

Trends in Reform of University Admissions System

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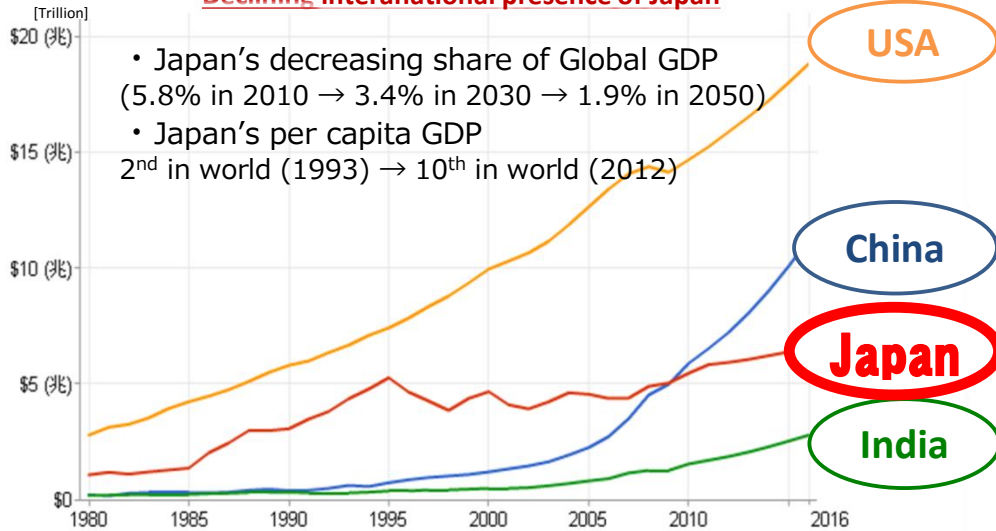
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,
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Background of "Articulation Reforms of High Schools and Universities"

Advance of globalization

Declining international presence of Japan



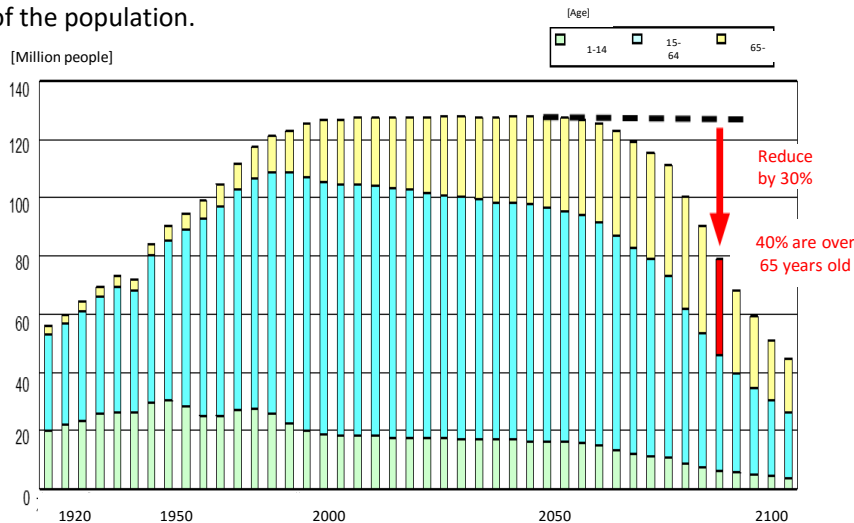
The Future of Children

- 65 percent of today's grade-school kids may end up doing work that hasn't been invented yet
Cathy Davidson (Professor, The Graduate Center, City University of New York)
- There is a high probability that around 47% of work will be automated in the next decade or two.
Michael A. Osborne (Associate Professor, University of Oxford)
- We will only need to work fifteen hours a week by 2030
John Maynard Keynes (Economist)

