

**SAMPLE ANSWERS FOR EXPLANATION OF
REGULAR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN YOUR COUNTRY**

Q1. Describe the regular educational system of your country, including starting and graduation age, from elementary school to university (the most common system) and the years in total including summer holidays or other long holidays, and fill the table below.

A1. The common educational system in Japan is 6 years of elementary school, 3 years of junior high school, 3 years of high school and 4 years of university, for a total of 16 years.

From age 7 (turning 7 by next 1st of April as the educational year in Japan is from April to March of next year) to age 12 in elementary school, from age 13 to age 15 in junior high school, from age 16 to age 18 in high school and from age 19 to age 22 in university if you go to university straight from high school.

The most common system

	Regular period	Starting age (Turn to)	Graduation age (Turn to)
Elementary school	6 years	7 Years old	12 Years old
Middle School	3 years	13 Years old	15 Years old
High school	3 years	16 Years old	18 Years old
Undergraduate school	4 years	19 Years old	22 Years old
Graduate school (If you have attended or are attending)	2 years	23 Years old (If you go up straight after graduated undergraduate school)	24 Years old

Q2. If your academic background is different from the regular academic background, please describe the reason and details.

A2. I was an excellent student when I was in elementary school therefore I skipped a year and graduated elementary school in only 5 years instead of 6 years. I was absent from junior high school for 1 year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness, so I took 4 years instead of 3 years. After graduating from junior high school most students go directly to high school for 3 years, but I entered a special high school for engineering that takes 5 years to complete. Engineering high school graduates are given the same level as grade 2 university students in Japan so I entered the university as a grade 3 student and studied for 2 years before graduating from the university. I entered a graduate school after one year work for a company and I took extra one year due to changing research topic.

Your academic background

	period	Starting age (Turn to)	Graduation age (Turn to)	Note
Elementary school	5 years	7Years old	11Years old	One year skipped due to excellence
Middle School	4 years	12Years old	15Years old	Repeated a year due to hospitalized treatment for an illness
High school	5 years	16Years old	20Years old	Entered a special high school for engineering
Undergraduate school	2 years	21Years old	22 Years old	Entered an university into grade 3 due to graduation the special high school for engineering

Graduate school	3years	24 years old	26 years old	Entered a graduate school after one year work for a company. Took extra one year due to changing research topic.
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Q3. Inform the term and month for normal entrance and graduation.

A3. Japanese elementary, junior high and high schools have three semesters: the first semester is from April to July, the second semester is from September to December and the third semester is from January to March. So, entrance into school is in April and graduation is in March. Japanese universities have only two semesters: the first semester is usually from April to September and the second semester is usually from October to March. Some graduate level universities allow students to enter from either April or October, and graduate in either March or September.

	Start	End	Note
Elementary school	April	March	1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March
Middle School	April	March	1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March
High school	April	March	1st semester: from April to July Summer holiday from the end of July to the end of August 2nd semester: from September to December 3rd semester: from January to March
Undergraduate school	April or October	March or September	1 st semester: from April to September 2 nd Semester: from October to March
Graduate school	April or October	March or September	1 st semester: from April to September 2 nd Semester: from October to March

Q4. If your academic background does not match the answer to Q3, please explain the reason and details-including starting and graduation month, or starting and graduation age.

A4. I planned to enter ○○○○ Technical College in April 2002 but there was a political event in my area during spring 2002 that caused the semester to begin 2 months late. That affected my entrance for undergraduate school and I entered the university in October instead April.

Name of school	Start	End	Note
○○○○ Technical College	June 2002	May 2007	Entering school postponed two months due to political event in my area.

Q5. If you have relevant additional information regarding your academic background, please describe here.

A5. I have a certificate to prove that I entered elementary school in April 1993 and graduated in March 1998 because I skipped a year. I can submit the original document. However, I would like to have the original certificate returned to me after the application process because it is only issued once and I would like to keep the original.

7. Sample of Academic record in the MEXT application form and some questions: (学歴)

	Name and Address of School (学校名及び所在地)	Year and Month of Entrance and Completion (入学及び卒業年月)	Duration of Attendance (修学年数)	Diploma or Degree Awarded, Major Subject, Skipped Years/Levels (学位・資格・専攻科目・飛び級の状況、他に特記すべき事項)
Primary Education (初等教育) Elementary School (小学校)	Name (学校名) ○○○○ Elementary SCHOOL Location (所在地) Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka, Japan	From (入学) 04/1993 To (卒業) 03/1998	years (年) 5 and months (月) 0	1 year skip due to excellence
Secondary Education (中等教育) Middle School (中学)	Name (学校名) ○○○○ JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL Location (所在地) Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka, Japan	From (入学) 04/1998 To (卒業) 03/2002	years (年) 4 and months (月) 0	When taking leave of absence, the period and reason 04/1989~03/1990 For disease treatment
High School (高校)	Name (学校名) ○○○○ technical College Location (所在地) Osaka-shi, Osaka, Japan	From (入学) 06/2002 To (卒業) 05/2007	years (年) 5 and months (月) 0	*-1 Special high school for engineering After graduation, obtained an associate degree
Tertiary Education (高等教育) Undergraduate Level (大学)	Name (学校名) ○○○○ University Schools of Engineering Location (所在地) Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan	From (入学) 10/2007 To (卒業) 09/2009	years (年) 2 and months (月) 0	Bachelor of Engineering
Graduate Level (大学院)	Name (学校名) Kyushu Institute of Technology Graduate School of Engineering Location (所在地) Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka, Japan	From (入学) 10/2010 To (卒業) 09/2013	years (年) 3 and months (月) 0	Master of Engineering Took extra one year due to changing research topic.
Total number of years of the aforementioned schooling (以上を通算した全学校教育修学年数) *as of April 1, 2015 (2015年4月1日現在)			years (年) 19	