

Japan consists of four islands, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu and Hokkaido, and over 3000 smaller islands. The country has a population of 127 million. Located in the Pacific Ocean, Japan is just off the east coast of Asia. North and South Korea are to the west and Russia is to the north. Often referred to as 'The land of the rising sun', its population enjoys the highest life expectancy in the world.

Traditional Japanese food consists mainly of fish and rice. The fish is often eaten raw or in lightly cooked recipes called sushi. The ultimate, most expensive and most fashionable dish on the sushi menu is fugu, also known as the pufferfish.

Eating fugu can be fatal due to its extremely high levels of tetrodotoxin and it therefore must be meticulously prepared to ensure that the toxic parts are removed prior to serving.

The restaurant preparation of fugu is strictly controlled by law in Japan and only chefs who qualify after three years of robust training are licensed to prepare the fish.

The largest city in Japan is its capital, Tokyo, with 38 million inhabitants. The city is hugely overcrowded and fumes from industry and cars is a major problem. Space is at a premium in the city and many apartments are tiny and some measure just 10m². With the majority of Tokyo's residents living in small, rented apartments in which pets are forbidden, 'cat cafés' have become increasingly popular. Residents flock to enjoy a snack and a drink and sit and stroke the café's furry friends.

Originally known as Edo, Tokyo was renamed in 1868. In 1940, the city was awarded the summer Olympic Games but they never took place as the event was cancelled due to World War Two. Tokyo went on to host the 1964 games, which were officially opened by the Emperor Hirohito. Japan finished third in the medal table, their best ranking ever.

In September 2013, it was announced that the city of Tokyo will become the first Asian country to host the Olympic Games. Tokyo beat bids from the Spanish capital - Madrid - and Turkey's capital - Istanbul - to host the 2020 Olympics. The official XXXII games will run from 24th July until the closing ceremony on 9th August.

The national sport of Japan is sumo wrestling. Two contestants try to push each other out of a small ring. The contest is judged by a referee - or gyoji - who declares the winner.

Success is reliant on the wrestler's strength, size and weight. *Rikishi* begin their training when they are small children and the top wrestlers become extremely rich and famous. Maintaining the ideal sumo body weight of 200kg means that wrestlers need to consume at least 10,000 calories every day.

There are six major tournaments - *sumo basho* - held a year, held bi-monthly in four different locations. Tickets for the tournaments are highly sought after and very expensive.

Henn na Hotel in Nagasaki is the world's first hotel to be primarily staffed by robots. At the reception desk, guests are greeted and checked in and out by multi-lingual robots that can speak Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean. Porter robots help guests carry luggage to their rooms and tasks such as window-cleaning and vacuum cleaning are also handled by robots. Hot and cold food is available from the hotel's numerous vending machines.

The Nagasaki hotel is keyless; face recognition technology is used to open and close guest's doors. Seven human employees are also on site at all times to provide assistance, particularly in emergencies. In every room is a voice-activated robot that will activate various room appliances.

Japanese car manufacturers became world leaders in the industry in the 1980s due to their stylish designs, new technology and efficient production methods. Motor vehicles are the country's biggest export and Japan accounts for nearly 15 percent of the global fishing industry, second only to their Chinese neighbours.

1 Where is Japan situated in relation to Russia?

- A Japan is to the north of Russia.
 - B Japan is to the west of Russia.
 - C Japan is to the south of Russia.
 - D Japan is to the east of Russia.
-

2 What was Tokyo previously known as?

- A Edo.
 - B Nagasaki.
 - C Kyoto.
 - D Honshu.
-

3 Why does the Henn na hotel need to have human employees in residence?

- A In order to provide the guests with hot meals.
 - B To help any guests that may have lost their key.
 - C To help carry the guest's luggage to their rooms.
 - D To be on hand in case of an emergency.
-

4 Which country can claim to have the largest fishing industry in the world?

- A Japan.
- B China.
- C Russia.
- D North Korea.

