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Gaining a Better Understanding of Our Students

Mehran Sabet

Introduction

The cultural gap that exists between Japan and other countries is so wide and sometimes mysterious that it attracts people from all corners of the world to discover for themselves what is so special about this nation and its people. There is no question that Japan has a long history and can offer outsiders a unique view of how things are seen and done from a different cultural perspective. Nevertheless, although we can accept differences between cultures and respect them accordingly, many foreign teachers have found higher education in Japan somewhat puzzling, empty, and without a sense of direction. The idea of having fun, making friends, and playing around seem to be the prevailing trends among university students in Japan (McVeigh, 2002), but that is not what foreign educators believe the focus of higher education should be. The level of tolerance regarding the lack of effort shown towards students in their pursuit of higher education is so high that it frustrates and discourages teachers from incorporating even slightly challenging tasks or projects in their syllabus.

In order to be realistic and fair to all involved, however, educators need to be well-informed about the historical and cultural background of higher education in Japan and the role universities have played in preparing students for life after school. For teachers to understand their students better, they need to learn more about their lifestyles, study habits, priorities, and attitudes towards life, school, friends, and family. Educators should know what kind of learners they are working with and the reasons behind their indifference and apathetic attitudes towards serious academic studies and the pursuit of knowledge. Knowing that universities in Japan play the role of “buffer” between school and society, it is understandable to see why

the four years spent there are dedicated mainly to building social skills, friendship, and independence in preparation for adulthood and the life of a “salary man.” Indeed, Christopher (1995) calls admission to university a kind of liberation.

The degree of motivation and desire to study usually varies among students at higher and lower ranked universities and this is also understandable to a certain degree. The aim of this paper is to investigate whether there is a difference in the level of positive or negative attitudes among students belonging to different departments within the same university. Although there have been informal comments, comparisons and assessments made by the teachers at this university (where this research was conducted) about the gap that exists between students’ motivation and study habits in relation to their majors, no research has been done to support this claim. This paper tries to find a link, if there is any, between learners belonging to certain departments and their attitudes towards life, school, friends, and future.

Students and the Questionnaire

Seigakuin University, where this research was conducted, has six departments: Political Science and Economics (P), Local Community Policies (L), Euro-American Literature (A), Japanese Literature (L), Child Studies (C), and Human Welfare (W). A questionnaire focusing on the students’ lifestyle, study habits, work schedule, school life, family, and future plans was administered in the classroom (see Appendix A). The intent being to see whether a link could be found between students’ attitude and their major. For example, do the students in (P) have better study habits than students in (C), or do the learners in (W) have more friends or are more positive towards school and life than learners in (L)? The questions were written in English and then translated into Japanese by a qualified native speaker of the language. One more Japanese person (a university lecturer) who was also fluent in English checked and verified the accuracy of the translation. Five hundred ninety five first and second-year students from all of the six departments participated in this research project. As can be seen

from the collected data, the Political Science and Economics and Local Community Policies departments have the highest number of male students while in Child Studies and Human Welfare departments, female students represent the largest percentage.

Results

Based on the questionnaire results (see Appendix B), it is possible to conclude that the majority of the students enjoy university life, although the percentage varies according to the students' majors. For example, only 7.2% of (P) and 11.9% of (L) students said they are enjoying their school life while 25.3% of (W) and 24.6% of (A) replied favorably to the same question. On the other hand, the percentage of students who said they are not enjoying school life at all was the lowest among (C) and (W) majors and the highest among the (P) and (J). When asked what is interesting about their school life, 53.1% of the respondents stated "friends." While (W) and (C) students seem to have many close friends, (P) and (J) either have no close friends at all or they have very few. One possible reason contributing to this result may be that female students seem to be more sociable than males.

Having none or very few friends can also be a contributing factor in whether school life is enjoyed or not. Surprisingly, 72.6% of the students study less than two hours a week and the percentages do not vary significantly between all departments. This low finding may be a result of previously mentioned factors such as university life in Japan being considered a transitional and training period for becoming an adult, educators' low expectations of students in regards to higher education, and priority being given to other aspects of their life, which contribute to an environment where learning and studying take second place to many other activities such clubs, work, and being with friends.

What may surprise some administrators and teachers is that students in (P), (L), and (J) departments skip more classes and think they may fail a higher number of classes than in other departments. As to why some students skip or fail classes, there are a variety of possible reasons. One reason can be the number of days and hours that students work. 17.1% of all

students work five or six days a week and 7.9% work late at night. However, the percentage of (P) students who work the most number of days and late at night is larger than the students in other departments. This may indicate that working part-time interferes with students' studies and academic performance. On the other hand, there are more male students in that department than the others.

