

A Day in the Life of a Japanese Teen

15-year-old Atsuko Kawabata tells Teen World how technology plays a major role in her daily life.

6:30 am My alarm clock goes off and I get out of bed and turn on my stereo to catch up on the news.

7:30 am Time to put on my headphones and go to school with music blasting from my personal stereo.

7:45 am As soon as I get onto the school bus, I swap CDs with my friends. Some of them are finishing up their homework on their laptops. Others are gossiping with their friends on their mobiles. Younger passengers are having fun with their Gameboys.

8:30 am In the classroom, which is equipped with state-of-the-art PCs, I do my best to concentrate on my Maths lesson. Some kids download games from the Internet, while pretending to work hard on Maths problems.

6:00 pm Home at last! At the dinner table, I complain about the homework my teachers give me. Lately, I've been trying to convince my parents that a new and better computer would help me to improve my grades at school. Then I do my homework. While doing it, I have to have my mobile switched off. When I've finished, I turn my mobile and start chatting to my friends. I try to finish my homework before the weekend. That's when I have the most fun!

1- In the text, Atsuko describes

- a- Her typical weekend
- b- her daily routine.
- c- how technology has changed her life.
- d- Japanese traditions.

2- After she wakes up, Atsuko

- a- gets out of bed and listens to the news.
- b- Gets up and reads the news.
- c- Has breakfast and goes to school.
- d- Gets up and takes the bus to school.

3- What do the passengers on the bus that Atsuko catches do on their way to school?

4- What does Atsuko say about school-work?

- a- She complains that her teachers give her bad grades.
- b- She says that she would get better results with a new PC.
- c- She would rather talk to her friends than study.
- d- She says her parents help her with her studies.

5- What might Atsuko say about her life?

- a- I wish I could spend all day in my room listening to music.
- b- If I had more time, I would read lots of books.
- c- I study quite hard, so I really look forward to the weekends.
- d- I would get better school grades if I didn't chat so much on my mobile!