



SHIBUYA Creates Future Metropolis

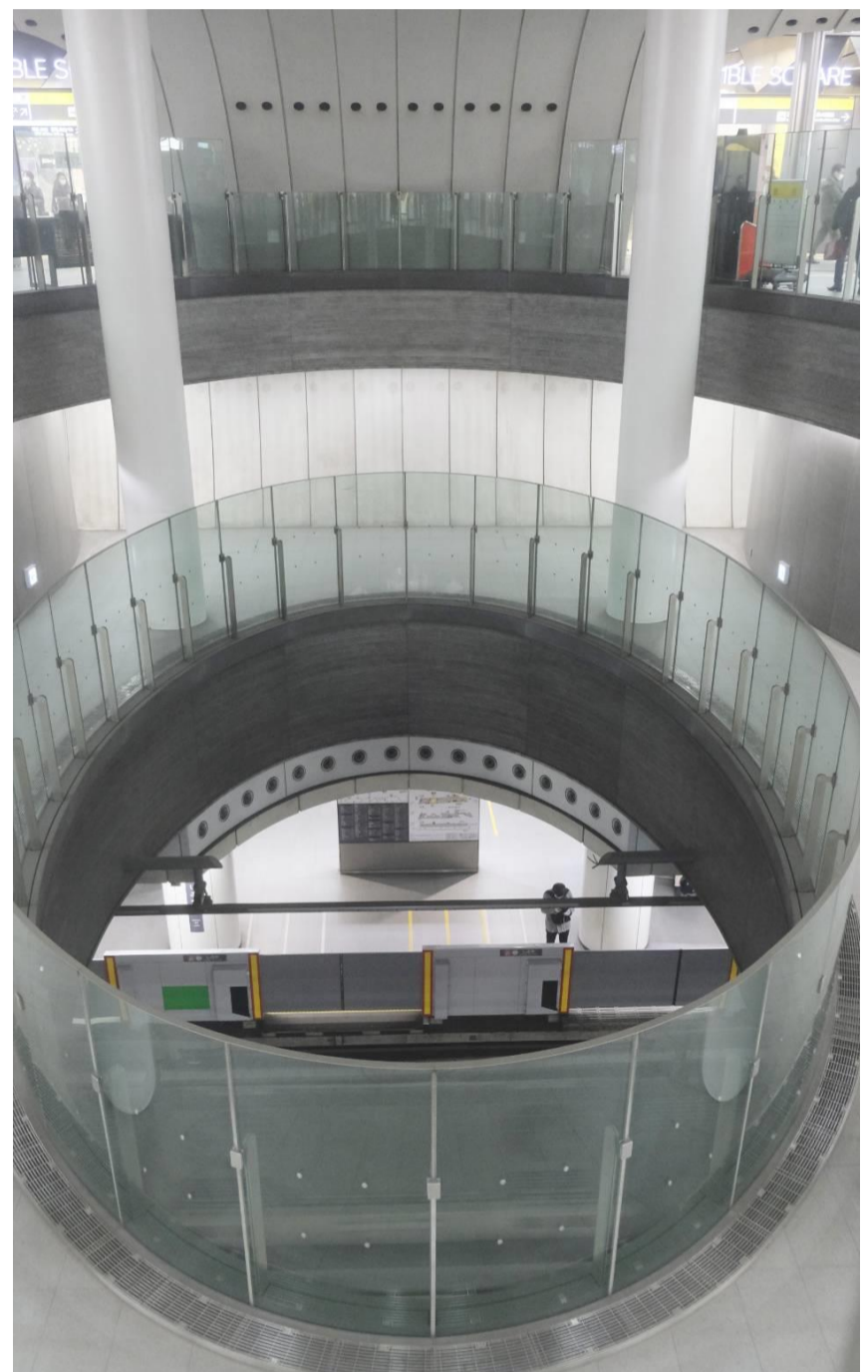


Photo by Eigo Uemura (above), Uemura Photo Studio (right)
Architectural design with the view of vertical connection at Shibuya station.