We may wonder at what kind of places our students work. Restaurant or "izakaya" and department stores are the most popular places, but the unusual information the students have provided us with is under the "Other" section. More than 33 percent of the students work at "Other" places. Is it possible to infer what kinds of places these "Other" are? Are they construction companies, hotels, or bars? Are the parents aware of this issue? Is there really such an urgent need for money compelling students to work at such undesirable places? The answer may be culturally oriented (i.e., as to what constitutes undesirable places) but we cannot help but question the judgment of some of our students in choosing an appropriate workplace.

As to how much our students earn and what they actually do with their income, the number of students who earn more than 70,000 yen a month in (L) is four times that of (W). However, there does not seem to be a wide gap on how they spend or use their money. Entertainment takes a big portion of their income, followed by paying living expenses and then buying clothes.

Watching TV, which is a form of entertainment, occupies a large proportion of students' time. The survey results show that about 11 percent of students watch more than 20 hours of television every week. Watching TV and working part-time leave students with little time to study. These two activities can also interfere with the learners' rest and sleeping hours. Almost half of them go to bed after 1:00 A.M. and close to 60 percent get less than six hours of sleep every night. Once again, the students in (P), (L), and (J) watch more TV, go to bed late, and get less sleep than other departments.

Students do not seem to be interested in joining an extracurricular club, since 62.7% of them indicated this in the survey. But the percentage of students who belong to a club is much higher among (J), (C), and (W) when compared with other departments. It is interesting to note that almost as many as twice the number of students in (W) belong to a club than in (P). Besides participating in club activities, fewer learners read for pleasure every

day (13.3%) or do not read at all (20.8%). While working, sleeping and watching TV, and going out with friends takes about 90% percent of their time, only about ten percent read or study, or play sports on weekends.

Discussion

Educators who have lived and worked at Japanese universities generally agree that students are not expected to focus on their studies much and, instead time should be spent on socializing, making friends, and learning skills needed to function in an adult world. This unwritten rule puts more weight on having a good time, making friends, or traveling while at university (McVeigh, 2002). Society, administrators, and teachers expect very little from students. This lack of emphasis on higher education has contributed to an environment where learning is not valued, which has led to apathy and indifference among students.

The questionnaire results reveal that the majority of students' time is spent working, watching TV, or being with friends. Very few of them study more than five hours a week (6.4%) and instead, many of them work three or more days a week. Working part-time in itself is not a big issue since students are trying to support themselves. However, it is alarming when we consider that many of them work late or work at places which may not be desirable for young students. When comparing the students' responses with their departments, it is evident that many of them in (P), (L), and (J) have a less positive attitude towards studying, and spend more time working, few hours sleeping, and do not have many friends. Given that the students in these departments are mainly males, some of their responses are understandable. Being less sociable than females, having the freedom to work late without worrying about the time, and being less expressive about their feelings may justify some of the male students' answers. However, disparities among the responses are such that a second look at some of the key issues mentioned in this paper is required.

A closer look at data reveals that the (P) students lead the other departments in: not enjoying school life nor finding anything interesting about it, having no close friends at all, skipping the highest number of classes per

week, not belonging to any clubs, not eating three meals a day, working the highest number of days in a week, working the late shift, watching more than twenty hours of TV in a week, sleeping the least, worrying the most about their chances of finding a good job once graduated, and not planning to continue their studies upon graduation. This is remarkably unsettling data for concerned administrators. It is obvious that there is a direct link between students' attitude and lifestyle, and their academic performance. The gap between some departments is so wide that it seems like we are comparing two different universities.

If one of the main purposes of university life in Japan is to socialize and have fun, many students in certain departments do not seem to be doing much of it. In fact, there are times that this writer and other teachers have wondered whether some of the students should be at a university or not. When asked if this university was their first choice, (P) students lead all the departments in saying "No, it was my last choice." This may tell us why the motivation to study and have fun is not there among some of these learners.

With Japan being a close-knit society, at least with immediate family members, it is rather sad to see 34.5% of the students eat dinner alone and 47.1% of them work on weekends. We may wonder where and when there is time for family. Of course many of the students are on the verge of becoming adults and naturally some distance is created between them and their family, but the number is still surprisingly high.

On a more positive note, it is encouraging to see that many students work part-time and in fact 25.5% of them use the money to pay for their living expenses. The survey shows that 56.4% of the students are doing or have done some volunteer work, although the percentage is much higher among (A) and (W). The higher percentage could mainly be due to the nature of the courses and studies in these departments.

