

B1  
Discussion  
Topics  
2018

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date	Class #	Class Content	Topic	Preparation Score	Discussion Self-evaluation Score	Reaction Score
	1	Supplementary 1				
	2	Discussion #1	Study Abroad			
	3					
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**Website for Articles**

PDF copies of all of the articles used for this course can be found at this website.

**B1 : <http://www.pellit.org/b1>**

### **1 Topic: Study Abroad**

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Article: More Japanese may be studying abroad, but not for long

#### **Vocabulary**

1 barrier	7 financial problem	13 human resource
2 character building	8 gap year	14 multilingual
3 compete (competition)	9 globalization	15 recruitment
4 curiosity	10 government policy	16 scholarship
5 employment	11 government subsidy	17 student loan
6 culture shock	12 homesickness	18 working holiday

#### **Discussion questions**

- \*2 What do you think are the advantages/disadvantages of studying abroad?
- \*3 What do you think are the positive and negative aspects of globalization?
- \*4 How do you predict society will change in the next 10 years in your country?
- 5 If you have a chance to go abroad, where do you want to go?
- 6 Share an experience you have had in a foreign country or communicating with a foreigner.
- 7 What is your ideal job in the future?

### **2 Topic: Cell Phone in Society / Social Networks**

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Article: My Cellphone, My Love

#### **Vocabulary**

1 addiction	7 fraud	13 personal information
2 anxiety	8 information society	14 prohibit
3 compulsive	9 innovation	15 public transportation
4 convenient	10 interpersonal relationship	16 self-restraint
5 dependence	11 media literacy	17 technophile
6 etiquette	12 offensive	18 technophobia

#### **Discussion questions**

- \*2 What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of cell phones?
- \*3 What age do you think children should be allowed to have a cell phone?
- \*4 What are some good and bad points about using social networks?
- 5 Do you use a social networking site? How and why or why not?
- 6 Do you think it should be illegal to speak on a cell phone while driving?
- 7 What do you think about the problem of cell phone addiction in your country?

### **3 Topic: Problems in Schools**

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Article: Former MLB Pitcher Kuwata Rejects Corporal Punishment in Sports

#### **Vocabulary**

1 bullying	7 mental suffering	13 rules
2 control	8 power harassment	14 scold
3 counseling	9 prevent	15 suffer
4 crime	10 psychology	16 suicide
5 incident	11 punishment	17 victim
6 instruction	12 reform	18 violence

#### **Discussion questions**

- \*2 What are the major characteristics you think a coach / teacher should have?
- \*3 What problems are there with bullying in university? How can they be solved?
- \*4 What did you like best / least about your high school?
- 5 What do you think about the system of sports clubs in high school?
- 6 What were some of the rules you had to follow at your high school?
- 7 What do you think about corporal punishment?

#### **4 Topic: Quality of Life in Japan**

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Article: OECD Better Life Index - Japan

##### **Vocabulary**

1 balancing work and life	7 overwork	13 safety
2 developed country	8 perception	14 satisfaction
3 dissatisfaction	9 poor	15 security
4 free time	10 quality of life	16 wealth
5 happiness	11 rank	17 well-being
6 leisure	12 rich	18 work

##### **Discussion questions**

- \*2 What aspects of life do you think are good in your country? Why are they good?
- \*3 What aspects of life do you think are bad in your country? How can they be improved?
- \*4 Twenty years from now how do you think life will have changed in Japan?
- 5 Are you happy or unhappy with your life in your country?
- 6 What do you think of your university life?
- 7 What do you think is the main factor for happiness in life?

#### **5 Topic: Globalization of the World Economy**

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Article: The Threat of Globalization

##### **Vocabulary**

1 accumulate	7 income tax	13 protest
2 be self-sufficient	8 inequality	14 recession / depression
3 compromise	9 international trade	15 rich / poor
4 disparity	10 luxury	16 trade treaty
5 essential goods	11 poverty	17 upper-class / middle-class
6 free trade	12 profit	18 well off

##### **Discussion questions**

- \*2 What do you think are the positive aspects of globalization for your country/for you?
- \*3 How do you predict society will change in the next 10 years in your country?
- \*4 What do you think about being sent overseas to work?
- 5 How would you define being poor in your country?
- 6 How would you define being in the middle-class in your country?
- 7 How would you define being in the upper-class in your country?

