

READING PRACTICE

1. For each question, choose the correct answer.

Have you ever considered a school study abroad programme in Japan? One of the major differences between Japanese secondary schools and Western secondary schools is that the school year starts in April, not September, and finishes in March, not June. Each school in Japan has its own distinctive uniform, whether it's military-style jackets for the boys or sailor type outfits



for the girls. Uniforms also change with the seasons, because winter uniforms need to be a lot heavier than summer uniforms. In some schools in Japan, the dress code may be strict, with teachers checking students' uniforms meticulously, even nail and hair length! Also, don't wear makeup, nail polish, or piercings at school; keep those for when you let your hair down at the weekend.

When you get to school, you'll see rows and rows of lockers near the student entrance. These are for your outdoor shoes. You must put on indoor shoes every time you go inside. This helps to keep the school floors clean, especially if outside is wet, muddy, or snowy. Another way Japanese schools differ from other schools around the world is that there aren't any cleaners. If you make a mess, you have to clean it up. Every day, before or after classes, all students and teachers take part in soji or cleaning time. There are plenty of brooms, mops, toilet brushes and cleaning cloths for everyone. Even if you have never cleaned your room back home, now's not the time to complain; just do it because everyone else will do it for you! Think of it as quality time getting to know your peers.

Classes are usually 40 minutes long, with 10-minute breaks in between to do whatever you want. Also, instead of going from class to class, you get to stay in your form room for almost all subjects, except for things like PE and art. However, classes at Japanese secondary schools may be a bit different than what you're used to. Usually, the teacher lectures and writes everything on the board while students listen and take lots of notes. Students rarely raise their hands to ask a question during class and class discussions are not common. Get ready for lots of homework, even during school breaks, too. Additionally, don't feel sad if some of your Japanese peers

can't hang out with you after school or on Saturdays, because they often have to go to *juku* schools to prepare for university entrance examinations. Busy timetables are normal for Japanese secondary school students.

Lunchtime at Japanese secondary schools is a bit different. Many schools don't have large canteens so instead, students eat in their classrooms. Unlike Japanese primary schools, secondary school students aren't given free school lunches. Instead, when you attend secondary school in Japan, you'll be expected to bring a home-made packed lunch or bento box. Eating with hasher (chopsticks) is the way your peers will eat, so get used to not using a knife and fork and practise if you want to impress your classmates and avoid spilling rice everywhere. It's also a good idea to bring stuff like sweets or biscuits to share in order to make friends more easily, especially on Valentine's Day or Halloween.



As a foreigner, expect to be extremely popular at your secondary school in Japan. If you're European, expect a lot of questions, since many Japanese secondary school students love European culture. Some secondary schools in Japan may ask you to make a speech in front of all the teachers and students, so impress them by memorising a self-introduction in Japanese. Afterwards, expect lots of praise like, "Your Japanese is so good!" Also, expect lots of students you don't know shouting "hi!" to you in the corridors. This can take a while to get used to!

A. In the first paragraph of the article, the writer...

- ☐ says that only some Japanese schools have uniform.
- ☐ advises the reader how to choose a uniform.
- ☐ criticises school uniforms.
- ☐ give advice on what not to do in a Japanese school.

B. The article states that...

- ☐ you need a lot of different pairs of shoes at a Japanese secondary school.
- ☐ it's the responsibility of students and teachers to keep the school clean.
- ☐ cleaning is done before and after school every day.
- ☐ everyone enjoys getting together to clean.

C. The writer thinks that Japanese students...

- ☐ work harder than in other countries.
- ☐ are shy because they don't ask many questions in class.
- ☐ like PE and art class best.
- ☐ like to discuss different subjects in class.

D. For lunch, students...

- ☐ should bring food from home.
- ☐ are given a free bento box.
- ☐ can eat with a knife and fork.
- ☐ always bring sweets and biscuits.

E. The writer believes that foreign students in Japanese secondary school...

- ☐ should learn fluent Japanese before attending.
- ☐ are made to feel very welcome.
- ☐ should say "hi" to everyone they see in the corridors.
- ☐ are asked to make a lot of speechless

2. Choose the correct answer to these questions from the article.

A. The Japanese school year starts in ____.

- ☐ March
- ☐ April

B. Outdoor shoes are put into ____ when you arrive at school.

- ☐ your schoolbag
- ☐ lockers

C. Classes are usually ____ minutes long.

- ☐ 40
- ☐ 45

D. Students eat their lunch in ____.

- ☐ the canteen
- ☐ their classroom

E. Foreign students ____ be asked to make a speech in front of the whole school.

- ☐ will
- ☐ may

3. Some common verbs are followed by prepositions and these are often tested in Reading Part 6. Complete the sentences using the prepositions from the box below.

in - for - like - of - of - on - to - with

- A. He succeeded _____ getting a scholarship to a private school.
- B. I am looking forward _____ the summer holidays.
- C. Mary is thinking _____ becoming an accountant.
- D. My mum insists _____ giving me a packed lunch every day.
- E. I'm tired and I don't feel _____ going to school today.
- F. I apologised _____ being late.
- G. Our teacher doesn't approve _____ chewing gum.
- H. I disagree _____ everything he said.

4. For each question, write the correct answer. Write one word for each gap.

Parents can have many reasons (0) **for** sending their children to boarding school. It's common for rich families to insist (1) _____ sending their children to private boarding schools so that they can meet other children of the same social standing. Boarding school can be good for children who want to experience living away from home but are (2) _____ young to live on their own. At boarding schools, accommodation (3) _____ provided, so students live at the school during term time. Parents must pay (4) _____ the cost of tuition as well as accommodation. If not, a student can apply (5) _____ a scholarship, but this is not guaranteed. The school is at all times responsible (6) _____ the safety and education of the students. Some schools can be quite strict, and students may not be allowed (7) _____ use their phone or other electronics during class hours.