Conclusion

Although this paper may sound too negative or critical of Japanese university students, I believe that a careful analysis of the data can give us a better picture of who our students are. Some of our students enter university

with a certain preconceived mentality and background. They have low self-esteem and feel that there is little they can do to change the outcome of their future. Others have come to understand that society and the educational system has no high expectation of them and they can graduate with minimal effort. Reischauer contributes lack of interest in university studies to insufficient intellectual stimulation (Reischauer, 1994). On the other hand, some students are very positive, pursue higher learning, and truly enjoy a rewarding life. Nevertheless, there is no denying that the university educational system in Japan needs a complete overhaul. With Japan slowly losing its grip as a world economic leader, it is time for everyone involved to utilize the time spent at university and produce a more knowledgeable and skilled workforce. With our neighboring country China on the verge of becoming an economic giant, Japan cannot afford to let four years of higher education just slip by.

As for the students themselves, many of them are eager to learn and are also worried about their future. We can ask ourselves whether we should keep on having low expectations from our students or demand higher standards. I believe that as educators we are responsible for making our students better prepared for challenges facing them outside of school and in the real world. Society entrusts major responsibilities to educators, gives us high status and financial rewards, and expects us to have major impact on their students' lives both in and out of school (McKay, 1997).

The comparison of students in each department has certainly given a negative image to some, but we need to consider the fact that with the declining student population, some universities face difficulties recruiting students. The fact that some departments have more students with low motivation and study habits than others, does not necessarily mean that nothing can be done about it. We can certainly make a difference by providing them with emotional support, guidance as to where they want to go and what they wish to accomplish, and the discipline required to achieve something they have not yet been able to fulfill.

References

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Appendix A

1) アンサーシートの I. D. NUMBER の欄に、以下のように記入してください。

- 1 番目～3 番目の枠に学籍番号の最初の 3 桁 例) 1 年生は 102, 3 年生は 100
- 4 番目の枠に学科

1 = 政治経済学科 2 = コミュニティ政策学科 3 = 欧米文化学科

4 = 日本文化学科 5 = 児童学科 6 = 人間福祉学科

例) 政治経済学科の 2 年生は, 1011 人間福祉学科の 4 年生は, 0996

2) TEST FORM は A を塗ってください。

大学生・生活アンケート

(設問 1～35)

1. 性別

- A. 男性 B. 女性

2. あなたは一人暮らしですか、家族と住んでいますか？

- A. 一人暮らし B. 家族と住んでいる

3. 学生生活は楽しいですか。

- A. とても楽しい B. まあまあ楽しい C. あまり楽しくない D. 全く楽しくない

4. 学生生活で興味のあることは何ですか？

- A. 友達 B. クラブ C. 授業 D. アルバイト E. なし

5. この大学に何人くらい仲の良い友人がいますか？

- A. いない B. 1～2人 C. 3～4人 D. 4人以上

6. 週に何クラスの授業がありますか？(例えば、週 2 回以上あるクラスは 2 クラスと数えます)

- A. 5 クラス以下 B. 6～10 クラス C. 11～15 クラス D. 15 クラス以上

7. 家で週に何時間くらい勉強しますか？

- A. 2時間未満 B. 2～5時間 C. 5～10時間 D. 10時間以上

8. 週に何回くらい授業を休みますか？

- A. 休まない B. 1～3回 C. 4～6回 D. 7回以上

9. 今学期に何科目のクラスが不合格になると思いますか？(週2回あるクラスも1科目と数えてください)