A large-scale station area development project is currently underway in Shibuya. So far, Shibuya Stream, a 180-meter-high large-scale complex, and Shibuya Scramble Square Phase I (East Wing), a 230-meter-high, 47-story large-scale complex, the tallest in the Shibuya area, have opened. While these attractive facilities are opening one after another, Shibuya is actually undergoing what could be called the "great experiment of the century" in urban development. In order to test whether the power of buildings can be used to control the movement of people, buildings that at first glance seem unreasonable for the pursuit of profit are being constructed in Shibuya. And there will continue to be many such redevelopment

projects until 2027.

Demolition work began in January 2019, and will be completed with the construction of high-grade office buildings in the mid- and high-rise areas, commercial facilities in the low-rise areas, and residential buildings. "The Urban Core" is located at the entrance to the Sakuragaoka district. The Urban Core is a structure that connects the ground level and the underground with escalators and elevators, and it is effective in places like Shibuya Station, where there is a lot of traffic. In addition, a deck that crosses Route 246 in the north-south direction and a corridor that crosses the JR line in the east-west direction will be built to connect the traffic lines and the above-ground areas, thereby creating a multi-layered pedestrian network. Furthermore, a wide pedestrian deck over the newly constructed Route 18 will

enable barrier-free access between Sakuragaoka and Shibuya Station. In addition, there will be an international medical facility with multi-lingual services, well-serviced apartments that function as an intermediate between hotels and apartments, and childcare support facilities.

The redevelopment of Shibuya is not limited to the construction of buildings. Shibuya, as its name suggests, is a valley-shaped area. Due to the topography of the valley, the flow of traffic in Shibuya has been quite complicated until now. This development, however, will drastically change the flow of people in Shibuya itself. Already, the Urban Core and the deck over Route 246 have been installed, making traffic smoother.

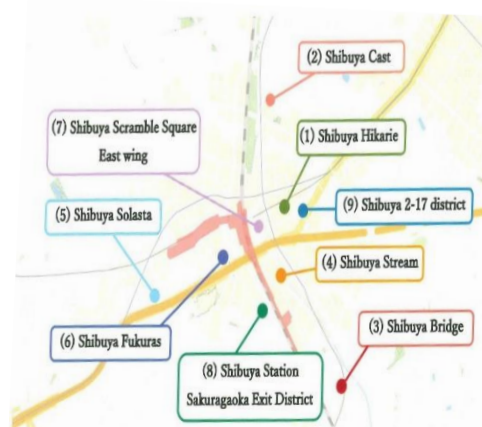
The concept of such a project is to make Shibuya "the most desirable place to visit in Japan". What is unique about this project is that it aims to improve the attractiveness of Shibuya by developing the area within a 2.5 km radius of Shibuya Station as an "area", making it easier for visitors to walk around.

The city is being developed from a "point" to an "area". In the future, Shibuya will become a place where people can enjoy themselves even more than before. It will be interesting to see how the city will develop further in the future.

By Eigo Uemura, Yudai Tsukada,
Momoka Otagi

Redevelopment projects currently underway in the Shibuya Station area

- (1) Shibuya Hikarie: Opened in April 2012
- (2) Shibuya Cast: Opened in April 2017.
- (3) Shibuya Bridge: Opened in September 2018.
- (4) Shibuya Stream: Opened in September 2018.
- (5) Shibuya Solasta : Opened in March 2019
- (6) Shibuya Fukuras: Opened in November 2019.
- (7) Shibuya Scramble Square East wing: Opened in November 2019 (West wing of central building to open in 2027)
- (8) Shibuya Station Sakuragaoka Exit District: Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2023.
- (9) Shibuya 2-17 district: Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2024.



Hunter of Facial Expression



Photo by Yusaku Hattori

Relationship between the mask and development of children

A year has passed since the COVID-19, which continues to rage throughout the world even now was detected. A variety of measures such as taking our temperature and using acrylic plates, have been taken to prevent the spread of the infection. One of the biggest changes to a lot of people was that wearing masks has been taken for granted to prevent spreading droplets. What impact did masks make on children?

Masako Myowa, a professor at Kyoto University Graduate School of Education, pointed out that children lost their opportunities to learn, which had existed as a matter of course before the COVID-19 calamity.

According to Myowa, children after the age of four develop thinking in their brains by putting themselves in someone's shoes rapidly. "Through daily communications, the ability to imagine what the partner is thinking and how to behave adequately develops. For pre-school children, masks must prevent them from having opportunities to learn how to communicate with others." It is time that a new lifestyle for children should be proposed.

