

Do you agree (A), disagree (D), or partially (P) agree / disagree with the statements below? Explain your opinion.

A D P

- 1 ☐ ☐ ☐ Working long hours equates to high productivity.
- 2 ☐ ☐ ☐ It's good for business and work culture to go out and drink with your colleagues after the work day.
- 3 ☐ ☐ ☐ Companies should enforce limits or policies on the amount of hours their employees spend working per week.

## Vocabulary!

- 1 *Innovations in manufacturing **propelled** the USA to become an economic superpower.*  
**propel** means...  
 a. cause to move forward  
 b. force or require to take action  
 c. fail to make progress
- 2 *The government's new anti-smoking **initiative** was a major success.*  
 an **initiative** is...  
 a. a campaign intended to cause protest  
 b. a campaign intended to boost the economy  
 c. a campaign intended to improve a situation
- 3 *Despite **being entitled** to 20 vacation days in my employment contract, I rarely use all of them.*  
**to be entitled** means...  
 a. to have the right  
 b. to feel discriminated  
 c. to get punished
- 4 *Many regulations have been implemented to **curb** the spread of COVID-19.*  
**curb** means...  
 a. assess or examine  
 b. reduce or limit  
 c. stimulate or accelerate
- 5 *Many people are less **inclined** to accept a job that requires them to travel a long distance to the office.*  
**inclined** means...  
 a. feeling of accomplishing something  
 b. feeling of worrying excessively  
 c. feeling of wanting to do something

## OVERWORK IN JAPAN: WHY DOES JAPAN WORK SO HARD?



### PART 1

Write short answers according to the information in the video.

0:01 **1** What does “karoshi” mean?

0:26 **2** How is Japan’s “salaryman” defined?

2:07 **3** What kind of tragedy happened to an employee working for the company Dentsu in 2015? What happened as a result of this?

2:43 **4** What kinds of efforts or initiatives have been made in Japan to curb overwork?

4:22 **5** How is it suggested that Japan can compensate for its labor shortage?

### PART 3

What initiatives were implemented in Japan to curve OVERWORK?

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In the video, the reporter described a few **initiatives** that were implemented in Japan in order to curb overwork, such as “Premium Fridays” and a new holiday called “Mountain Day”. Think of a different social or cultural problem. Come up with two initiatives that could help resolve this problem. Write the names of the initiatives and describe them.

**PROBLEM:** .....

**INITIATIVE #1:** .....

**INITIATIVE #2:** .....

**PROBLEM:** .....

**INITIATIVE #1:** .....

**INITIATIVE #2:** .....

**PROBLEM:** .....

**INITIATIVE #1:** .....

**INITIATIVE #2:** .....

**PROBLEM:** .....

**INITIATIVE #1:** .....

**INITIATIVE #2:** .....

