

## Japan's Constitution

### 1. Features of the State's Constitution

How often has the constitution been amended?

- The constitution of Japan has never been amended in 76 years.

When was the constitution ratified?

- The constitution of Japan was promulgated in November of 1945, but it was ratified in May of 1946.

How many articles does the constitution contain?

- Japan's constitution contains 103 articles written in it.

### 2. System of Government

Is the country unitary, federal or confederal?

- Japan is formed as a unitary type of government.

Do certain regions have autonomy and how is it defined?

- In Japan there are certain regions that have autonomy for local governments that are fixed by law to provide autonomy to local. They are able to govern themselves in these local governments in Japan. They are local public entities that have autonomous ability to manage their properties and affairs. They have systems within the government creating a local autonomous government system.

What powers are shared and divided among governments in the country?

- In Japan local governments have the authority to manage their properties, affairs and administration, and create new regulations within the law. They can both create regulations and levy taxes, but the legislature is able to pass bills that become laws. In the local governments a special law can only be enacted by them unless they get majority from the Diet.

### 3. Regime Type

Is the country parliamentary, presidential or semi-presidential?

- The government of Japan has a parliamentary democracy type of system in place.

If the country is parliamentary, how is the cabinet formed?

- The cabinet is formed by the Prime minister, who is the head of the parliamentary system. The prime minister is nominated by the Diet and approved by the emperor. The prime minister then chooses majority members from the Diet to be in their cabinet. The prime minister can hire and fire each member as they choose.

If the country is parliamentary, is there a figure head leader, and if so, what is their role?

- The head figure in the parliament of Japan is the prime minister. Japan does have an emperor, but he is more of a symbolic figure for the country as a show of unity. The prime minister of Japan submits bills, reports on general national affairs and foreign

relations to the Diet and exercises control and supervision over various administrative branches.

If the country is presidential, are there term limits?

N/A

If the country is presidential, what types of powers does the president wield?

N/A

If the country is semi-presidential, what is the division of power?

N/A

#### 4. Legislative Branch

Is the legislature unicameral or bicameral?

- The legislature of Japan is a bicameral legislative.

If the legislature is bicameral, how are powers divided between the two houses?

- In Japan the powers are divided amongst the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. The powers given to each house are mostly shared like them not being held liable to what speeches or votes casted in the house, and pass bills if they are approved by both houses. The differences in power is that when the House of Representatives wants to pass a bill and the House of Councillors rejects it, the bill has the chance of going another round and being pass without the authority of the Councillors as long as it receives 2/3rds majority. The house of Councillors has the ability to reject a bill from the House of Representatives, but they can override this at most times.

Does the constitution discuss a committee system?

- In Japan's Constitution it discusses a joint committee system between the House of Representatives and the house of Councillors. This occurs when both the houses disagree on certain matter and attempt to come to an agreement in such meetings.

How is the speaker of the legislature chosen?

- The speaker of the legislature is chosen by the members of the house at the start of each session and holds this position for about four years.

#### 5. Elections and Electoral System

Does the constitution discuss the electoral system, and if so, what is the system?

- The country of Japan has a parliamentary democratic government system where they hold elections for their representatives. They vote for their representatives in the Diet. This is fixed by the law. Every so years depending on the office each individual is running for holds elections to be elected by the people to be members of the Diet.

Are legislative seats provided for specific groups?

- The legislative seats are meant for a civilian in Japan as long as they meet the requirements that are required for each spot in that office. There are no saved spots for a specific group, according to the constitution it can be any such person who meets the requirements for that position and are elected by the people.

How often are elections held for various offices?

- The prime minister is elected every four years or fewer. The House of Representatives in Japan can serve up to four years unless the house is dissolved. For the House of Councillors they can serve up to six years in this position and election for half the members will take place every three years.

## 6. Rights and Freedoms

Are there any group-based rights?

- In Japan's constitution provides individualistic rights to people along with group-based rights. The constitution offers basic human rights such as equality amongst race, social status, gender and family origin. But rights to protect certain groups were that all children boys or girls to be able to receive the same type of education for free, the rights of children not to be exploited in the work force and do not have to work. Also that in marriage the couple are to have mutual interest and not be forced into it.

Which types of groups are protected in the constitution?

- In Japan's constitution it protects children and married people.

Are specific linguistic, religious and ethnic-based rights guaranteed by the country?

- In the constitution it mentions that each person has the right to practice their own religion (Freedom of Religion) and are not to be discriminated based on race or family origin. There are protections in place for these people.

Are economic rights guaranteed by the country?

- In Japan the economic rights are protected. Rights for the people is the ability to work, have standards for wages, right to not be exploited by the government and receive just compensation, and are liable to being taxed. Japan protects people's standard wages and their ability to work in the country.

## 7. Level of Democracy

According to [Freedom House](#) [Links to an external site.](#), what is the current level of political rights and civil liberties in the country? How is it classified by Freedom House (Free, Partly Free or Not Free)?

- The current level of political rights for Japan as ranked in Freedom House is 40/40, which is the highest level receivable. Then Japan is ranked 56/60 in civil liberties granted, which is a really good standing to have according to Freedom House. In correspondence with the level of freedom Japan is ranked whether it be free, partly free, or not free Japan is ultimately named a free country according to this site.

## 8. Corruption

According to [Transparency International](#) [Links to an external site.](#), what is the current level of corruption in the country?

- The current level of corruption in Japan is ranked 73/100. Which according to Transparency International is a good ranking to have, since the higher ranked numbers means it has a lower level of corruption as compared to other countries.

According to [Transparency International](#) [Links to an external site.](#), has your country improved, declined or stayed the same in its level of corruption

- Japan has overall stayed throughout the years at a ranking of 70 or higher. However, the levels of corruption in Japan has fluctuated over the recent years. From 2012 to 2014 Japan saw a decrease in corruption levels, but then after 2014 to 2017 it saw an increase in corruption levels. Then from 2017 to 2021 we have seen a steady level from Japan. Except for a small spike in 2019 where it decreased in corruption levels. Overall, Japan has remained to be a low level in the ranking of corruption.

#### 9. Political Economy

According to the [World Bank](#) [Links to an external site.](#), what is your country's per capita GDP (PPP)?

- According to the World Bank, Japan's GDP per capita (PPP) is 42,940.4.