

Introduction to Japanese Society (October 2021)

Grading Rubric

Using the following points system, all students will receive a raw score out of 100. This determines students' rankings within the class. Grades are then distributed according to university guidelines for GPA.

Mini Exams (60%)

People in Tokyo: There are four mini exams given in weeks 3, 6, 9, and 13. Each mini exam lasts 30 minutes. You write one short essay based on the class materials in the preceding weeks. The essay title is given on the class website. You may prepare in advance what to write. However, the essays are written under exam conditions (no memos, books, dictionaries, mobile phones etc.).

Your best three exam scores will be used. People who miss the exam **must** submit the exam essay as a make-up report of 600 words (score 12, i.e. standard).

People outside Japan: Submit your exam essay by email on the day of the exam. Submit it as a word file (you can download it from the class website). Rather than being a timed essay, there is a very strict word count of 580 to 620 words. Your challenge is what interesting things you can say in that number of words. Essays longer than 621 words or shorter than 579 receive C (substandard, 1 point).

After arriving in Japan, you switch to taking the mini exams in class.

	Fail	C (sub-standard)	B (standard)	A (excellent)
Length	0	1	3	5
Evidence of reading and self study	0	1	3	5
Quality of argument	0	1	3	5
Organization and logic	0	1	3	5

Tutorial/Q&A Sessions (10%)

During class time there will be Q&A sessions (and online tutorial sessions for those outside Japan). Higher points are gained for interesting and positive contributions. (Note that speaking all the time and preventing your classmates from asking questions means a C grade!).

	Fail	C (sub-standard)	B (standard)	A (excellent)
Tutorial Sessions and Q&A	0	4	7	10

Active Learning Hours Portfolio (30%)

During the course, you will write an Active Learning Hours Portfolio (ALHP). The portfolio comprises summaries of five academic articles, and commentary on them. The articles you can read are in the section “Active Learning Hours Articles” on the class website. All instructions are in the ALHP template, which can be downloaded from the class website.

Submission: Submit your ALHP by email as a PDF file by 10 December (earlier submissions are welcomed/encouraged).

Grading: Points are given for the seven parts of the ALHP. Introduction (about your reading strategy, 5 points), article summaries (4 points x 5), commentary (5 points). Completing the ALHP at the standard level is 21 points.

	Fail	C (sub-standard)	B (standard)	A (excellent)
Introduction	0	1	3	5
Article 1	0	1	3	4
Article 2	0	1	3	4
Article 3	0	1	3	4
Article 4	0	1	3	4
Article 5	0	1	3	4
Commentary	0	1	3	5

Submitting Assignment Files by Email

This is VERY important. All files submitted by email (mini exams, ALHP etc) should have a file name in this format

“Student number + IJS + [your title]”

E.g. 01234567 IJS Tanaka ALH.docx

E.g. 01234567 IJS Wk 6 exam.pdf

This saves huge amounts of time when managing hundreds of files.