➔ Many current jobs will disappear

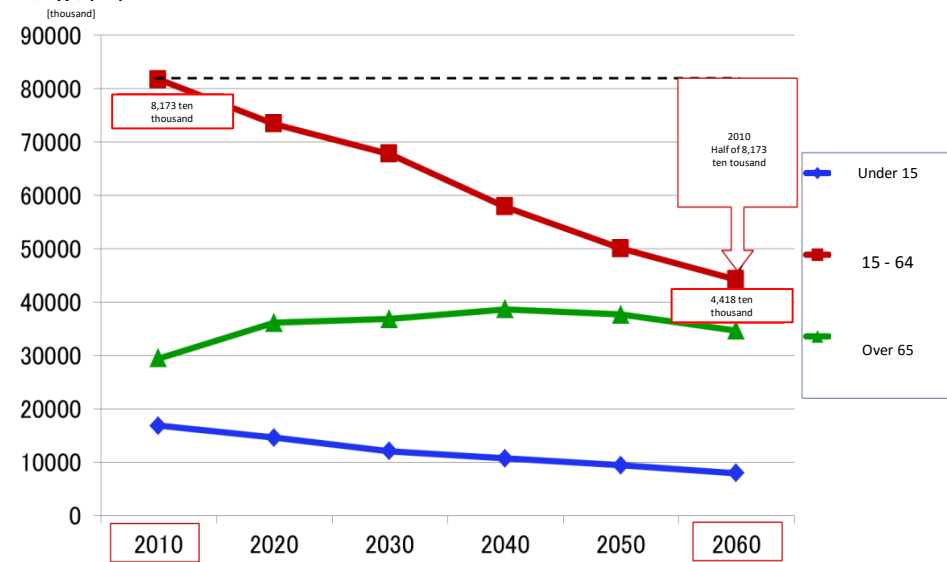
Population trends

Due to an aging population and decreasing birth rate, Japan's population is forecast to decrease by 30% in 50 years, with persons 65 or older making up 40% of the population.



Trends in working-age population

The working-age population will continue to decrease; it is forecast the working-age population in 2060 will be half what it was 2010.



Admission Quotas and Entrant [Long-term Trend]

- Admission quotas are increasing for 4-year universities, but decreasing for junior colleges.
- Applicant multiples and quota overflow rates are both in decline.

	18-year-old population	High school graduates	University						Junior college					(Unit) thousands
			Admission quota	Applicants	Applicant multiple	Enrollment	Quota overflow rate	Admission quota	Applicants	Applicant multiple	Enrollment	Quota overflow rate		
1966	2,491	1,557	195	513	2.63	293	1.5	68	137	2.01	108	1.59		
1976	1,543	1,325	302	650	2.15	421	1.39	124	184	1.49	175	1.41		
1979	1,564	1,384	315	637	2.02	407	1.29	127	191	1.50	177	1.39		
1992	2,049	1,807	473	920	1.94	542	1.14	203	294	1.45	255	1.25		
1999	1,545	1,363	525	756	1.44	590	1.12	176	175	1	169	0.96		
2004	1,411	1,235	545	722	1.32	598	1.1	106	106	1	106	1		
2005	1,366	1,203	552	700	1.27	604	1.1	100	98	1	100	1		
2006	1,326	1,172	562	691	1.23	603	1.07	96	89	0.92	91	0.95		
2007	1,300	1,147	567	690	1.22	614	1.08	92	82	0.89	85	0.92		
2008	1,237	1,088	570	670	1.18	607	1.06	88	74	0.85	77	0.88		
2009	1,212	1,065	572	669	1.17	609	1.06	83	69	0.83	73	0.88		
2010	1,216	1,071	575	680	1.18	619	1.08	79	67	0.85	72	0.91		
2011	1,202	1,064	578	675	1.17	613	1.06	76	65	0.86	68	0.9		
2012	1,191	1,056	581	664	1.14	605	1.04	72	61	0.84	64	0.89		
2013	1,231	1,071	584	679	1.16	614	1.05	70	61	0.88	65	0.93		
2014	1,181	1,064	586	662	1.13	608	1.04	68	58	0.85	62	0.91		
2015	1,200	1,056	589	666	1.13	618	1.05	65	58	0.89	61	0.94		
2016	1,190	1,092	593	665	1.12	618	1.04	64	55	0.86	58	0.91		