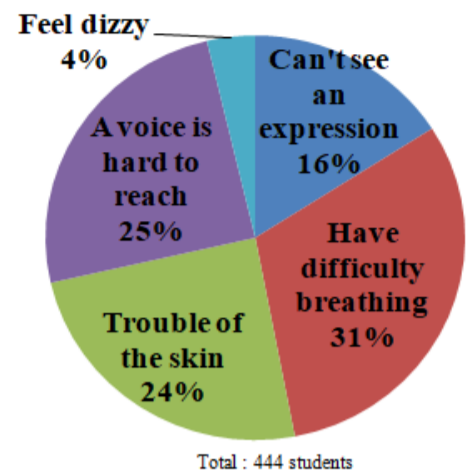
Therefore, the Kugayama Times surveyed for kindergarten teachers of Kokugakuin University attached kindergarten to do research on the effect of masks on kindergarten children. There were several answers as to a question "Have you seen any changes in the kindergartners since coming to wear masks daily?". Some teachers answered that "They seem to feel stressed because their masks slide down while they talk." Others mentioned poor hearing of the kids because of muffled voice caused by wearing masks and their difficulty in reading facial expressions for them." According to Ms. Kobayashi, they often see

that preschoolers often ask again each other. From these answers, it is clear that kindergarten children find it difficult to communicate one another by wearing masks.

The Kugayama Times also conducted a survey about unpleasant things in wearing masks to 238 junior high school students of the third grade in Kokugakuin Kugayama Junior High School and 206 first graders of the Senior High School. There're not only direct impact on our bodies but also noticeable "difficulty in voice transmission". Similar answers were found about relationships with friends, such as, "hard to memorize faces of others with their masks on", or, "cannot recognize their facial expressions". These answers can be said to show their habit of wearing masks is affecting our relationship and communication with others.

Because the COVID-19 is spreading around the world now, we need to wear masks in order to prevent us from getting infected. It has not only a direct effect on our bodies but also on communication with others. It is thought that impact on children is more harmful. Emotions that are

Inconvenience of wearing a mask



hidden from others by wearing masks should be noticed and expressed in visible parts on their faces. It is important for us to use body language, bigger gestures, and eye contact. To give children important experiences in communication and to take measures against the COVID-19, it is about time to think about ways of communicating with others in wearing masks on.

By Taisei Mogi, Moe Nishikata, Nagisa Yuasa, Rio Takagai, Utako Makino, Daigo Takasaki, Yusaku Hattori

What Awaits Undefeated with Strategy

Track and Field club in Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School participated in the national championship game in 2019 and 2020. The club has taken part in it 23 times in history. What's the secret behind such glories? The Kugayama Times interviewed the student and coach in the club.

"Secret of strength in the club is the power of unity and individual thinking", Kai Watanabe, the coach in the club said in the interview. He also said, "Athletic sports are originally individual personal sports and almost all people act selfishly. They take their time for themselves, so many teams eventually give their priorities on personal goals even though they originally aim for team goals. However, in our team, the members consciously put their priorities on the team goals, not on personal goals, so that each individual has the first priority on

the team. The secret of strength is not only the theory that all the members can fight under one goal."

Furthermore, in the question, What do you think important when you teach the members in the club? he answered, "Students own independence is important. There are two reasons; short-term perspective one and long-term perspective one. The first is that if they start running, they will be alone. Long-distance race is a sport such as soccer and baseball that cannot be instructed in the middle of a match. Therefore, they have to decide for themselves depending on the situation, such as where to put on their last spurt. The second is for the future. It is clear that the time for future is much longer than the time when they are students. As they grow older, they have to make decisions by themselves. Therefore, I want them to learn the habit of thinking since they are students."

Thanks to the teaching, the members seemed to think about the menu by themselves and work on their own training even during the cancellation period due to COVID-19.

Also in the interview with the student, the head answered the question, "What is the secret of strength?" He said, "We have three reasons. First, all the players always keep it in mind that we practice toward the same goal. Second, regardless of what grade they are in, we are good teammates and inspire each other to improve. Third, we can think for ourselves to get more skills and do more task than given by our coach or senior. In this way, we are conscious about how to make the team better when we make the team."

