

JAPAN TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS #1

PP. 222-230 (CHAPTERS 1 & 2)

- Answer questions in complete sentences, in blue or black ink (word-processed answers are preferred). Most questions can be answered fully in 1–3 sentences.
- Restate the question in your answer.
- Answers will be glued into notebooks after they are scored.

1. According to Japanese mythology, what did the Sun Goddess give?
2. List the three symbols of the emperor's divine power.
3. How many large islands make up Japan?
4. What is Japan's greatest resource?
5. Which island is Mt. Fuji on?
6. (p.225) What is an important part of the Shinto religion?
7. (p. 225) Explain why the Japanese believed that the emperor was "divine."
8. (p. 226) What royal person encouraged the spread of Buddhism in Japan?
9. (p. 226) Why did the Japanese find Buddhism attractive?
10. (p. 226) What were the Taika reforms? Give specific examples.
11. (p. 226) How did the Taika reforms affect the wealthy clans?
12. (p. 226) How did the reforms affect the lives of the peasants? Explain.
13. (p.227) List two qualities that were admired in women by the medieval Japanese.
14. (p.227) What was Kyoto?
15. (p. 227) Why was Nara abandoned as the capital city?
16. (p. 230) What was a courtier? How did they support themselves?
17. (p. 228) What were the characteristics of Shingon Buddhism?
18. (p.229) Where did the original Japanese writing system, Kanji, come from? Describe this writing system.
19. (p. 229) Describe the hiragana style of Japanese writing. How is it different from Kanji writing? How did it allow the Japanese to be more expressive?
20. Why did Lady Murasaki Shikibu's father regret that she had not been born a son? What famous work of fiction did she write?
21. Although the Taika Reforms had broken up their lands, by 1100 the nobles in the provinces had taken back control of much of this territory. Explain.
22. Why were the provinces ignored by the imperial court?
23. What did small landowners do to avoid military service and taxes?
24. Who were the "dwellers among the clouds? Explain how this name fits them.