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.