They are sure to do their best next year while they preserve the traditionally inherited teamwork and individual development of the Track and Field club in



Photo by Seiji Kasai

Koji Arisaka is a Track and Field coach, who himself graduated from Kokugakuin Kugayama High School. He led the national championships many times. There has been still a lot of prayer for the soul of the greatest coach since his passing in 7 January, 2021.

Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School.

By Himawari Kimura, Yui Suzuki, Ayane Hasemi

ISSUE

Do we need Male-Female Boundary?

To make this society more comfortable for sexual minorities like LGBT, it is important for us to contact each other without gender differences.

However, there are quite many things which have noticeable gender differences. One of them is a school uniform. Girls wear “sailor-suit” and boys “gakuran”, which is a typical kind of Japanese high school uniform.

In order to confirm the attitude toward the gender difference,

boy girl

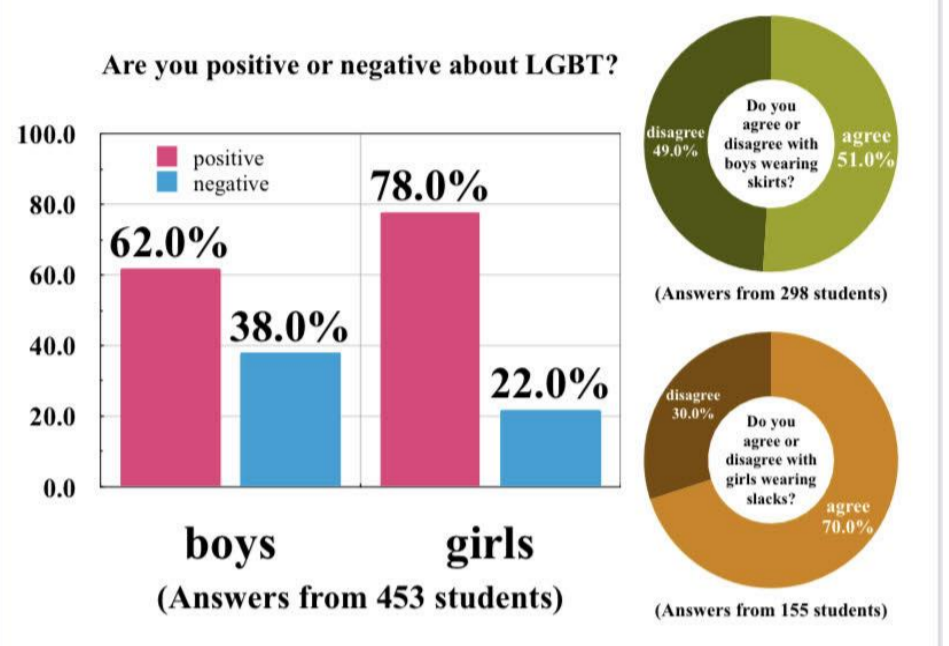


Image character of kokugakuin Kugayama junior high school “kichinto-san” “kichinto-kun” arranged by Kugayama Times.
Registered Trademark of Kokugakuin University.

particularly LGBT, the Kugayama Times conducted a survey with 453 second grade high school students and first grade high school students of girls. LGBT is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. These terms are some of the generic names for sexual minorities. Generally, it is said that understanding of the sexual minority in Japan is lower than in Western countries. That is why Kugayama Times expected a lot of negative opinions about LGBT.

The results show that 62% of the boys and 78% of the girls, answered that they had a positive opinion about LGBT, which was higher than expected. The unique condition where students of different genders do not share the same classrooms influenced their opinion. Although there are boys and girls in school, it is mainly the same gender as themselves who spend much time together. It appears that they build a relationship as one person to another, without being much conscious of gender.

In addition, 51% of the boys



answered that they had a positive attitude toward boys wearing skirts. Moreover, 70% of the girls said they were in favor of slacks. Although there was a little disapproval because it was unfamiliar to see boys wearing skirts, many responded that they were in favor of individual freedom.

Nowadays, there is an effort to introduce “Genderless uniforms”, which both boys and girls can wear, so that someone like LGBT don’t have to worry about gender

difference.

Do we need the “boundary” between men and women? This should be considered deeply because diversity is becoming more highly valued day by day. It is expected that people with sexual minorities can live equally with people who have different sexual background.

