



## Tokyo's Junior High Grading System Under Scrutiny

In Japanese junior high schools, internal grades are primarily assigned. According to the Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education, the primary purpose of the internal examination is to investigate the evaluation status of the third-grade public junior high schools and compulsory education schools in Tokyo based on the objectives of the Courses of Study and to help ensure the objectivity and reliability of grades. Evaluation criteria differ depending on the prefecture and whether the school is public or private. However, in Tokyo, the internal

examination scores for public junior high and metropolitan high schools are mainly based on tests, submitted materials, and classroom attitudes. Each school has a different test, but the same 1-5 grade is given based on the same criteria. This creates disparities even among junior high schools. The ease of obtaining an unofficial report point varies depending on the junior high school in which the student is enrolled. In high school entrance examinations, 30% of general entrance examinations for metropolitan and private high schools are

based on the internal examination score, regardless of whether the applicant is from a private or metropolitan high school, such as for dual enrollment preferences or entrance examinations with recommendations. This is a problem because it is difficult for students to pass the exam if they fail to score high on the internal examination. In fact, according to a survey conducted by the University of Tokyo and others, which polled approximately 3,000 male and female high school students in various prefectures, approximately 80% of junior high school seniors

spend their school days with an eye on the survey report. In other words, it can be said that the internal examination system not only grasps one's academic ability through tests but also has been influenced by academic performance ranking among students. A possible solution is to make standardized term exams and not to include them in the grading system, which will eventually ensure equality and learning.

By Tomohito Ogura, Kaisei Tani,  
Kaito Mizuno, Jyuri Miyake



Illustration by Yumi Todoriki

How did you perceive this title? This is a verbalization of the way a group of high school girls feels in their daily lives. The following is a summary of the differences in the three aspects of school rules, daily life, and events, using the U.S. as a comparison. First, our high schools have all kinds of school rules. For example, dyed hair and makeup are prohibited; the first button must not be opened; skirts must be kept at a certain length and uniforms must be worn correctly.

On the other hand, in American

high schools, there are no school rules regarding students' appearance. For example, free hair color, piercing, and makeup are allowed. School rules tend to be looser than in Japan, such as not having uniforms in the first place. In addition, the use of smartphones is prohibited in our high schools. In some foreign countries, students can use them except during class time. A day of a Nissaku student is shown on the table on the right. The second is events unique to the United States.

In American high schools,

there is an event called prom, a dance party held at night in the school gymnasium for students in their final year. Only male-female pairs are allowed to enter, and many couples are formed. Boys wear suits or tuxedos, and girls wear dresses. In addition, boys often rent a limousine bus to pick up their partners. Summer vacation in Japan lasts about a month and a half, but overseas, summer vacation lasts two or three months. Other events include summer camps, which many small children attend, where they are cared for and supervised. They also

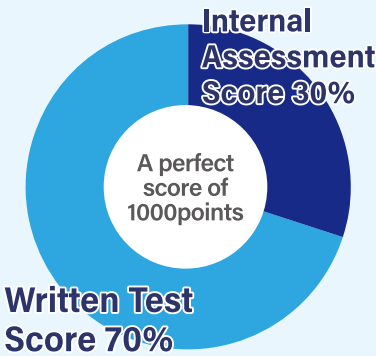
participate in extracurricular activities that are important for university entrance exams and attend university summer sessions. They also travel with their families and practice driving.

By Kazuki Kume, Yura Goto,  
Iori Suito, Yuina Tamaki,  
Yumi Todoriki, Hana Nagashima

	Our school	America
Period	6	7(+lunch)
Time	50min	45min
Break	10min	5min

Figure by Yura Goto

### Example of Tokyo Metropolitan High School Examination\*



※Excluding English Speaking Achievement Test for Junior High School Students Score

Figure by Jyuri Miyake

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## What is BeReal ?

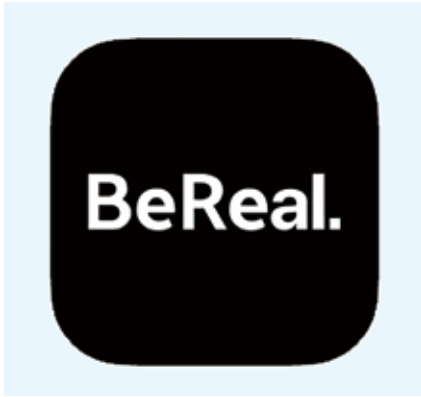


Photo by <https://bereal.com>



Illustration by Mari Tashiro



Illustration by Mari Tashiro

**B**eReal is exploding among young people these days. In fact, as of April 2024, there were over 20 million BeReal active users, most of whom were people in their 20s or younger, revealed Romal Salzman (BeReal Chief Operating Officer).

BeReal is a social networking

application that requires users to take a picture within two minutes of receiving a notification on their smartphones at a particular time (after two minutes, users can take a picture but can only take one photo that day, with the penalty that they will not be able to see their friends' posts).

