan's government (1) _____ age at which people become adults. It is the first time since 1876 that this has happened. From the year 2022, teenagers will become (2) _____ age of 18, which is two years earlier than the age at which adulthood currently legally happens. However, even though the age has been lowered, there (3) _____ things that will not change. The legal age for drinking alcohol, smoking and gambling will (4) _____ 20. The new law will enable 18-year-olds to get married without parental consent, and allow them (5) _____ loans and credit cards. Transgender men and women aged 18 and over will be (6) _____ to courts to have their gender officially recognized.

The new law has been passed (7) _____ to bring about social and economic change in Japan. The government hopes to see an increase in (8) _____ young people getting married and starting families. This will help to address the nation's dwindling birth rate and ageing population. Greater financial freedoms could (9) _____ to the economy and provide more tax revenue. This is vital for a government struggling (10) _____ increasing pension and healthcare payments. Many of Japan's young people were more concerned about how (11) _____ affect the traditional Coming of Age Day. This is a national holiday held in January in which 20-year-olds (12) _____ traditional kimonos to celebrate adulthood.