By Sorana Fujita, Misuzu Ishikawa, Kaho Susaki, Miyabi Nishimura

Improvements in Japan’s English Education

[Table1] Ranking of English skills

Ranking of Asia	Ranking of World	Country
1	10	Singapore
2	27	Philippines
3	30	Malaysia
4	32	South Korea
5	33	Hong Kong
6	38	China
~	~	~
9	55	Japan

Original data from EF Education First 2020 and revised by the Kugayama Times

Today, it is said that the improvement of English ability among the Japanese is required while globalization is accelerating. According to the 2020 edition of the EF EPI (“EF English Proficiency Index” by the EF Education First), Japan has placed 55th, categorized as a “low proficiency” country among 100 EFL (English as a foreign language) countries. People certainly say that it is because most of the Japanese don’t suffer from

inconvenience even without English abilities. The structural differences between English and Japanese is said to be another factor. However, these issues can’t be solved easily. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology revised the Courses of Study Guidelines in 2020 to tackle such obstacles between the two languages. The Kugayama Times focused on the amendments in the latest Courses of Study.

Table 2 below shows when English education starts in other countries. It shows that Chinese and Filipino students start studying English at 5 to 7 years old and South Korean students at the age of 9 to 10, while Japanese students start from 10 to 11 years old. However, since 2020, Japanese students have started to study from 9 to 10 years old. Also, in table 3, the number of English classes per week in Japan is equivalent to that in South Korea, which is ranked higher than Japan in EF. It may be a good trend.

Class style has also changed. The Kugayama Times interviewed a Filipino English teacher to compare

Japan with the Philippines, which ranked 2nd place among 24 Asian countries in EF. In the Philippines, all the classes are conducted in English, which enables the students to communicate in English. On the other hand, in Japan, Japanese students tend to be passive in class, mainly focusing on reading, writing, and grammar. However, recently, the Courses of Study Guidelines started to emphasize to also listening and speaking as well.

Furthermore, communication-oriented classes can be often seen. For instance, Kokugakuin Kugayama

Junior High School introduced online English conversation lessons with Filipino teachers.

As the Tokyo Olympic Games will start soon, the necessity of Japanese students to speak English is increasing, which demands students to communicate with foreigners.

By Shinnosuke Shimizu, Ryuta Saito, Yuki Ueda, Shogo Mizuno

[Table2] Number and Starting age of English classes

Country	The number of Elementary schools weekly English classes	English class starts at the age of
Philippines	5 times	5~6(grade1)
China	4 times	6~7(grade1)
South Korea	1 time (3rd and 4th grade) 2 times (5th and 6th grade)	9~10(grade3)
Japan	1 time (3rd and 4th grade) 2 times (5th and 6th grade)	10~11(grade5)

Original data from British Council Survey of Policy and Practice in Primary English Language Teaching Worldwide and the Course of Study, and revised by the Kugayama Times.

Culture, Fulfilling Role as Maintenance of Relationships

A bag's charm of Hangul, swinging at every step. There is voice which recommends interesting Korean dramas. At the same time, a word of anti-Korean sentiment is mingled among them.

In recent years, the fourth Korean boom has resurfaced. For example, the Korean drama "Crash Landing on You" was nominated for the U-can New Words and New Trends Award in 2020. Also, BTS, which is a famous K-POP group, has topped the iTunes rankings. These show that interest in Korea has been growing in Japan. At the same time, political relations between Japan and Korea are said to be the worst since the end of the war, and have been growing still colder.

The Kugayama Times conducted a survey to 204 boys and girls from Kokugakuin Kugayama Senior High School, asking them "Do you like Korean culture?" The results showed that 20% of them strongly agreed, and 27% of them were interested in. Of these, 66% were girls, showing the huge impact of the Korean boom on high school girls. And for both boys and girls, the main reason they go for Korea was because of Korean entertainment. On the contrary, 12.7% of those who disagree or strongly disagree attributed it to political affiliation with Korea.

