

Common-sense assumptions of the majority of Japanese people

Many of the beliefs below are common in the U.S. as well, but often the stress is greater or different in Japan.

A Belonging is important.

1. Family, friends and community are very important.
2. Children are made and owned by their parents.
3. Funerals and honoring the dead are important.
4. Harmony is good; anger and judging are bad.
5. Churches are just man-made religious clubs.
6. Believing is not as important as belonging.
7. Being kind and helpful is very important.

B Safety is important.

1. It is safe to follow the leader.
2. A secure job is very important.
3. The group provides the security.
4. Physical health is very important.
5. It is good to avoid trouble and blame.
6. Change and being different are dangerous.
7. It is dangerous to believe in absolute truth.

C Education is important.

1. Entrance exams and credentials are very important.
2. Parents should encourage their children to study.
3. Drilling and memorizing are very important.
4. Experience and seniority are important.
5. It is important to know the trends.
6. Evolution explains most of nature.
7. The Bible is not worth studying.

D The present is important.

1. The present matters the most.
2. Ancient history is mostly irrelevant.
3. A tradition is good IF it is still popular.
4. The future is uncertain and unknowable.
5. There is no great plan / God of human history.
6. We can make things better by working together.
7. Good team work should be honored in the present.

E Japanese culture is important.

1. Most Japanese are not criminals.
2. Keeping Japan Japanese is important.
3. Though demanding, life in Japan is good.
4. Japanese nature is more than just nature.
5. Israel is just a faraway, religious trouble spot.
6. Christianity is foreign; Japanese Buddhists are not.
7. Superficial borrowing from other cultures is helpful.