

## LESSON NOTES

# Video Culture Class: Japanese Holidays #9 School Graduation and Entrance Ceremony

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# KANJI

1. 「卒業式」とは、全教育課程（ぜんきょういくかてい）の修了（しゅうりょう）を認定し、そのお祝いをする式典です。三月下旬に行なわれることが多いです。それに対して「入学式」は、学校に入学することを許可し、そのお祝いをする式典です。四月上旬に行なわれます。卒業式も入学式も、小学校から大学、専門学校などで行なわれる学校行事です。
2. 全国の卒業式でも入学式でも共通して歌われる曲は何でしょうか。
3. 正解はこのビデオの最後に紹介します。
4. 卒業式は、正式には「卒業証書授与式」と言います。小、中、高校、専門学校では「卒業証書」が授与されます。大学、大学院では「学位記（がくいき）」が授与されますが、一般的には「卒業式」と呼ばれます。入学式では、新入生が一人ずつ名前を呼ばれ、返事をする人が多いです。卒業式も入学式も体育館のような広い場所で行なわれ、校長や保護者、また卒業生の代表、新入生の代表が壇上（だんじょう）に上がって挨拶をします。
5. 卒業式は公的な儀式。ですから、スーツや制服を着て出席します。特に女子大生の、着物や袴（はかま）を着用（ちゃくよう）した姿は風物詩となっているので、ニュースや新聞などで取り上げられます。式典の中心は、校長から卒業証書や学位記を授与することですが、全員が壇上にて受け取る学校もあれば、代表者のみが受け取る場所もあります。学校生活を振り返って涙を流す卒業生もいます。
6. 入学式は毎年、桜の花が咲く頃に行なわれます。新入生は真新しい制服や礼服に身を包み、式に参加します。小学校から高校までは、一般的に担任の教師が新入生の名前を呼び、校長から激励（げきれい）の挨拶を受けます。また、新入生代表者が新生活を始めるとに当たっての誓い（ちかい）を述べます。クラスごとに記念撮影を行なう学校が多いです。

CONT'D OVER

7. 卒業式でよく歌われる「蛍の光」。原曲（げんきょく）はスコットランド民謡ですが、知らずに愛唱（あいしょう）する人も多いです。また、歌詞には中国の漢詩の一部が使われていることも、意外に知られていません。
8. さて、ここでクイズの答えです。
9. 正解は、日本の国歌である「君が代」です。小学校から高校までは、教育課程の基準をまとめた「学習指導要領（がくしゅうしどうようりょう）」によって、式典の中で歌うように決められています。また、校歌も歌われます。ただし校歌は、卒業式には全員で歌うのですが、入学式では校歌を知らない新入生のために在校生や先生方が歌います。

## ENGLISH

1. A graduation ceremony is a ceremony that celebrates and certifies the completion of an educational curriculum. They are often held at the end of March. School entrance ceremonies are held to celebrate and authorize enrollment in a school. They are held at the start of April. Both graduation and entrance ceremonies are school events held all the way from elementary school to university and vocational school.
2. What is the song sung in graduation and entrance ceremonies throughout the country?
3. Graduation ceremonies have an official name in Japanese, which is literally "ceremony for the award of graduation certificates." At these ceremonies, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as specialist schools, award a school certificate. At universities and graduate school ceremonies, a diploma is also awarded, but in Japanese these ceremonies are generally known officially as just "graduation ceremonies." At entrance ceremonies, freshmen are called by name one by one, and often shout a reply. Both graduation and entrance ceremonies are held in large spaces such as gymnasiums, and are attended by the school principal and parents. A representative from the graduating students or freshmen greets these attendees.

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4. Graduation ceremonies are a formal event. Attendees therefore wear suits or uniforms. It has become a custom in particular for female college students to wear kimono and hakama, and many are featured in newspapers and on television news. The focal point of the ceremony is the awarding of the diploma and transcript from the principal. Some schools call all the students to the stage, whereas others call just a representative of the students. There are even some graduates who shed tears as they look back on their school life.
5. Entrance ceremonies are held each year around the time that cherry blossoms bloom. Freshmen dress in brand new uniforms and ceremonial dress, and participate in the ceremony. From elementary to high school, generally the homeroom teacher calls the name of each new student, who then receives a greeting and words of encouragement from the principal. A representative of the new students then makes a pledge concerning the start of their new school life. Many schools also take a commemorative photograph of each class.
6. Hotaru no hikari is often sung at graduation ceremonies. The original is the Scottish folk song Auld Lang Syne, and there are many who like to sing it, but don't know the origin. Part of a Chinese poem is also included in the lyrics, a fact that is surprisingly not widely known.
7. The correct answer is the Japanese national anthem Kimigayo. From elementary to high school, the national curriculum specifies in the Curriculum Guidelines that this song should be sung at the ceremony. The school song is also sung. However, while at graduation ceremonies everybody sings the school song, at entrance ceremonies existing students and teachers perform the song for the new students who are yet to learn it.

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
学習指導要領	がくしゅうしどうよ うりょう	gakushū shidō yōryō	curriculum guidelines
君が代	きみがよ	Kimigayo	title of Japanese national anthem
漢詩	かんし	kanshi	Chinese poem

教育課程	きょういくかてい	kyōiku katei	curriculum
風物詩	ふうぶつし	fūbutsushi	seasonal tradition
礼服	れいふく	reifuku	ceremonial dress
修了	しゅうりょう	shūryō	completion
卒業証書	そつぎょうしょうしょ	sotsugyō shōsho	graduation certificate, diploma
身を包む	みをつつむ	mi o tsutsumu	wear
壇上	だんじょう	danjō	stage
袴	はかま	hakama	hakama
激励	げきれい	gekirei	encouragement
蛍の光	ほたるのひかり	Hotaru no Hikari	Auld Lang Syne
学位記	がくいき	gakuiki	diploma
授与する	じゅよする	juyo suru	to confer
民謡	みんよう	min'yō	folk song

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

花火大会は、夏の風物詩だ。  
Hanabitaikai wa natsu no fūbutsushi da.

Firework displays are a summer tradition.

民謡を子供の頃から聞いていた。  
Min'yō o kodomo no koro kara kiite ita.

I've been listening to folk songs ever since I was a child.