

Japanese Geography

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purposes of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context:

Throughout history, regional geography has led to long-lasting impacts on the political, economic, and cultural development of people and societies.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the essay in which you are asked to

- Choose *two* specific geographic features that have affected Japan and for *each*
- Describe the feature.
 - Explain the impact the feature has had on the political, economic, or cultural development of Japan.

In developing your answers to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”

(b) describe means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from at least *four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

Name: _____

Geography of Japan DBQ

PART 1: Rewrite the task into a question. What is the task asking you to answer?

PART 2: Analyzing the question and what it is asking of you: A Quick Map

<i>Task Box</i>		

PART 3: Answer the essay question in one complete and specific sentence. This is essentially your thesis statement.

Geography of Japan DBQ

DIRECTIONS: Choose documents that YOU WOULD USE to complete the essay question and

- a. Write the number and OVERALL TOPIC in the first box
- b. Bullet notes from the document that are RELEVANT to the essay question.
- c. Bullet specific outside information RELEVANT to the document TOPIC.

Document # and Topic	Document Info	Outside Info

Document 1

One of the first landmarks in the effort to remake the Japanese state in the form of China's sophisticated institutions was the Constitution of Prince Shotoku, also known as the "Seventeen-Article Constitution."

"(1) Harmony should be valued and quarrels should be avoided. Everyone has his biases, and few men are far-sighted.

(2) The three treasures, which are Buddha, the (Buddhist) Law and the (Buddhist) Priesthood, should be given sincere reverence, for they are the final refuge of all living things. Few men are so bad that they cannot be taught their truth.

....

(14) Do not be envious! For if we envy others, then they in turn will envy us. The evils of envy know no limit."

1. According to the document, what were two important concepts in maintaining a stable Japanese society? [2]

(1) _____

(2) _____

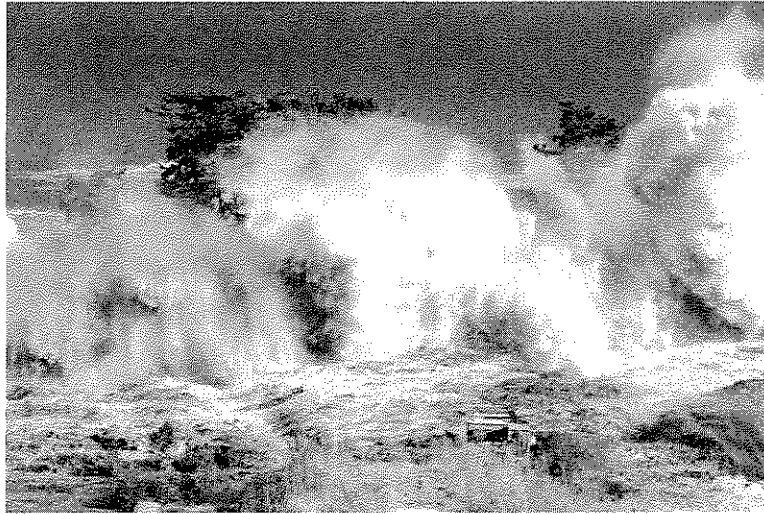
Document 2

“(3) Do not fail to obey the commands of your Sovereign. He is like Heaven, which is above the Earth, and the vassal is like the Earth which looks up to Heaven. When Heaven and Earth are properly in place, the four seasons follow their course and all is well in Nature. But if the Earth attempts to take the place of heaven, Heaven would simply fall in ruin. That is why the vassal listens when the lord speaks, and the inferior obeys when the superior acts. Consequently when you receive the commands of your Sovereign, do not fail to carry them out or ruin will be the natural result.”

1. According to the document, what should every person in society do? [1]

2. According to the document, what would be the result of a vassal failing in his or her duty? [1]

Document 3



“The quake that hit Japan with such brutality seven months ago altered the archipelago's position on the planet in more ways than one.

The country literally shifted more than 5 meters, and as a result now nestles on a tectonic plate slightly closer to North America.

But while dramatic, this is not the only seismic change Japan experienced. Everything from business practices to everyday behaviors, societal trends to shared values have taken on new shape following the 9.0-magnitude quake that struck March 11.