- A. 全て合格 B. 1～2科目 C. 3～4科目 D. 5科目以上

10. 英語の勉強は好きですか？

- A. 好き B. ふうう C. 嫌い D. 大嫌い

11. この大学でクラブやサークルに所属していますか？

- A. はい B. いいえ

12. 夜はいつも何をしておきますか？

- A. テレビをみる B. 仕事(アルバイト等) C. 勉強 D. 友達と話す

13. 1日3食(朝食・昼食・夕食)を食べますか？

- A. いつも B. 時々 C. しない

14. 夕食はいつも誰と食べますか？

- A. 家族と B. 1人 C. 友達と

15. 週末は何をしますか？

- A. 仕事(アルバイト等) B. 寝るかテレビをみる C. 友達と出かける
D. 本を読むか勉強をする E. スポーツをする

16. 家から大学まで何分くらいかかりますか？

- A. 30分未満 B. 30～60分 C. 60～90分 D. 90分以上

17. 時間のある時、誰と過ごしますか？

- A. 1人で B. 友達と C. 家族と

18. 困った時に誰に相談しますか？

- A. 母親 B. 父親 C. 友達 D. 誰にもしない

19. 両親からもらう毎月のおこづかいの金額はどのくらいですか？

- A. 約2万円 B. 約3万円 C. 約4万円 D. 5万円以上
E. もらっていない

最近までアルバイトをしていた学生または今アルバイトをしていると答えた学生は、20番～24番の質問に答えて下さい。

20. 週に何日仕事（アルバイト等）をしますか？

- A. 1～2日 B. 3～4日 C. 5～6日

21. どの時間帯に働きますか？

- A. 昼間（8時～17時） B. 夜間（17時～0時） C. 深夜（0時以降）

22. 仕事（アルバイト等）の1ヶ月の収入は、いくらですか？

- A. 3万円以下 B. 3～5万円 C. 5～7万円 D. 7万円以上

23. 収入を何のために使いますか？

- A. 生活費 B. 衣服 C. 娯楽

24. どのような職種ですか？

- A. レストラン又は居酒屋 B. コンビニエンスストア C. 塾
D. デパート又はスーパー E. その他

25. 週に何時間くらいテレビを見ますか？

- A. 5時間未満 B. 5～10時間 C. 11～20時間 D. 20時間以上

26. 就寝時間は何時頃ですか？

- A. 午後11時以前 B. 午後11時～午前0時 C. 午前0時～午前1時
D. 午前1時以降

27. 授業のある日の睡眠時間は何時間くらいですか？

- A. 2時間未満 B. 2～4時間未満 C. 4～6時間未満 D. 6時間以上

28. 毎月の携帯電話料金はいくらですか？

- A. 5千円未満 B. 5千円～1万円 C. 1～2万円 D. 2万円以上

29. 読書をしますか？

- A. ほとんど毎日 B. 時々 C. たまに D. 全く読まない

30. 新聞やテレビのニュースをみますか？

- A. 毎日 B. ほとんど毎日 C. 時々 D. 全く見ない

31. 卒業後の就職について心配ですか？

- A. とても心配 B. 少し心配 C. 全く心配でない

32. この大学を卒業後、勉強を続ける予定ですか？

※ 32番の質問に「いいえ」と答えた学生は、33番の質問をとばしてください。

- A. はい B. たぶん C. いいえ

33. どこで勉強を続けたいですか？

- A. 日本国内で B. 海外で C. まだ分からない

34. ボランティア活動の経験がありますか？

- A. 現在している B. 以前ある C. 全くない

35. この大学は、あなたの第1希望でしたか？

- A. はい B. 第2希望 C. 第3希望 D. 希望外

Appendix B

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W	
NUMBER OF STUDENTS		595		126		83		134		104		73		75	
1	Are you a male or a female?														
A	Male	368	61.8%	110	87.3%	73	88.0%	67	50.0%	64	61.5%	22	30.1%	32	42.7%
B	Female	227	38.2%	16	12.7%	10	12.0%	67	50.0%	40	38.5%	51	69.9%	43	57.3%
2	Do you live alone or with your family?														
A	Alone	107	18.0%	19	15.1%	7	8.4%	27	20.1%	20	19.2%	18	24.7%	16	21.3%
B	With my family	487	81.8%	106	84.1%	76	91.6%	107	79.9%	84	80.8%	55	75.3%	59	78.7%
3	Are you enjoying your school life?														
A	Yes, very much.	108	18.2%	15	11.9%	6	7.2%	33	24.6%	19	18.3%	16	21.9%	19	25.3%
B	It's OK.	342	57.5%	66	52.4%	49	59.0%	75	56.0%	62	59.6%	46	63.0%	44	58.7%
C	Not very much.	111	18.7%	32	25.4%	24	28.9%	21	15.7%	14	13.5%	10	13.7%	10	13.3%
D	Not at all.	32	5.4%	13	10.3%	4	4.8%	5	3.7%	8	7.7%	1	1.4%	1	1.3%
4	What is interesting about your school life?														
A	Friends	316	53.1%	59	46.8%	31	37.3%	77	57.5%	56	53.8%	50	68.5%	43	57.3%
B	Club	51	8.6%	10	7.9%	12	14.5%	10	7.5%	11	10.6%	2	2.7%	6	8.0%
C	Classes	76	12.8%	17	13.5%	10	12.0%	18	13.4%	12	11.5%	9	12.3%	10	13.3%
D	Part-time job	61	10.3%	10	7.9%	15	18.1%	16	11.9%	9	8.7%	2	2.7%	9	12.0%
E	Nothing	86	14.5%	25	19.8%	15	18.1%	13	9.7%	16	15.4%	10	13.7%	7	9.3%

