

Part 1: Japan Today and The Cardinal Anchor Facts

1. Why is Japan a *major* culture, but not a *cardinal* culture in the world today? What is happening to Japan’s population that is connected to this limitation to Japan’s importance? (Be sure to explain important vocabulary words that you use.)

Japan is a major culture but not a cardinal culture, because it is the 3rd most important trading nation and one of the ten most powerful militaries, *but* it is an insular culture that does not affect other cultures or the wider world. Because Japan is an insular culture, which means it wants to be “insulated” from others, it does not have immigration and it’s own population is declining, leading to a shrinking of the population overall. **(5 pts: 1 pt for trade/wealth; 1 pt for military; 1 pt for insular; 1 pt for immigration/declining population; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

2. Draw a diagram of the three periods of Japanese history. Label the segments, and label the diagram with the dates of the three cardinal anchor facts and the additional three major anchor facts of Japanese history.



(9 pts: 1 pt for each item)

Total Points This Page: 14 pts

Part 2: Isolated Japan

3. How are Japanese government and religion connected in history? What is unique about this combination, and how does it explain why Japan is such an insular culture?

c.660 BC Jimmu became the first emperor in Japan, according to Japanese tradition. This is not just a story about government. It is related to Japan's religion, Shintoism, because the tradition says that Jimmu is the descendant of Amaterasu, a Japanese god, and his descendants were the rulers of Japan in an uninterrupted line through all Japanese history. No other culture shares this tradition, which is uniquely Japanese, and Japan has always wanted to keep its gods and emperors separate from other peoples and religions that might undercut both Japanese culture and government. **(5 pts: 1 pt for Jimmu anchor fact; 1 pt for connection to Shintoism; 1 pt for long history; 1 pt for Japanese religion and isolation; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

4. What three things did Japan accept from China? Why could it *not* accept Christianity as well?

Japan accepted three things from China: 1) writing, 2) Buddhism, a kind of religion, and 3) Confucianism, a set of rules for organizing government. Japan could not accept Christianity when Europeans arrived because Christianity says there is only one god, and this would mean that the Japanese religion and emperors are false. **(5 pts: 1 pt each for writing, Buddhism, and Confucianism; 1 pt for Christianity's one god; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

5. Why is Commodore Perry an important person in Japanese history?

Commodore Perry is an important person in Japanese history because he broke Japan's isolation with gunboat diplomacy in 1853/4. This ended the isolation period and caused Japan to become imperial as a way to avoid being controlled by others. Japan would not be the country that it is today, if this had not happened. **(3 pts: 1 pt for gunboat diplomacy/breaking isolation; 1 pt for Japan becoming imperial; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 13 pts

Part 3: Imperial Japan

6. How could an insular/xenophobic culture like Japan become an imperial culture? What is the logic of this transformation?

It makes sense that Japan would go from wanting isolation to building an empire, because the Japanese believed they had no choice about having contact with other cultures in modern times, so the only question was what kind of contact: rule or be ruled. They chose to rule others to have control over the kind of contact. **(3 pts: 1 pt for desire for no contact; 1 pt for desire to control contact ; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

7. Tell the story of Japan's *imperial period* using the anchor facts we know, and any other facts you can deploy as well.

During the imperial period, Japan treated Korea like the Europeans were treating everyone else. Japan's isolation was broken by Perry 1853/4, and Japan decided to create an empire by becoming technologically advanced and building its military. In forced Korea open through gunboat diplomacy, and then defeated China in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894/5 to control Korea. After that it ruled Korea until the end of World War II, when it was defeated by America. **(4 pts: 1 pt each for Perry/imperialism in response; 1 pt for Sino-Japanese; 1 pt for ruling Korea/ WW2; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

Part 4: Post-Imperial Japan

8. Why is World War II necessary to explain Japan's post-imperial culture, but not *sufficient*? What else is key?

World War II is necessary to explain Japan's post-imperial culture, because Japan had to be defeated to abandon imperialism. It is not sufficient, however, because by itself losing would not have made Japan a benign country. The other key is the American Occupation (1945-52), in which General MacArthur forced Japan to accept a new constitution that says Japan will never go to war again, and in which William Deming taught the Japanese how to improve their industries and rebuild their country better than ever. Because of these two men, more than any others, Japan is *post-imperial*. **(4 pts: 1 pt for necessary; 1 pt for not sufficient; 1 pt each for MacArthur and Constitution; 1 pt for Deming and industry; 1 pt for spelling and grammar)**

Total Points This Page: 11 pts

Part 5: BONUS

9. Draw a diagram of the four periods of Chinese history. Label the segments, and label the diagram with the dates of *as many anchor facts as you can*.



(0.5 pt for each item, for a maximum of 3 bonus points)

Total Bonus Points: 3 pts

Total Points on Test: 38 points