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Education in Japan

The background features a dark gray gradient with a faint, light gray grid pattern. The grid consists of concentric circles and radial lines, resembling a globe or a technical drawing. A thin, dark line, possibly representing a compass needle or a pointer, is positioned diagonally across the grid, pointing towards the upper right.

Some Statistics

Japan has 23,633 elementary schools, 11,134 junior high schools, 5,450 senior high schools, 995 schools for the handicapped, 702 universities, 525 junior colleges, and 14,174 kindergartens.

About 20.7 million students (May 2003 figures) were enrolled in educational institutions in Japan from the kindergarten to university levels:

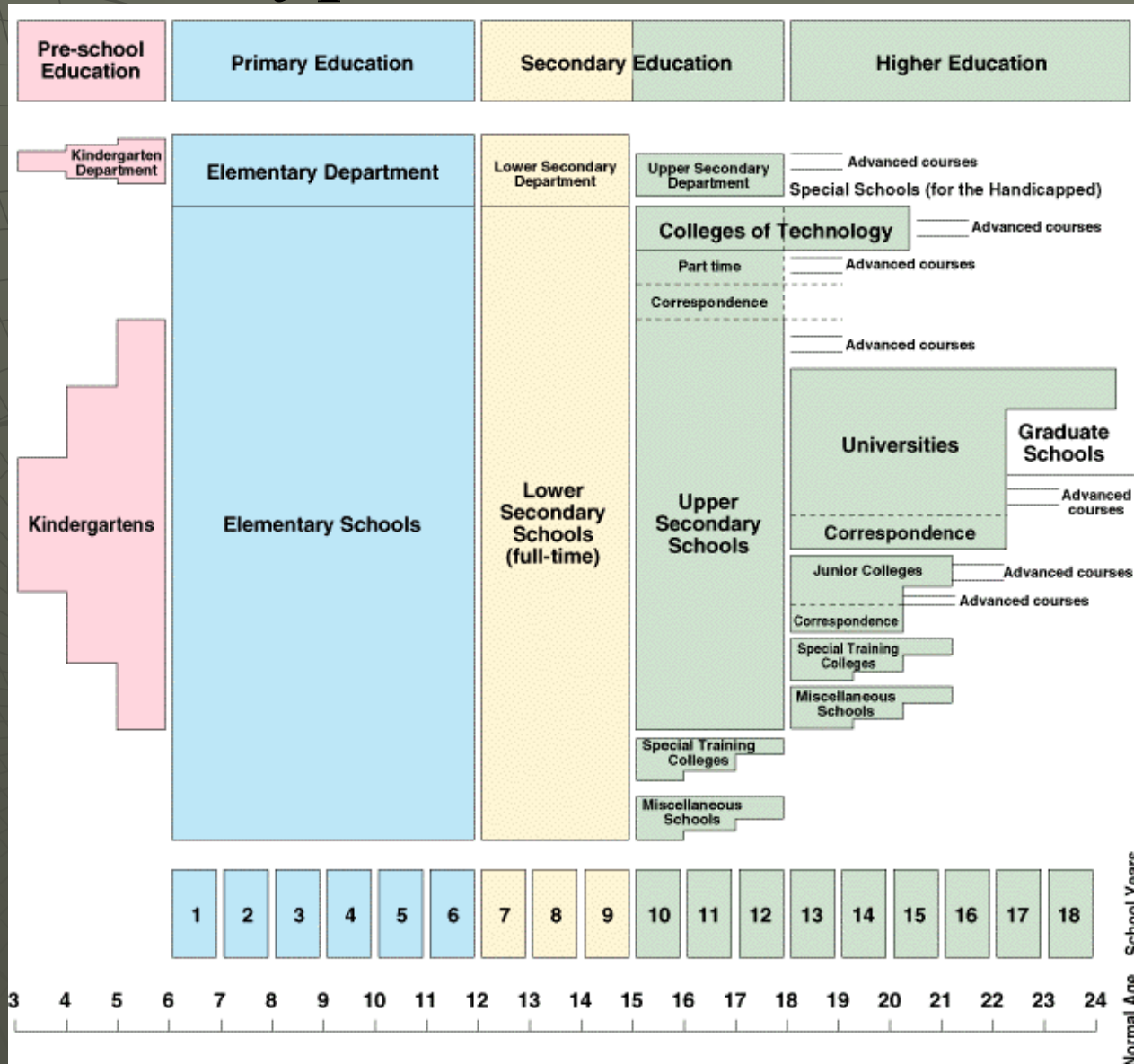
1,760,442 in kindergartens;
7,226,911 in elementary schools;
3,748,319 in junior high schools;
3,809,801 in senior high schools;
250,065 in junior colleges (usually two years);
2,803,901 in universities (four years) and graduate schools;
57,875 in technical colleges;
786,135 in special training schools;
and 189,570 in other types of schools.

School grades

The school year in Japan begins in April and classes are held from Monday to either Friday or Saturday, depending on the school. The school year consists of three terms, which are separated by short holidays in spring and winter, and a one-month long summer break.