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W	
5	How many close friends do you have at this university?														
A	None	17	2.9%	11	8.7%	2	2.4%	1	0.7%	2	1.9%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%
B	One or two	64	10.8%	17	13.5%	11	13.3%	13	9.7%	16	15.4%	2	2.7%	5	6.7%
C	Three or four	112	18.8%	25	19.8%	12	14.5%	35	26.1%	21	20.2%	11	15.1%	8	10.7%
D	More than four	399	67.1%	72	57.1%	58	69.9%	85	63.4%	64	61.5%	58	79.5%	62	82.7%
6	How many classes do you have per week?														
A	Less than 5	14	2.4%	8	6.3%	1	1.2%	2	1.5%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
B	Between 6 and 10	124	20.8%	31	24.6%	25	30.1%	24	17.9%	28	26.9%	1	1.4%	15	20.0%
C	Between 11 and 15	358	60.2%	70	55.6%	50	60.2%	86	64.2%	59	56.7%	48	65.8%	45	60.0%
D	More than 15	95	16.0%	15	11.9%	6	7.2%	22	16.4%	13	12.5%	24	32.9%	15	20.0%
7	How many hours a week do you study at home?														
A	Less than 2 hours	432	72.6%	91	72.2%	65	78.3%	92	68.7%	79	76.0%	54	74.0%	51	68.0%
B	Between 2 and 5	125	21.0%	26	20.6%	13	15.7%	35	26.1%	17	16.3%	14	19.2%	20	26.7%
C	Between 5 and 10	26	4.4%	5	4.0%	4	4.8%	4	3.0%	5	4.8%	4	5.5%	4	5.3%
D	More than 10 hours	11	1.8%	3	2.4%	1	1.2%	3	2.2%	3	2.9%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%
8	How many classes do you skip per week?														
A	None	277	46.6%	36	28.6%	41	49.4%	60	44.8%	55	52.9%	44	60.3%	41	54.7%
B	Between 1 and 3	305	51.3%	85	67.5%	40	48.2%	71	53.0%	47	45.2%	29	39.7%	33	44.0%
C	Between 4 and 6	11	1.8%	4	3.2%	2	2.4%	2	1.5%	2	1.9%	0	0.0%	1	1.3%
D	More than 7	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL	P	L	A	J	C	W							
9	How many classes do you think you might fail this semester?														
A	None	216	36.3%	40	31.7%	24	28.9%	57	42.5%	27	26.0%	29	39.7%	39	52.0%
B	1 or 2	330	55.5%	71	56.3%	55	66.3%	64	47.8%	62	59.6%	43	58.9%	35	46.7%
C	3 or 4	41	6.9%	14	11.1%	2	2.4%	11	8.2%	12	11.5%	1	1.4%	1	1.3%
D	More than 5	6	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	2	1.5%	3	2.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10	Do you like studying English?														
A	"Yes, I like it."	158	26.6%	25	19.8%	18	21.7%	62	46.3%	25	24.0%	13	17.8%	15	20.0%
B	"It's OK."	308	51.8%	67	53.2%	43	51.8%	58	43.3%	51	49.0%	46	63.0%	43	57.3%
C	"No, I don't like it."	100	16.8%	28	22.2%	14	16.9%	11	8.2%	21	20.2%	12	16.4%	14	18.7%
D	"No, I hate it."	28	4.7%	5	4.0%	8	9.6%	3	2.2%	7	6.7%	2	2.7%	3	4.0%
11	Do you belong to any clubs at this university?														
A	Yes	220	37.0%	24	19.0%	32	38.6%	44	32.8%	44	42.3%	35	47.9%	41	54.7%
B	No	373	62.7%	101	80.2%	50	60.2%	90	67.2%	60	57.7%	38	52.1%	34	45.3%
12	What do you usually do in the evening?														
A	Watch TV	270	45.4%	56	44.4%	36	43.4%	50	37.3%	53	51.0%	32	43.8%	43	57.3%
B	Work	229	38.5%	47	37.3%	35	42.2%	58	43.3%	36	34.6%	34	46.6%	19	25.3%
C	Study	27	4.5%	5	4.0%	4	4.8%	5	3.7%	5	4.8%	2	2.7%	6	8.0%
D	Talk with friends	69	11.6%	16	12.7%	8	9.6%	20	14.9%	10	9.6%	6	8.2%	9	12.0%
13	Do you eat three meals a day (breakfast, lunch, dinner)?														
A	"Yes, always."	294	49.4%	48	38.1%	41	49.4%	69	51.5%	57	54.8%	49	67.1%	30	40.0%
B	"Yes, sometimes."	207	34.8%	47	37.3%	30	36.1%	49	36.6%	31	29.8%	15	20.5%	35	46.7%
C	"No, never."	93	15.6%	30	23.8%	12	14.5%	16	11.9%	16	15.4%	9	12.3%	10	13.3%