Considering these results, the Kugayama Times questioned to eligible students, "Do you think that culture is affected by politics?". These answers showed the result that the students who like or are interested in the Korean culture tend to disagree with this question and those who don't like or aren't interested in it tend to agree with this question. One of the students who disagreed the question said, "It is natural to separate culture from politics. It is the same as nobody doesn't hate Korean foods because of Japan-Korea bad relations. Those who have the view that there is a correlation between culture and politics must be narrow-minded." While some students who agreed with the question have the thought that the history and political problems between the two countries prevent them from accepting the culture, another agreed although she is positive about Korean culture. "In many sport games against Korea, every Japanese will support Japanese team even if they like Korea. I think they have prejudices against Korea without noticing." she said.

Actually, in the question, asking "In the future, can you keep your positive feeling toward Korean culture if Japan-Korean relation become worse?", 40% of the respondents answered No or N/A. This shows that there exists a certain degree of



Photo by Nastumi Makino

The two national flags on Hanryu-hyakkaten shop, which sell goods of Korean stars and Korean cosmetics greet many people coming Shinjuku .

relationships between politics and culture. It is easy to think that such relationships disappear once if he/she likes Korean culture. However, such way of thinking itself cannot occur unless a person falls in love with a foreign culture in the first place.

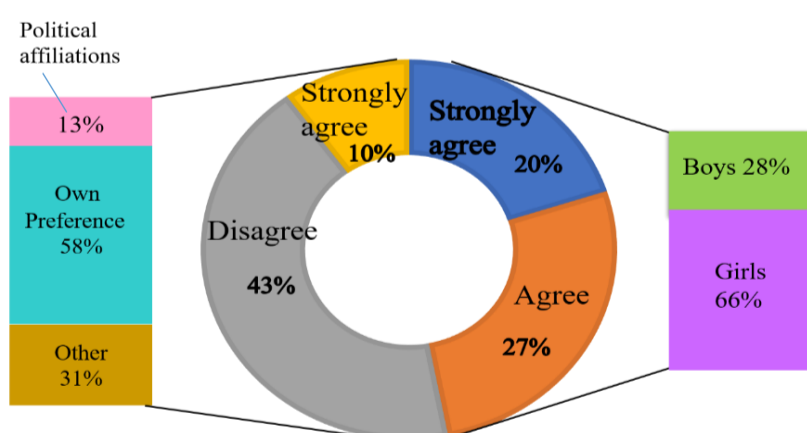
Other than the survey as above, the Kugayama Times asked three local high school Korean students the similar questions for the purpose of revealing Korean's thoughts about Japan. In Korea, Japanese animation is popular among young people, which makes Japanese culture familiar. Although the students swore that they would not hate Japanese culture despite the deterioration of the relations between the two countries, it is certain that there is still a deep-rooted prejudice which affects each individual way of thinking negatively. A woman who has resided in Korea expressed her opinion as a following sentence. "I felt Japan and Korea, having similar cultures and sense of values, are more conscious of each other. Not only in Japan but also in Korea, people's way of thinking differs by how much they are affected by culture and politics.

The fourth Korean boom is deemed as a product which is made by the

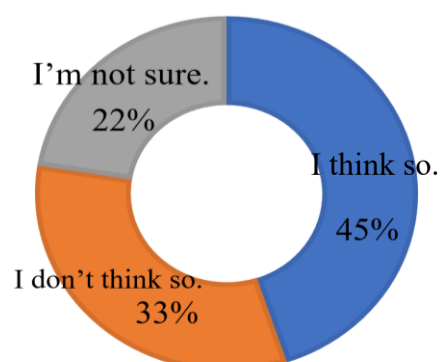
demand for staying at home under COVID-19 crisis. This boom may settle due to politics and history like the previous three booms, when the cultural relationships between the two countries and get weaker. However, there is one thing that can be said with absolute certainty. As long as there are Korean culture fans, the cultural relationships will not end. When people try to solve Japanese-Korean problems, the cultural relationships will be sure to continue, and the people who want to solve it can promote the relations between the two countries from cultural aspects. However, there are many opinions as described above. In other words, there is a certain relation between culture and politics. Although some think that the interaction between the two countries should be cut off due to the bad effects from political aspects, positive feelings about Korean culture will make it possible to put the brake on people's negative thinking.

By Natsumi Makino, Marin Ishiduka, Mai Umeda, Mayuko Yano

Do you like Korean culture?



Do you think that culture is affected by politics?



(Answers from 204 students)

THE KUGAYAMA TIMES

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