First post-war peak in 18-year-old population

Second post-war decline in 18-year-old population

Second post-war peak in 18-year-old population

Significant increase in private universities not meeting admission quotas

* The number of applicants is the total number of graduates of upper secondary schools and latter courses at secondary education schools (excluding correspondence). * The number of enrollees is the total number of graduates of upper secondary schools and latter courses at secondary education schools (excluding correspondence), graduates of overseas schools, graduates of upper courses of specialized training colleges and other (such as recognition of high school graduation).

Entrance Examination Methods (in the Guidelines for Implementing Selection of University Enrollees)

○ Admissions Office (AO) Entrance Examination (Overview)

An entrance examination method for comprehensively determining an applicant's skills, aptitude, motivation to learn and goal awareness by combining a detailed document review with careful interviews conducted over time.

- (1) Open application system where applicants apply of their own accord.
- (2) Excessive weight is not placed on the state of acquisition of knowledge and skills as a selection criterion.
- (3) It is necessary to use one of the following to determine the state of basic academic ability required for receiving university education.
 - a. Results of tests (written, practical and oral examinations, etc.) conducted by each university
 - b. Results of examinations by National Center for University Entrance Examinations
 - c. Results of qualification and certification examinations
 - d. GPA of high school subjects
- (4) When using a. to c. in (3), it is preferable to actively use a report such as combining them with (3) d.

(Timing)

- The application period is from August 1
- The examination dates when an academic examination is conducted are from February 1.

○ Entrance Examination by Recommendation

(Overview)

An entrance examination method that waives the academic examination in principle based on a recommendation by the principal of the applicant's high school and uses a report as the main material for making a determination.

Attention is given to the following points when using this method.

- (1) Use the GPA of high school subjects as a requirement for application (guideline for application) and for determining pass or fail and state this in the application guidebook.
- (2) If it is difficult to determine the applicant's skills and aptitude based on the recommendation and report alone, it is preferable to also use at least one of the steps in (3) a. to c. of the AO Entrance Examination process.

* The number of positions is specified within 50% of the admission quota for each admission unit such as faculty.

(Timing)

- The application period is from November 1
- The examination dates when an academic examination is conducted are from February 1.

○ General Entrance Examination (Overview)

An examination method that performs a multifaceted and comprehensive evaluation and determination of the applicant's skills, motivation, aptitude, etc. based on the content of the report, academic examinations, essays, interviews, group discussions, presentations and other tests of skills and aptitude, etc., activity reports, statement of reason for applying for admission to university, learning plan, results of qualification and certification examinations, etc., and other materials deemed to be appropriate by the university.

(Timing)

- The examination period is from February 1 to April 15

University Admissions System in Japan

Characteristics of University Admissions System in Japan

(1) Selection of Entrants in Each University

- Each university implements AO entrance examinations, entrance examination by recommendation and individual academic examinations according to the Admissions Policy based on the education philosophy of each university.

(2) The National Center Test

- The examinations are jointly implemented by the National Center for University Entrance Examinations and each university to determine the level of achievement of basic learning. It is taken by around 500,000 people.
- It uses a mark-sheet format of multiple choice questions.