Saltzman said, "Many young

people are often pessimistic and negative about their lives on curated social media. So by focusing on reality, the truth, we are trying to help users communicate more healthily on social networking sites," he said, explaining the reason for the development of this app. Since the app was developed,

the development team has grown from 20 to 70 people, and many companies that introduce their brands on BeReal have joined the BeReal team.

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 By Haruka Takei, Mari Tashiro,  
 Jun Tamura, Mizuki Hayashi,  
 Tsukasa Hori  
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## Japanese Anime Quality



Illustration by Kosuke Fukui

**W**hy do foreigners highly evaluate Japanese animations?

One of the main characteristics would be a variety of animation genres, including fantasy, science fiction, and romance. On the contrary, animations in foreign countries are horror, fantasy, science fiction, and comedy.

Another characteristic can be found in the animation pictures, direction, and background music.

Especially background music of Japanese animation is attracting attention from other countries.

Finally, in Japanese anime, foreshadowing is very common. The mystery that needs to be understood during the serialization is sometimes revealed through foreshadowing and hints written in various parts of the story. Some people consider the future development of the story and characters by

paying homage to historical events in the foreshadowing. This is why it is also highly noteworthy.

For these reasons, Japanese animation is highly regarded by other countries.

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 By Sosuke Imai, Sora Kawano,  
 Yuta Kubo, Kouta Nukumizu,  
 Kosuke Fukui  
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## World's Most Notable Songs: A Brief Overview

**M**usic is an integral part of our lives. The most famous song in the world is "Happy Birthday to You."

This song is often sung on birthdays. The lyrics were written by the American Hill sisters in 1920. It is a parody of the song "Good Morning to All." The Hill sisters and the music publisher were sued for copyright, but the claim was rejected because no copyright law existed in the United States.

The next longest song in the world is "As Slow as Possible."

Composed by American composer John Cage and released in 2001, it is still performed today. It takes 639 years to play and is scheduled to end in 2640.

The next shortest song in the world is "You Suffer." This song was released in 1987 by British band Napalm Death and is said to be 1.316 seconds long.

All three of the above songs have been certified by Guinness. We have introduced the most popular songs in the world, but what about in Japan?

YOASOBI's "Racing into the Night" is the number one song

in Japan in terms of views on Billboard.

This song was posted on YouTube on November 16, 2019, as YOASOBI's first work. In 2020, it ranked first on Spotify and LINE music, and on June 1 of the same year, it topped the Billboard JAPAN Hot100 and Oricon weekly combined single rankings.

Thus, there are many songs in the world that people will remember and remember. We encourage you to listen to these songs!

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 By Yuya Kobayashi,  
 Tsubasa Takagi, Yuma Yamaguchi  
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Illustration by Yuma Yamaguchi,  
 Tsubasa Takagi

## ENTERTAINER

# Tokyo's Ingenious Use of Narrow Land

In Japan, the population is heavily concentrated in one area, and in Tokyo, the country's center, the land shortage is a severe problem. Specifically, 11% of the population lives in an area that is only 0.6% of the total land area. Therefore, we need to make better use of this small land. Consequently, we have studied elevated railroads and roads.

In this article, we studied Japan's ingenious use of narrow land.

The station nearest our high school has two lines and three stations. One of them, the Keio Line, is under construction and will be elevated. What will happen to the area under the elevated line? In New York City in the U.S., the area under the elevated railroad lines is usually used as a road for cars to drive. In Japan, however, it is used not as a road but as various other things. Let me introduce three

Japanese examples. The first one that caught my attention was Kyodo, the nearest station on the Odakyu Line, and the other nearest line. Here, there is a library under the station. The second is near Ueno Station on the Tokaido Line, elevated more than 100 years ago and has been used effectively for a long time. The second is near Ueno Station on the Tokaido Line, elevated more than 100 years ago, where a drinking area has been established for nearly 50 years. In addition to railroads, some places effectively use the area under expressways. Last year, a facility called "Koma Terrace West Approach," which includes a hall, gallery, studio, café, and park, was built under the elevated highway near the highway interchange. As you can see, the elevated areas under Japan's railroads and expressways are used in various ways. All three projects introduced here are

ingenious ways to use land in a small area. We were impressed by their wisdom and ingenuity.

We look forward to seeing what will happen to the Keio Line, the nearest line currently

undergoing elevated construction, under the elevated tracks.

By Saki Akiba, Yuto Ozawa,  
Neo Senba, Naoki Soga



[https://www.irasutoya.com/2016/01/blog-post\\_28.htm](https://www.irasutoya.com/2016/01/blog-post_28.htm)



Photo by Naoki Soga

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Japanese Culture: Tableware and Souvenirs