#### **6 Topic: Nuclear Energy**

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Article: Government Fails to Address Contradictions Over Japan's Nuclear Future

##### **Vocabulary**

1 accident	7 natural disaster	13 radiation
2 alternative energy	8 nuclear waste	14 radioactive contamination
3 crisis	9 planned power outage	15 radioactivity
4 damage	10 polluted water	16 risk
5 fossil fuel	11 preparedness	17 safety
6 man-made disaster	12 prevent	18 safety standards

##### **Discussion questions**

- \*2 What do you think about the nuclear disaster in Fukushima?
- \*3 What do you think about restarting nuclear power plants in Japan?
- \*4 How do you think Japan should produce the energy it needs?
- 5 What do you think about eating food grown in Fukushima prefecture?
- 6 What do you think about the problems people are facing in Fukushima prefecture?
- 7 What do you think about solar energy use in Japan?

## 7 Topic: Symbols of Japan

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Article: Symbols of Japan (Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco)

### Vocabulary

1 castles	7 Edo era	13 national holidays
2 celebration	8 emperor	14 palace
3 cherry blossoms	9 empress	15 patriotism
4 chrysanthemum	10 festivals	16 royal succession
5 crown prince	11 Japanese garden	17 temples
6 crown princess	12 national anthem	18 tradition

### Discussion questions

- \*2 What do you think about the royal family system in Japan?
- \*3 What do you think about Japanese traditional culture? What should be done to preserve it?
- \*4 Which national holiday do you enjoy the most? Why?
- 5 What places do you think are symbols of Japan? Why?
- 6 What cultural traditions do you think are symbols of Japan?
- 7 Do you think *Kimigayo* is appropriate as the national anthem of Japan?

## 8 Topic: Money

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Article: The King and the Farmer

### Vocabulary

1 budget	7 disposable income	13 philanthropy
2 credit card	8 insurance	14 prepaid card
3 debit card	9 interest rate	15 risk
4 debt	10 investment	16 risk averse / risk taker
5 dividend	11 loan	17 stock
6 gambling	12 payment	18 values

### Discussion questions

- \*2 If you win a large amount of money in the lottery, what will you do with the money?
- \*3 What do you think about saving money? What do you think about debt?
- \*4 What do you think about the cost of university education?.
- 5 How did you learn about using and saving money?
- 6 What do you think about giving money to charity?
- 7 How do you budget your money each month?

## 9 Topic: Japanese Language Diversity

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Article: Dialect Diversity

### Vocabulary

1 accent	7 intimidate	13 provincial
2 dialect	8 intonation	14 region
3 diversity	9 slang	15 suffix
4 embarrassed	10 prefix	16 uniformity
5 generation gap	11 pride	17 voiced consonant
6 inferiority complex	12 pronunciation	18 vulgar

### Discussion questions

- \*2 What are the characteristics of the language in your region?
- \*3 What dialect (ben) do you like or dislike? Why?
- \*4 What do you think about young people's language (wakamono-kotoba)?
- 5 Do you think it is important to preserve dying dialects or languages?
- 6 Should students be educated in a standard language or their native dialect?
- 7 Share a positive or negative experience you have had related to a dialect.

**10 Topic: New Technologies**

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Article: Japan to ban drone flights by individuals in residential areas

**Vocabulary**

1 3D printer	7 disruptive technology	13 innovation
2 Artificial Intelligence (AI)	8 drone	14 invention
3 breakthrough	9 drone operator	15 inventor
4 cutting edge	10 future	16 regulate
5 develop	11 groundbreaking	17 robotics
6 device	12 industry group	18 transforming

**Discussion questions**

- \*2 What technology do you think has changed the way people live the most?
- \*3 What technology or device developed in your country is impressive to you?
- \*4 What kinds of science technology do you want developed in the future?
- 5 What do you think are the good and bad points of drones and robots?
- 6 Do you think that e-readers will replace books? Why?
- 7 What do you think about 3D printing?