Mark-sheet format



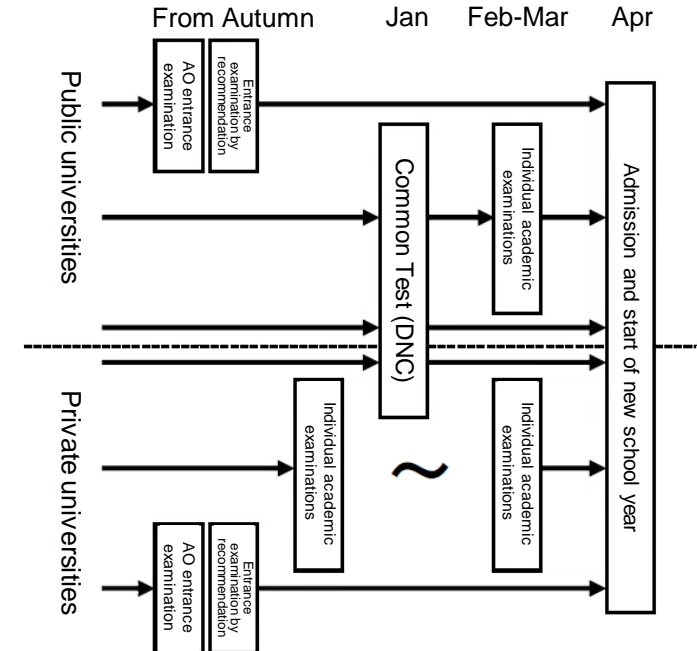
Example of a multiple choice question

Contemporary Society

Q3. Choose one of (1) to (4) below that most appropriately describes the technological innovation concerning underlined section (C).

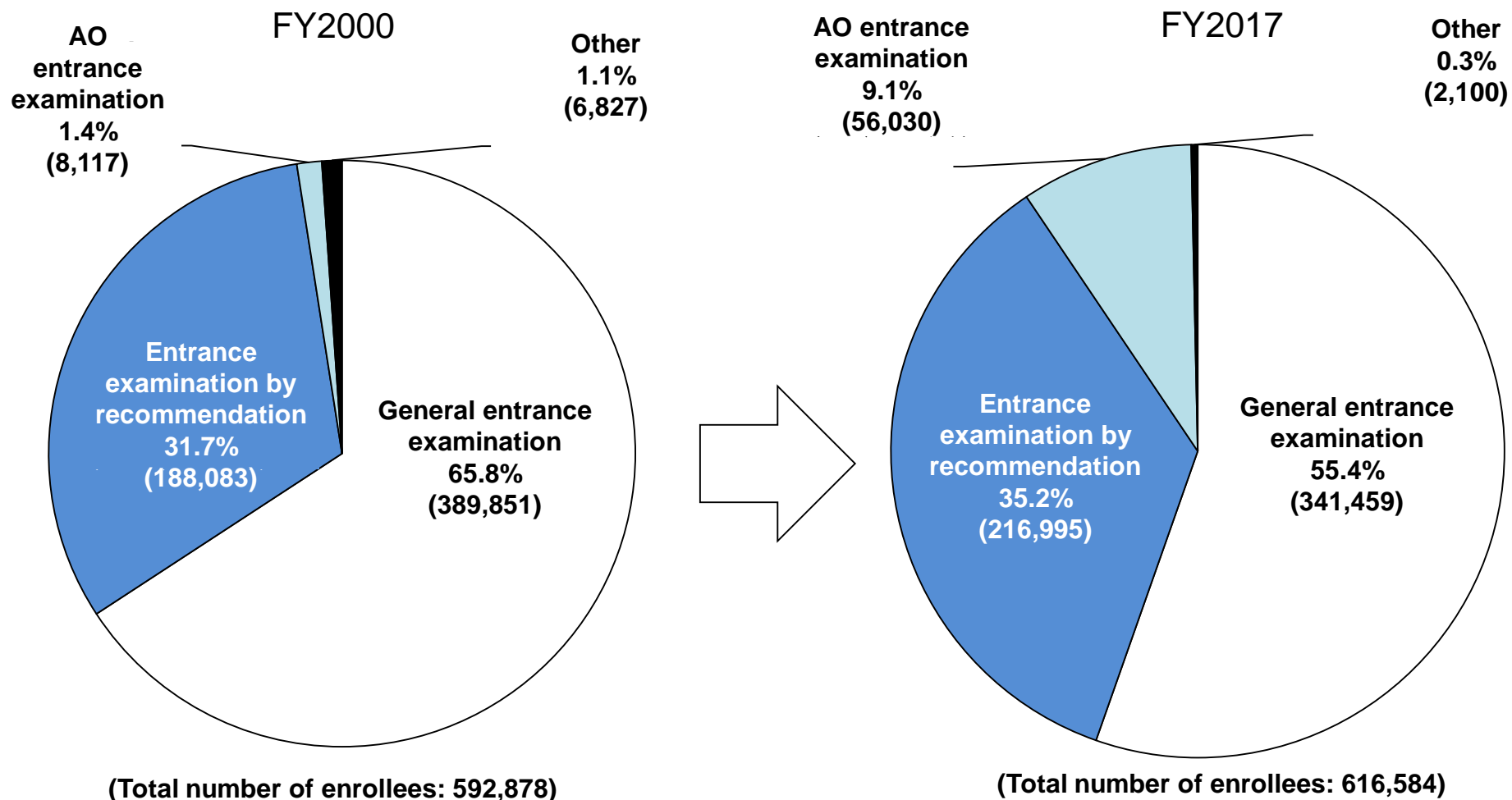
- (1) The economic cycle of 50 to 60 years caused by technological innovation is called the Juglar Wave.
- (2) A society in which information can be easily accessed from anywhere at any time due to the innovation in information technology is called a mass consumption society.
- (3) The industrial revolution that began in the second half of the 18th century caused a shift to the new production method of factory machinery industry due to technological innovation.
- (4) Japan's main source of energy shifted from hydro to coal due to the energy revolution that occurred in the second half of the 20th century.