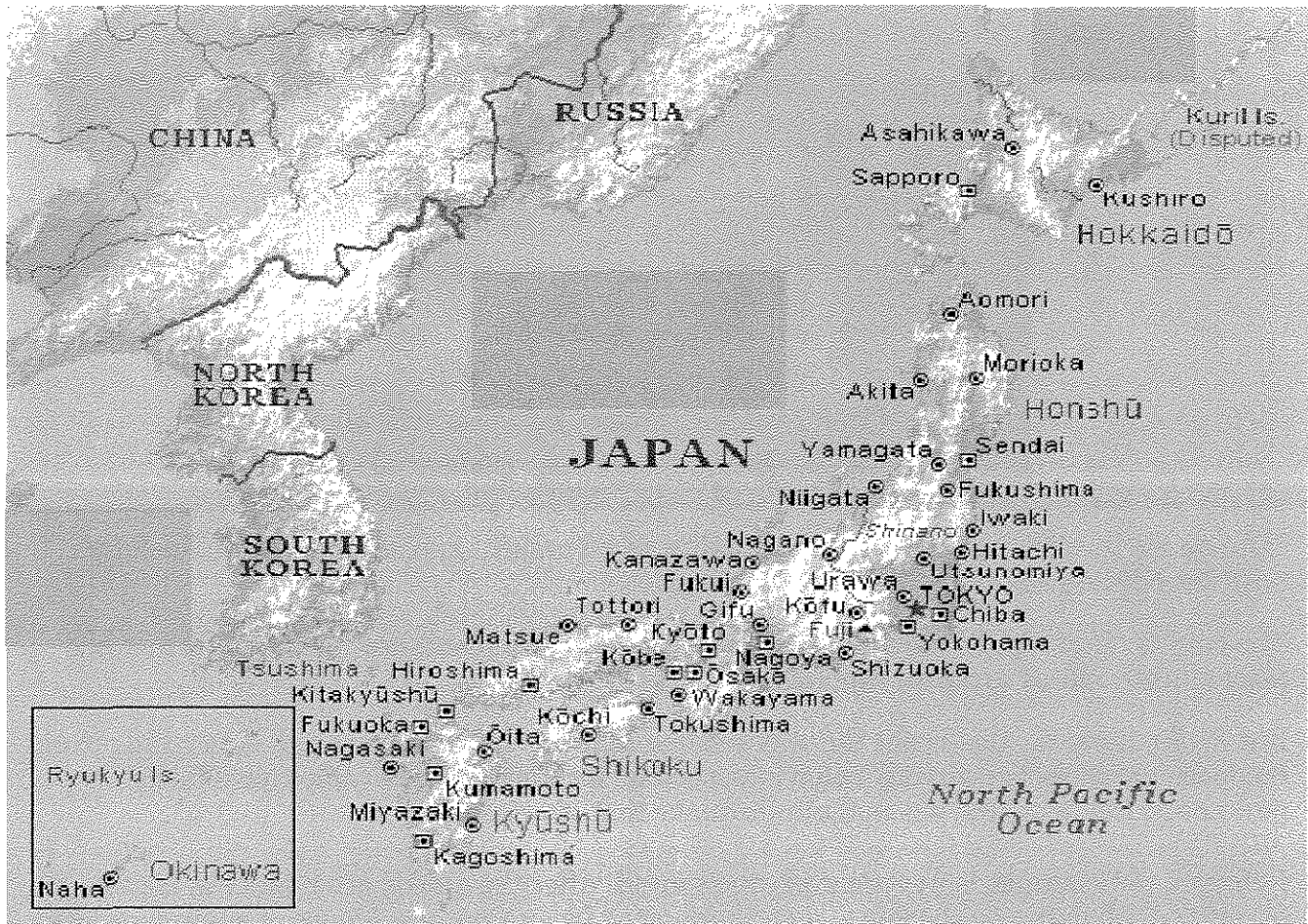
Religion, for example, is now on everyone's mind. After the quake, attendance at centers for organized religion rose sharply — a fact supported by anecdotal evidence at a few churches and shrines around Tokyo.”

Source: <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/asia-pacific/japan/111004/japan-culture-tsunami-earthquake-marriage-religion-work>

1. According to the document, what was **one** geological effect of the 2011 Japanese tsunami? [1]

2. According to the document, what was **one** cultural impact of the 2011 Japanese tsunami? [1]

Document 4



1. According to the map, what are two physical features of Japan? [2]

(1) _____

(2) _____

Document 5

Japanese society had an elaborate social structure, in which everyone knew their place and level of prestige. At the top were the emperor and the court nobility, invincible in prestige but weak in power. Next came the shogun, daimyo and layers of feudal lords whose rank was indicated by their closeness to the Shogunate. They had power. The "daimyo" comprised about 250 local lords of local lands with annual outputs of 50,000 or more bushels of rice. The upper classes were much given to elaborate and expensive rituals, including elegant architecture, landscaped gardens, dramas, patronage of the arts, and the tea ceremony.

Next in the social structure were the 400,000 warriors, called "samurai", whose ranks ranged in numerous grades and degrees. A few upper samurai were eligible for high office; most were foot soldiers (ashigaru) with minor duties. The samurai were affiliated with daimyo in a well-established chain of command. Most lived in modest homes near their lord's headquarters, and lived off hereditary rights to collect rents and stipends. Together these high status groups comprised Japan's ruling class making up about 6% of the total population.

The lower social order of peasants—80% of the population—whose high prestige as producers was undercut by their burden as the chief source of taxes. They were illiterate and lived in villages controlled by appointed officials who kept the peace and collected taxes.

1. According to the document, which two classes maintained the **most** political power in feudal Japan? [1]

2. According to the document, what were the samurais' two means of income? [1]

3. According to the document, how did political power compare to population? [1]

4. According to the document, what is one reason the peasants lacked political and/or economic power? [1]

Document 6

During the Edo Period, the administration of the country was shared by over two hundred daimyo in a federation governed by the shogunate. The leaders of the victorious eastern army in the Battle of Sekigahara, was the most powerful of them and for fifteen generations monopolized the title of *Shogun*. With their headquarters at Edo (present-day Tokyo), the Shogun commanded the allegiance of the other daimyō, who in turn ruled their domains with a rather high degree of autonomy.

The Shogunate carried out a number of significant policies. They placed the samurai class above the commoners: the agriculturists, artisans, and merchants. They enacted laws limiting hairstyle, dress, and accessories. They organized commoners into groups of five. To prevent daimyō from rebelling, the shōguns required them to maintain lavish residences in Edo, carry out expensive processions to and from their domains.

1. According to the document, what did the daimyo receive in return for their loyalty? [1]

2. According to the map, what were two ways the shoguns during the Edo Period attempted to maintain control of the Japanese people? [2]

(1) _____

(2) _____
