



## Japanese culture I like: Improving your IELTS response

Read the example and think about how to improve it.

My favorite aspects of my own culture are the culture of taking a bath and the culture of taking off one's shoes or slippers when entering a house.

First, the concept of taking a bath is widely spread in Japan, but it seems that Japan is the only country in the world where people take a bath every day, while most other cultures only use showers. I feel so much better when I am in the bath because I feel like I am taking a mindless bath and my mind is being washed step by step.

Second, when it comes to the culture of taking off one's shoes when entering a house or wearing slippers, I find it to be a very healthy and peaceful way to live. I have heard that the reason why Japanese people take off their shoes when entering a house is to lay out a futon for sleeping. Based on this, I would say that it is still healthy. Also, at one of my integrated junior and senior high schools, there was a dispute over whether to allow students to walk around the entire building with their feet on the ground. However, after discussion between the students and teachers, it was decided that the Japanese culture of wearing shoes on top of one's shoes should be preserved. This made me like the culture of shoes and the culture of taking off shoes even more. In general, I like the aspect of Japanese culture that keeps cleanliness in a way that might be called a bit detailed.

### My suggestions

My favorite aspects of my own culture

widely spread

First, second

taking off shoes

shoes)

a hassle

Aspects of Japanese culture I really like (not repeating

Wide spread / common / typical

another (as only two ideas)

taking my shoes off ( to reflect the action not the

something you don't want to but have to do

### How can you improve the writing?

Aspects of Japanese culture I really like are taking a bath and taking off shoes when entering a house. The concept of taking a bath to relax is typical in many countries but it seems that Japan is the only country in the world where people take a bath religiously every day while most other cultures prefer to use showers. Other countries feel that taking a shower is economical on the amount of water used. However, in Japan, people share the same bath water after taking a quick shower beforehand and so water is not consumed as much as you might think. Furthermore, I feel so much better when I am in the bath because I can relax and switch off, and allow my mind to also get washed.

Another culture I respect is taking off shoes when entering a house. I find it to be a very healthy and clean way to live. Actually, I have heard that the original reason why Japanese people take off their shoes when entering a house is to lay out their futon in readiness for sleep. I can see that this is a "clean" mindset but at my old school, there was a dispute over this. Due to the hassle of changing shoes, some students wanted to walk around the entire building wearing their outdoors shoes. Others, however, preferred to keep to the traditions of changing into their indoor slippers. After long discussion between the students and teachers, it was decided that the Japanese culture of changing to indoor slippers was a good idea. Through such experience, it made me appreciate how I like the culture of taking shoes off. In general, although some might think it too much, I like these aspects of Japanese culture that keep cleanliness inside the house.