Entrance Examination Flow



Overview of the State of Implementation of University Admissions System in FY 2017 (Comparison with FY2000)

Compared to FY2000 (the first year of AO entrance examinations), there has been a significant increase in the number of enrollees via AO entrance examinations and entrance examinations by recommendation as entrance examination methods have become more diverse.



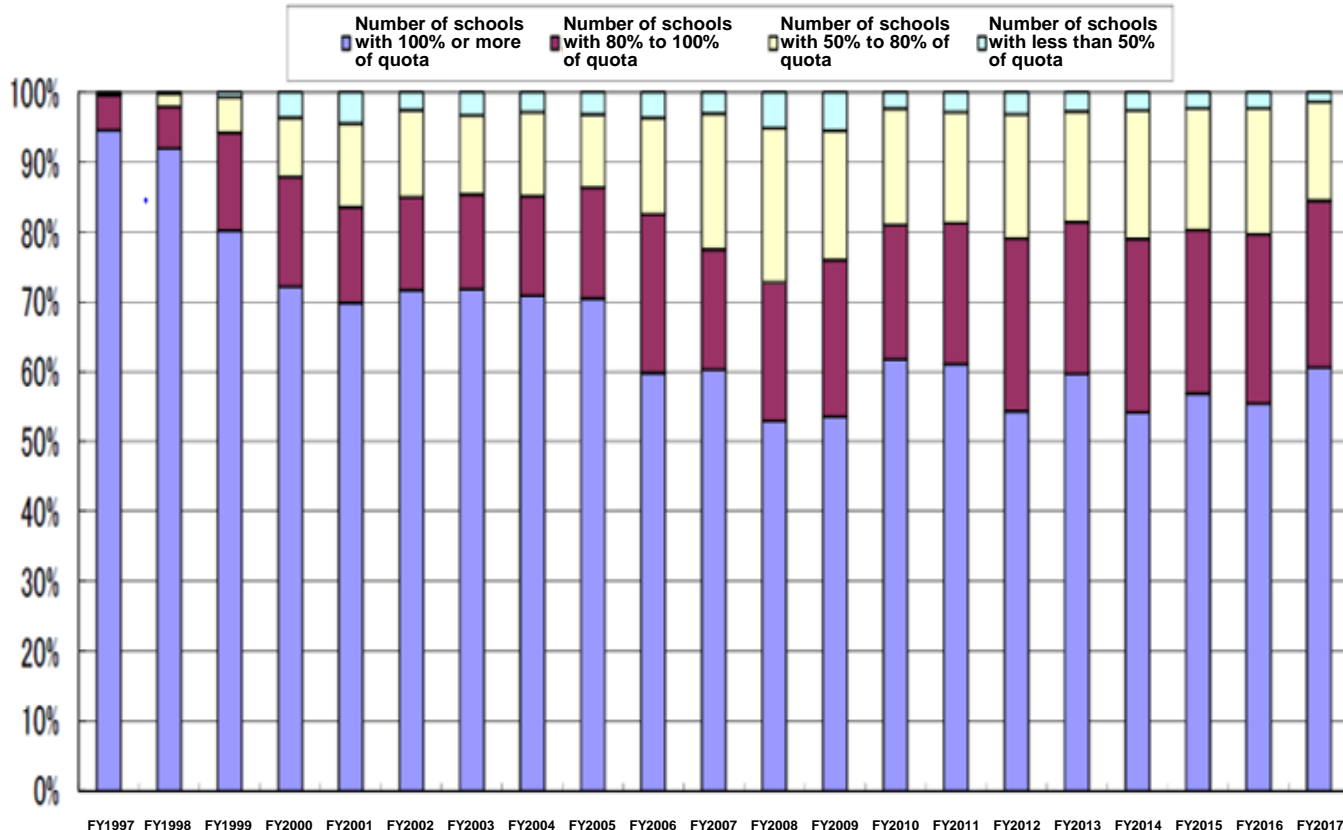