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W	
14	Who do you usually have dinner with?														
A	With family	294	49.4%	60	47.6%	40	48.2%	62	46.3%	54	51.9%	42	57.5%	36	48.0%
B	Alone	205	34.5%	33	26.2%	28	33.7%	53	39.6%	38	36.5%	25	34.2%	28	37.3%
C	With friends	92	15.5%	31	24.6%	15	18.1%	18	13.4%	12	11.5%	5	6.8%	11	14.7%
15	What do you usually do on weekends?														
A	Work	280	47.1%	56	44.4%	40	48.2%	67	50.0%	45	43.3%	37	50.7%	35	46.7%
B	Sleep & watch TV	81	13.6%	16	12.7%	14	16.9%	17	12.7%	19	18.3%	7	9.6%	8	10.7%
C	Go out with friends	168	28.2%	42	33.3%	22	26.5%	36	26.9%	22	21.2%	24	32.9%	22	29.3%
D	Read or study	29	4.9%	2	1.6%	1	1.2%	7	5.2%	9	8.7%	3	4.1%	7	9.3%
E	Play sports	34	5.7%	8	6.3%	5	6.0%	7	5.2%	9	8.7%	2	2.7%	3	4.0%
16	How long does it take you to get from your house to school?														
A	Less than 30 minutes	88	14.8%	18	14.3%	6	7.2%	17	12.7%	16	15.4%	13	17.8%	18	24.0%
B	Between 30 and 60 minutes	183	30.8%	37	29.4%	27	32.5%	44	32.8%	33	31.7%	22	30.1%	20	26.7%
C	Between 60 and 90 minutes	190	31.9%	48	38.1%	30	36.1%	49	36.6%	30	28.8%	16	21.9%	17	22.7%
D	More than 90 minutes	132	22.2%	22	17.5%	20	24.1%	24	17.9%	25	24.0%	21	28.8%	20	26.7%
17	How do you usually spend most of your free time?														
A	Alone	181	30.4%	37	29.4%	25	30.1%	40	29.9%	39	37.5%	18	24.7%	22	29.3%
B	With friends	352	59.2%	77	61.1%	49	59.0%	81	60.4%	52	50.0%	46	63.0%	47	62.7%
C	With family	58	9.7%	10	7.9%	9	10.8%	12	9.0%	12	11.5%	8	11.0%	7	9.3%
18	Who do you usually talk about your problems with?														
A	Mother	94	15.8%	12	9.5%	17	20.5%	25	18.7%	16	15.4%	10	13.7%	14	18.7%
B	Father	13	2.2%	4	3.2%	2	2.4%	0	0.0%	3	2.9%	3	4.1%	1	1.3%

DEPARTMENT			TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W	
C	Friends		389	65.4%	84	66.7%	49	59.0%	90	67.2%	64	61.5%	51	69.9%	51	68.0%
D	Nobody		99	16.6%	25	19.8%	15	18.1%	19	14.2%	21	20.2%	9	12.3%	10	13.3%
19	How much pocket money do you get from your parents every month?															
A	“About ¥20,000”		159	26.7%	32	25.4%	19	22.9%	34	25.4%	26	25.0%	25	34.2%	23	30.7%
B	“About ¥30,000”		52	8.7%	14	11.1%	10	12.0%	11	8.2%	7	6.7%	5	6.8%	5	6.7%
C	“About ¥40,000”		13	2.2%	4	3.2%	1	1.2%	2	1.5%	1	1.0%	2	2.7%	3	4.0%
D	“About ¥50,000”		41	6.9%	7	5.6%	5	6.0%	12	9.0%	8	7.7%	4	5.5%	5	6.7%
E	None		323	54.3%	67	53.2%	48	57.8%	75	56.0%	60	57.7%	35	47.9%	38	50.7%
Answer questions 20 to 24 only if you're working now or worked until recently																
20	How many days a week do you work?															
A	1 or 2 days		109	18.3%	21	16.7%	15	18.1%	18	13.4%	18	17.3%	18	24.7%	19	25.3%
B	3 or 4 days		256	43.0%	52	41.3%	35	42.2%	65	48.5%	40	38.5%	30	41.1%	34	45.3%
C	5 or 6 days		102	17.1%	27	21.4%	16	19.3%	27	20.1%	16	15.4%	9	12.3%	7	9.3%
21	What are your working hours?															
A	Day time (8-5)		85	14.3%	17	13.5%	13	15.7%	13	9.7%	17	16.3%	9	12.3%	16	21.3%
B	Evening (5-11)		335	56.3%	63	50.0%	45	54.2%	87	64.9%	50	48.1%	45	61.6%	45	60.0%
C	Late at night (after midnight)		47	7.9%	17	13.5%	7	8.4%	10	7.5%	7	6.7%	4	5.5%	2	2.7%
22	How much do you earn in a month?															
A	“Less than ¥30,000”		47	7.9%	5	4.0%	3	3.6%	10	7.5%	9	8.7%	13	17.8%	7	9.3%
B	“Between ¥30,000 and ¥50,000”		135	22.7%	20	15.9%	17	20.5%	31	23.1%	20	19.2%	19	26.0%	28	37.3%
C	“Between ¥50,000 and ¥70,000”		150	25.2%	40	31.7%	15	18.1%	38	28.4%	23	22.1%	16	21.9%	18	24.0%
D	“More than ¥70,000”		134	22.5%	34	27.0%	31	37.3%	31	23.1%	22	21.2%	9	12.3%	7	9.3%