5 Over how many days will the 2020 Summer Olympic Games take place?

- A A fortnight.
 - B 17 days.
 - C 16 days.
 - D 18 days.
-

6 How regular are the major sumo wrestling tournaments?

- A They are held twice each month throughout the summer months.
 - B They take place once a year, in February.
 - C Every two months, throughout the year.
 - D Four times a year, in the spring, summer, autumn and winter.
-

7 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Japan is situated to the east of North and South Korea.
 - Option 2 The traditional staple diet of the Japanese people is fish and pasta.
 - Option 3 Japan has earned the nickname 'The Jewel in the Crown'.
 - Option 4 Japan beat bids from both Spain and Turkey to win the 2020 Olympic Games.
-
- A Options 1 and 4.
 - B Options 2 and 4.
 - C Options 1, 3 and 4.
 - D Option 4 only.
-

8 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 The robots at the Henna na Hotel can speak three different Asian languages.
- Option 2 On average, Japanese people live longer than in any other country in the world.
- Option 3 The 1940 Olympic Games were held in the city of Tokyo.
- Option 4 Fugu chefs must undergo three years of vigorous training before they are licenced to serve the delicacy in their restaurants.

- A Options 1 and 2.
- B Options 2 and 3.
- C Options 1, 3 and 4.
- D Options 1, 2 and 4.
-

9 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 China is the world's largest exporter of motor vehicles.
- Option 2 The toxic substance found in the pufferfish is mycotoxin.
- Option 3 In a sumo wrestling contest, the winner is decided by the gyoji.
- Option 4 Modern technology has enabled Tokyo to eradicate its pollution problems.

- A Option 1 only.
- B Options 2 and 3.
- C Option 3 only.
- D Option 4 only.
-

10 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Approximately thirty percent of Japan's population live in its capital, Tokyo.
- Option 2 Keeping pets is prohibited in the vast majority of Tokyo's apartments.
- Option 3 Fugu is a cheap alternative to salmon in Japanese restaurants.
- Option 4 The 2020 Olympics will be the thirty second running of the Games in the modern era.

- A Option 1 and 3.
- B Options 2 and 3.
- C Option 4 only.
- D Options 1, 2 and 4.
-

Synonyms and antonyms

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

spiteful

bitter

malicious

decent

malevolent

scanty

insufficient

meagre

paltry

ample

safety

danger

peril

jeopardy

hazard

Synonyms and antonyms

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

baffled

confused

perplexed

clear

puzzled

loot

give

plunder

pillage

rob

exact

accurate

precise

correct

ambiguous

Synonyms and antonyms

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

beaming

brilliant

radiant

dull

gleaming

sturdy

frail

robust

tough

powerful

infrequently

often

seldom

scarcely

occasionally

Please can you select the most appropriate adjective from the table on the top that can be placed before each noun in the box at the bottom?

I've done the first one for you:

1

deliberate ✓
unruly
reigning
steep
curly

mob
deliberate mistake
mountain
moustache
monarch

2

entertaining
sticky
edible
gifted
folded

musician
movie
napkin
mushroom
mud

3

armed
dense
entrance
extreme
exciting

population
police
poverty
porch
possibility

4

slender
friendly
deafening
scribbled
paperback

note
neck
novel
neighbourhood
noise

Comprehension

1	seldom
2	shovel
3	simile
4	simmering
5	sleuth
6	slogan
7	soothe
8	source
9	souvenir
10	spire
11	stag
12	stallion
13	starch
14	stationery
15	stationary
16	storey
17	stubborn
18	sufficient
19	sundial
20	symptoms

1	C
2	A
3	D
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	D
9	C
10	D

Antonyms

1	decent
2	ample
3	safety
4	clear
5	give
6	ambiguous
7	dull
8	frail
9	often

①

deliberate mistake
unruly mob
reigning monarch
steep mountain
curly moustache

②

entertaining movie
sticky mud
edible mushroom
gifted musician
folded napkin

③

armed police
dense population
entrance porch
extreme poverty
exciting possibility

④

slender neck
friendly neighbourhood
deafening noise
scribbled note
paperback novel