General entrance examination
 Entrance examination by recommendation
 Admissions Office entrance examination
 Other

(Note) Other: Entrance examinations for specialized schools and integrated courses graduates, entrance examinations for adults, entrance examinations for children returning to Japan after living overseas, and children of repatriates from china

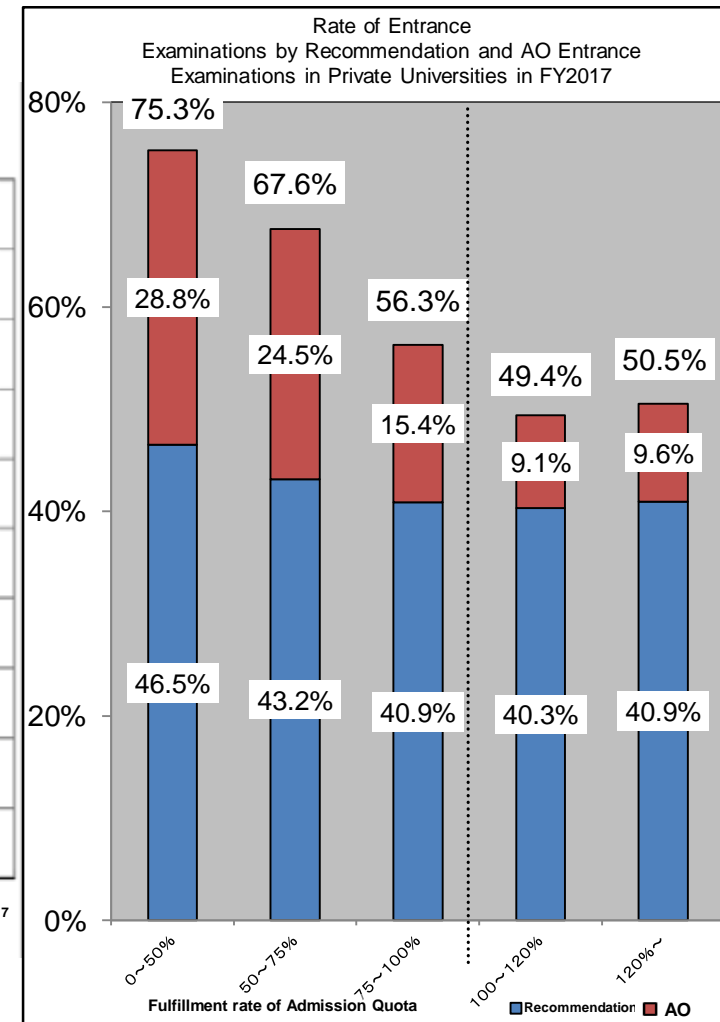
State of Fulfillment of Admission Quotas in Private Universities

