

Student 1: Achieved

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Each country in the world has their own style of education system, but the purpose of each is to make children become energetic persons to live in a society. The system of education has been developed and improved in each country as time has gone by along with changes in generations. Each country's traditions, history and needs also put a great influence on their education system. This essay will focus on similarities and differences of secondary school systems by comparing two countries, New Zealand and Japan.

There is a large distance between New Zealand and Japan, so the difference of school system would also be large. To begin with, there are twenty to forty pupils in a class in Japan but only twelve to twenty-five in New Zealand. This means that New Zealand has about half class size of Japan so teachers can take care of each student more carefully, while Japanese students can absorb many opinions or thoughts from other students. Also, in terms of compulsory subjects, there is a big difference in two countries. The number of subjects Japanese students need to take is about fifteen through three years of high school and the curriculum has been determined. Therefore, almost all the students learn the same thing through a year. In contrast, in New Zealand, there is no subject required to take for Year 12 and 13 students aged 16 to 18. Year 11 students need to take English, Mathematics and Science though. New Zealand's school system respects students' autonomy much more than Japan so students can concentrate on what they really want to do from an early age.

In addition to the compulsory subjects, the years of compulsory education differ slightly in two countries. Compulsory education in Japan is six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school, so in total nine years. Despite that fact, nearly one hundred percent of children go to high school after junior high school graduation... The New Zealand government require parents to have their children educated for ten years from six to sixteen years old which is one year longer than Japan.

In spite of these differences, there are also a few similarities in education system of two countries. To give an example, both Japanese and New Zealander students are required to spend approximately 200 days a year in school. Although they attend similar numbers of days, the types of holidays are quite different. In New Zealand, for instance, students have two weeks holidays three times which are autumn, winter and spring break and six weeks for summer break. However, in Japan students have no autumn break but one month each for spring and summer break and two weeks each winter break. It is clear that each country has different types of holiday which suits the climate, environment and people's ways of working.

Consequently, education system of these two countries, New Zealand and Japan, are quite different in several ways but they seem similar in a few ways as well, so we cannot say that it is completely the same or different as a rule. Each country has developed their own style of education system so far, and they will surely continue looking for a better way which fits their own needs and society with changes in generations.

550 words