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January 30 2021

### Interview Summary

Virtues such as politeness, etiquette, and respect for all distinguish the Japanese culture. These are values that the Japanese hold high and teach their children from a young age. The people perceive greetings as essential, and they do not engage with each other without enquiring about one another's wellbeing. It is an important action that characterizes daily human interaction, while they have various ways of greeting a person, some of them are common, so for my interview, I asked a good friend from Japan about greetings, in which they say "ohayo gozaimasu" meaning good morning used in the morning hours, "konnichiwa" which means good afternoon and used in the afternoon hours, and "konbanwa" meaning good evening in the night hours.

Social problems are persistent conditions that have negative, far-reaching implications on large sections of the population. They are issues that affect the standard and quality of life that the affected populations lead. I was told that unlike the US, Japan does not have many social problems. For example, the US is rife with racism, which continues to burden the African American community in present-day society. On the other hand, Japan has less racism and one of the world's lowest crime rates (Bucknall 9). The country is also eco-friendly compared to the US and other developed nations like China and Russia. However, some of its social problems that stand out are its high debt and aging population.

There are significant cultural differences between Japanese and American culture. There is a difference in how one talks to people they do not know. In Japan, politeness is essential, and almost everyone is modest, humble, and shy. These traits make getting along with new people in Japan challenging as one must exercise patience as people are shy and try to be polite and humble. On the contrary, people can randomly greet you in the US and start having a conversation with you when they do not know you. Hence, the US is more laid back, less restrictive, and easier for new people to get along.

Another notable difference my friend clarified between Japanese and American cultures is the nations' focus and commitment to environmental consciousness. Japan's culture prohibits people from littering. One cannot dispose of waste in trash bins and throw it out anytime. Instead, there is a schedule and a system that everyone follows. The garbage is separated into many categories such as combustible and noncombustible waste, plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles, cardboard, and recyclable. To facilitate efficient waste handling, a different category of trash gets taken out each day. While the US has a waste collection system, its culture does not prioritize environmental conservation and protection like Japan.

The education system and schools in Japan and the US vary. Some of the notable differences between Japanese and American schools are the use of technology and attire. In Japan, schools have a strict dress code, and learners wear uniforms (Bucknall 2). In the US, schools lack strict dress codes. The technology in Japan is older, and institutions use chalkboards while the US relies on smart devices. While students must participate in extra-curricular activities, they do not have janitors like in the US. Japanese students do the cleaning and have longer school hours. Despite the differences, both countries seek to generate a skilled workforce to serve the community.

## Work Cited

Bucknall, Kevin. "The Most Important Elements in Japanese Culture, Especially for Those Doing Business with Japan". *Zen40585.Zen.Co.Uk*,  
<http://www.zen40585.zen.co.uk/The%20Most%20Important%20Elements%20in%20Japanese%20Culture.pdf>.