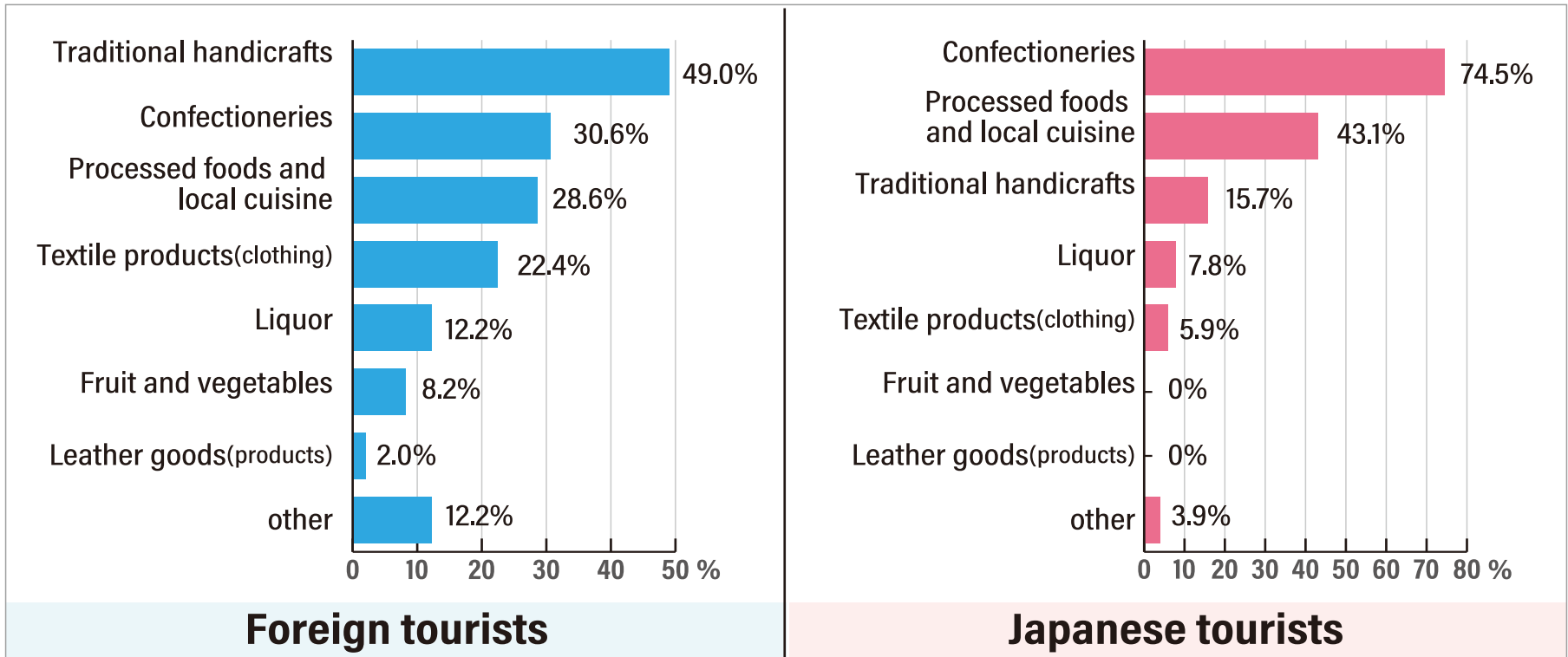


Figure by [https://www.nara-cci.or.jp/chousa/pdf/interview/enquete\\_h30.pdf](https://www.nara-cci.or.jp/chousa/pdf/interview/enquete_h30.pdf)

How much do you know about Japan? This article will introduce the national character of the Japanese people through two cultural examples: Japanese tableware and souvenirs.

Japanese tableware has been improved over the years, and adding value to essential functions is also required. Japanese tableware is now also visually pleasing. For example, colors can express seasonal plants, animals, or lucky charms or enhance food and make it look more delicious. The finely carved delicacy of clay modeling in the form of countless Japanese tableware, such as vessels, plates, chopstick rests, and so on, shows the Japanese sense of beauty. Compared to other Western tableware, Japanese tableware is often placed directly

on the mouth or held in the hand and has a superiormouth feel and texture. On the other hand, Western tableware is superior in scratch resistance because people eat with forks and knives.

The superb process of modeling and drawing patterns shows the delicacy of the Japanese people’s tableware.

Japan has a culture of returning souvenirs from trips to those around you. The U.S. also has a custom of returning souvenirs, but it is not good, as it implies “ingratitude. In Japan, however, many people give souvenirs to express gratitude to those around them.

There are also differences between foreigners and Japanese in the items they give in return. Please see the graph below. This graph shows that foreigners tend to give things as gifts,

while Japanese tend to buy food. Compared to things that remain as a font, these consumable items are more likely to be given as gifts because the recipient does not have to worry about where to put them. Thus, it can be said that the Japanese culture of souvenirs reflects a delicate sensitivity to the feelings of those around

them. These show that the Japanese are sensitive to things. There are many other differences between Japan and other countries.

By Haruka Aoyama,Takuya Akimoto,Honoka Ino,Yuki Owa, Ranka Singu,Mahiro Nukina



Photo by [https://www.photo-ac.com/search/ris?object\\_id=ac-ai-services%2Fac-image-search%2F56ebefd4-c178-4676-a307-6a4f40cc2bbc%2Foriginal.jpeg](https://www.photo-ac.com/search/ris?object_id=ac-ai-services%2Fac-image-search%2F56ebefd4-c178-4676-a307-6a4f40cc2bbc%2Foriginal.jpeg)

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