Types of education



School Uniforms and Changing Clothes in Japan



Small children wear colored-coded caps and have badges pinned to their shoulders that indicate their grade. In elementary school, students generally don't wear school uniforms but they do wear them in middle school and high school. The boy's uniform consists of a blue cotton Mao-style jacket with matching pants. The girl's uniform consists of a dark-colored or plaid knee-length skirt and a sailor-style or plain white blouse.

Kindergarten 幼稚園 (*Yōchien*)

- ◆ Age: 6-7;
- ◆ Aren't part of the official education system.



Elementary school 小学校 (*Shōgakkō*)



- ◆ Age: 6-12;
- ◆ 6 classes;
- ◆ less than 1% of the schools are private;
- ◆ Public elementary education is free, some school expenses are borne by parents: school lunches and supplies.

Elementary school

The subjects they study include Japanese, mathematics, science, social studies, music, crafts, physical education, and home economics



Lower secondary school 中学校 (*chūgakkō*)



- ◆ Age 12-15;
- ◆ Most Japanese upper secondary schools have complicated admissions procedures, similar to university admission in other countries

Lower secondary school

- ◆ Students also attend mandatory club meetings during school hours, and many also participate in after-school clubs.



Preparing for a practice kendo match.



Calligraphy club.

High schools

高等学校 (*kōtōgakkō*)

- ◆ Age 15-18;
- ◆ Attendance in upper secondary school is not compulsory, but most students do attend it;
- ◆ Private upper-secondary schools account for about 24%;
- ◆ All upper-secondary schools, public and private, are informally ranked, based on their success in placing graduates in freshman classes of the most prestigious universities.



Clean Classrooms in Japan

- ◆ Japanese schools don't have any caretakers because the students and staff do all the cleaning. Students in elementary school, middle school, and high school sweep the hall floors after lunch and before they go home at the end of the day.
- ◆ *Souji* ("honorable cleaning") is a period of about 15 minutes each day when all activities come to a stop, mops and buckets appear and everyone pitches in cleaning up.



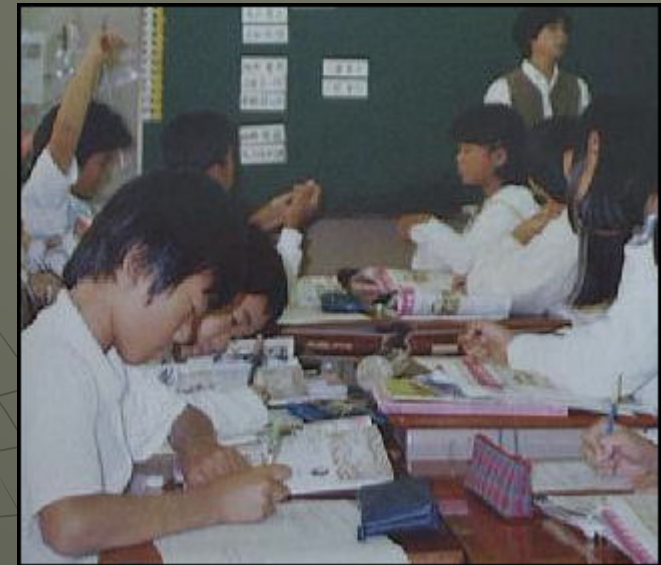
School Class Size and Student Organization in Japan



- ◆ A typical primary school class has around 31 to 35 students; a typical middle school class has 36 to 40 students; and a typical secondary school class has 45 students. When asked what they think is an ideal class size most teachers say between 21 and 25.
- ◆ Teachers organize students into groups with student leaders and other members of the group using peer pressure to keep the group members in line.

Achievement Tests and Cheating in Japan

National achievement tests are given to primary school third graders and sixth graders. Achievement exams given to 3rd years high school students have sections on the many subjects. Typically students get between 50 percent and 70 percent of the questions right with the highest percentage in Japanese language (68.1 percent) and the lowest in politics and economics (49.7 percent).



studying hard

Exams

- ◆ The third year of high school in Japan is allotted for students to prepare for college exams known as "juken" (受験);
- ◆ Others may wish to settle for a job instead;
- ◆ In Japan, the type and rank of school play a crucial role in deciding the fate of a youngster in society where he will be allocated a niche in the economic strata of social hierarchy. Once set in a chosen path, he would have little chance to alter his course in life.

an exam





Passing the entrance exam to a university is a major step in one's life.

Higher education in Japan

大学 (*daigaku*)

Students applying to national universities take two entrance examinations, first a nationally administered uniform achievement test and then an examination administered by the university that the student hopes to enter.



Higher education in Japan

Age :

- 1) 19-20 Associate; 20-23 Bachelor;
- 2) 23-26 Master - Graduate School: Master
大学院修士課程 (*daigaku-in*)
- 3) 26-27 Ph.D.

University of
Tokyo
東京大学
(*Tōkyōdaigaku*)