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W	
23	How do you usually use the money you've earned from your part-time job?														
A	Pay the living expenses	152	25.5%	27	21.4%	25	30.1%	40	29.9%	26	25.0%	16	21.9%	18	24.0%
B	Buy clothes	121	20.3%	23	18.3%	13	15.7%	23	17.2%	22	21.2%	24	32.9%	16	21.3%
C	Entertainment	203	34.1%	48	38.1%	28	33.7%	49	36.6%	29	27.9%	19	26.0%	30	40.0%
24	Where do you work?														
A	Restaurant or "izakaya"	145	24.4%	26	20.6%	17	20.5%	39	29.1%	20	19.2%	22	30.1%	21	28.0%
B	Convenience store	39	6.6%	11	8.7%	6	7.2%	5	3.7%	4	3.8%	6	8.2%	7	9.3%
C	"Juku"	11	1.8%	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	3	2.2%	0	0.0%	2	2.7%	4	5.3%
D	Department store or supermarket	73	12.3%	15	11.9%	14	16.9%	12	9.0%	12	11.5%	9	12.3%	11	14.7%
E	Other	199	33.4%	46	36.5%	29	34.9%	51	38.1%	38	36.5%	18	24.7%	17	22.7%
25	How many hours of TV do you watch in a week?														
A	Less than 5 hours	205	34.5%	34	27.0%	36	43.4%	58	43.3%	38	36.5%	21	28.8%	18	24.0%
B	Between 6 and 10 hours	192	32.3%	43	34.1%	25	30.1%	34	25.4%	32	30.8%	29	39.7%	29	38.7%
C	Between 11 and 20 hours	123	20.7%	27	21.4%	15	18.1%	24	17.9%	22	21.2%	16	21.9%	19	25.3%
D	More than 20 hours	63	10.6%	19	15.1%	7	8.4%	13	9.7%	10	9.6%	5	6.8%	9	12.0%
26	What time do you usually go to bed?														
A	Before 11:00 pm	23	3.9%	3	2.4%	2	2.4%	8	6.0%	5	4.8%	4	5.5%	1	1.3%
B	Before 12:00 am	94	15.8%	16	12.7%	14	16.9%	22	16.4%	18	17.3%	14	19.2%	10	13.3%
C	Before 1:00 am	202	33.9%	35	27.8%	27	32.5%	43	32.1%	30	28.8%	32	43.8%	35	46.7%
D	After 1:00 am	266	44.7%	69	54.8%	40	48.2%	56	41.8%	49	47.1%	23	31.5%	29	38.7%
27	How many hours of sleep do you usually get on the days that you have school?														
A	Less than 2 hours	14	2.4%	6	4.8%	0	0.0%	2	1.5%	4	3.8%	1	1.4%	1	1.3%

