

Japan's 15-Year-Olds Rank First in Core Subjects Among OECD Members

15歳の生徒を対象に、読解力、数学、科学の力を測る国際的な学力調査「PISA」で、日本はOECD加盟国の中で3分野すべてが1位となりました。一方で、日本の平均点は前回の調査から一部の分野で低下しており、OECD全体でも平均点の低下が続いています。日本の教育の強みを維持しながら、今後どのような点を改善していく必要があるのでしょうか。あなたは、学校教育で特に大切だと思うことは何ですか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released the results of the 2025 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) on September 8.

Japan ranked first among the 38 OECD member countries in average scores across all three areas tested: reading, mathematics and science. It was the first time Japan had ranked first in all three fields since the assessment began in 2000.

Among all 91 participating countries and regions, including non-OECD members, Japan ranked fourth in reading, fifth in mathematics and fifth in science.

PISA is an international assessment conducted by the OECD. It evaluates 15-year-old students on how well they can apply the knowledge and skills acquired through compulsory education to real-life problems.

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1. Article

The tests include both open-ended and multiple-choice questions. Some questions are reused in subsequent assessments to track changes in performance over time.

The assessment is generally conducted every three years, although the interval was extended to four years starting in 2025.

The latest assessment was conducted on computers from June to August 2025, with 760,000 students from 91 countries and regions taking part.

In Japan, 6,500 first-year high school students took the test. In accordance with OECD guidelines, the students were selected to represent a cross-section of society.

Compared with the previous assessment, conducted in 2022, Japan's average mathematics score fell by 11 points to 525, while its science score fell by nine points to 538.

Although the scores declined, the changes were not statistically significant and were considered essentially unchanged.

Reading, however, fell by 13 points to 503, a decline the OECD judged to be statistically significant and unlikely to have occurred by chance.

The Education Ministry attributed Japan's strong performance among OECD members to a combination of efforts, including improvements in classroom instruction, the development of digital learning environments, such as providing one device for every student, and enhanced support for students' daily lives.

At the same time, Japan's results should be viewed in the context of a long-term decline in average scores across the OECD, with Japan essentially maintaining its level of performance.

In the overall rankings, Singapore ranked first in reading, while the Chinese group comprising Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang topped mathematics and science. Singapore, which had ranked first in both fields in the previous assessment, fell to second place.

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. assessment 評価

The factory was closed because the food products did not pass the quality assessment.

2. conduct 実施する

University researchers conducted tests on over a hundred water samples from the river.

3. previous 以前の

In a previous meeting, the head of the IT department talked about the latest robot technology.

4. significant 著しい、かなりの

There has been a significant increase in the number of flu cases compared to last year.

5. decline 低下

Recently, there has been a decline in the number of people traveling abroad.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Describe the content of PISA, in your own words where possible.
2. According to the Education Ministry, why have Japanese learners continued to do well on the test?
3. What is happening to the average scores of the other OECD members?
4. How important do you think tests such as PISA are for understanding the quality of education?
5. What kinds of learning-environment changes, in the classroom or at home, could help students improve their performance?

4. OECD国際学力調査、日本が全分野で1位 読解・数学・科学、15歳対象

経済協力開発機構（OECD）は9月8日、2025（令和7）年に実施した国際学習到達度調査（PISA）の結果を公表した。日本は読解力、数学的応用力、科学的応用力の3分野全ての平均点で、OECD加盟38カ国中1位だった。全分野で1位となるのは00年の調査開始以降初めて。調査はOECD非加盟を含め91カ国・地域を対象としており、日本は全体ではそれぞれ4位▽5位▽5位だった。

調査はおおむね3年ごと（25年以降は4年ごと）に行われ、義務教育終了段階の15歳の生徒を対象に学力を調査している。今回の調査は25年6月～8月にコンピューターを使用する形で実施され、世界91カ国・地域から76万人が参加した。日本からは6500人の高校1年生がテストを受けた。OECDの規定に基づき、社会の縮図となるように抽出したという。

3分野の平均点を22年実施の前回調査と比較すると、数学的応用力は11点減の525点、科学的応用力は9点減の538点。得点は減少したが統計上は実質的な横ばいだった。一方、読解力は13点減の503点で偶然ではない「有意な低下」と判断された。

OECD加盟国中1位となった要因について、文部科学省は、学校現場での授業改善▽1人1台端末などのデジタル環境整備▽生活支援の充実―など複合的な取り組みが実を結んだと分析する。他方でOECD平均が長期的に低下する中で横ばいを維持した結果という側面もある。

国・地域別の平均点順位では、読解力は前回に続きシンガポール、数学的応用力と科学的応用力は中国の「北京・上海・江蘇・浙江」が1位だった。2分野で前回トップのシンガポールは2位となった。

■PISA 経済協力開発機構（OECD）の国際学習到達度調査の略称。15歳（日本では高校1年相当）を対象に、義務教育で学んだ知識や技能を実生活の課題にどの程度活用できるかを測る。問題は自由記述式や選択式で一部を除き非公開。同じ問題を繰り返し使い経年変化を見る。