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W	
B	Less than 4 hours	75	12.6%	20	15.9%	16	19.3%	17	12.7%	15	14.4%	0	0.0%	7	9.3%
C	Less than 6 hours	346	58.2%	68	54.0%	51	61.4%	79	59.0%	57	54.8%	49	67.1%	42	56.0%
D	More than 6 hours	148	24.9%	28	22.2%	16	19.3%	31	23.1%	26	25.0%	22	30.1%	25	33.3%
28 How much do you spend on your cell-phone each month?															
A	"Less than ¥5,000"	97	16.3%	13	10.3%	15	18.1%	16	11.9%	32	30.8%	13	17.8%	8	10.7%
B	"Between ¥5,000 and ¥10,000"	282	47.4%	55	43.7%	33	39.8%	66	49.3%	46	44.2%	39	53.4%	43	57.3%
C	"Between ¥10,000 and ¥20,000"	172	28.9%	49	38.9%	29	34.9%	38	28.4%	17	16.3%	18	24.7%	21	28.0%
D	"More than ¥20,000"	29	4.9%	5	4.0%	6	7.2%	9	6.7%	5	4.8%	1	1.4%	3	4.0%
29 Do you read books for pleasure?															
A	"Yes, almost every day."	79	13.3%	19	15.1%	7	8.4%	16	11.9%	21	20.2%	5	6.8%	11	14.7%
B	"Yes, sometimes."	158	26.6%	27	21.4%	23	27.7%	35	26.1%	33	31.7%	25	34.2%	15	20.0%
C	"Yes, occasionally."	221	37.1%	45	35.7%	26	31.3%	50	37.3%	34	32.7%	29	39.7%	37	49.3%
D	"No."	124	20.8%	31	24.6%	27	32.5%	28	20.9%	14	13.5%	12	16.4%	12	16.0%
30 Do you read the newspaper or watch the news on TV?															
A	"Yes, every day."	133	22.4%	36	28.6%	25	30.1%	31	23.1%	27	26.0%	18	24.7%	23	30.7%
B	"Yes, usually."	148	24.9%	38	30.2%	23	27.7%	41	30.6%	35	33.7%	21	28.8%	25	33.3%
C	"Yes, sometimes."	173	29.1%	43	34.1%	26	31.3%	49	36.6%	38	36.5%	30	41.1%	25	33.3%
D	"No, never."	27	4.5%	6	4.8%	9	10.8%	8	6.0%	2	1.9%	2	2.7%	2	2.7%
31 Are you worried about finding a good job after you graduate?															
A	"Yes, very much."	251	42.2%	79	62.7%	44	53.0%	66	49.3%	60	57.7%	33	45.2%	29	38.7%
B	"Yes, a little."	196	32.9%	38	30.2%	35	42.2%	47	35.1%	38	36.5%	36	49.3%	40	53.3%
C	"Not at all."	34	5.7%	6	4.8%	4	4.8%	16	11.9%	4	3.8%	2	2.7%	6	8.0%

DEPARTMENT		TOTAL		P		L		A		J		C		W		
32	Are you planning to continue your studies after you graduate from this university?															
	A	Yes	74	12.4%	15	11.9%	18	21.7%	19	14.2%	20	19.2%	13	17.8%	9	12.0%
	B	Maybe	117	19.7%	29	23.0%	12	14.5%	32	23.9%	25	24.0%	15	20.5%	29	38.7%
	C	No	287	48.2%	77	61.1%	52	62.7%	78	58.2%	57	54.8%	43	58.9%	37	49.3%
“Skip question 33 if you answered “No” to question 32																
33	Where are you planning to continue your studies?															
	A	In Japan	91	15.3%	20	15.9%	9	10.8%	13	9.7%	21	20.2%	14	19.2%	14	18.7%
	B	Abroad	57	9.6%	8	6.3%	7	8.4%	24	17.9%	10	9.6%	6	8.2%	2	2.7%
	C	Don't know yet	71	11.9%	14	11.1%	10	12.0%	12	9.0%	14	13.5%	6	8.2%	15	20.0%
34	Are you doing or have you done any volunteer work?															
	A	“Yes, I'm doing it now.”	46	7.7%	7	5.6%	3	3.6%	9	6.7%	6	5.8%	9	12.3%	12	16.0%
	B	“Yes, I've done it before.”	290	48.7%	54	42.9%	39	47.0%	72	53.7%	40	38.5%	40	54.8%	45	60.0%
	C	“No, I've never done it.”	233	39.2%	59	46.8%	33	39.8%	47	35.1%	56	53.8%	20	27.4%	18	24.0%
35	Was this university your first choice?															
	A	“Yes, it was.”	241	40.5%	40	31.7%	39	47.0%	53	39.6%	42	40.4%	33	45.2%	34	45.3%
	B	“No, it was my second choice.”	68	11.4%	15	11.9%	9	10.8%	18	13.4%	13	12.5%	10	13.7%	3	4.0%
	C	“No, it was my third choice.”	91	15.3%	20	15.9%	15	18.1%	18	13.4%	10	9.6%	12	16.4%	16	21.3%
	D	“No, it was my last choice.”	163	27.4%	40	31.7%	13	15.7%	38	28.4%	36	34.6%	15	20.5%	21	28.0%