- Around 40% of private universities have fallen below their admission quotas since FY2006
- Universities that have fallen below their admission quotas have a higher rate of use of recommendations and AO, and greater diversity in selection methods.

Transition of Fulfillment of Admission Quotas in Private Universities



Created based on "FY2017 Private University and Junior College Applicant Trends" by the Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan



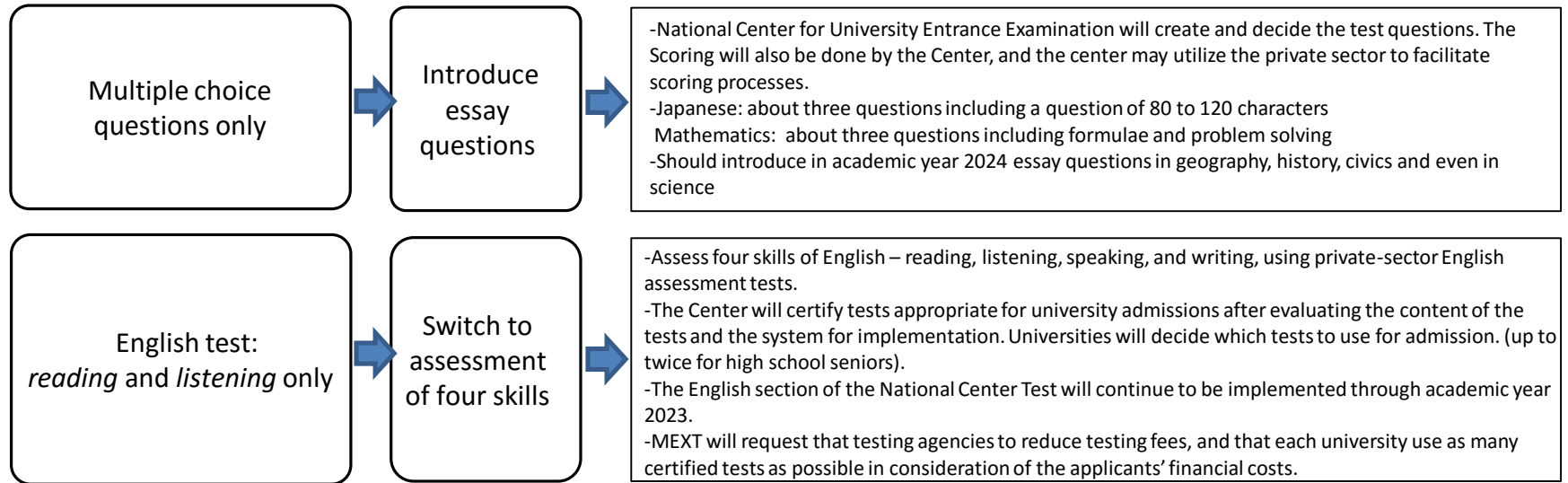
Reform of University Admissions System

Outline of reform

- ◆ Switch to entrance exams that evaluate the *three elements of academic abilities (below)* of students' with multilateral and comprehensive assessments: 1) Solid acquisition of knowledge, skills; 2) Power of critical thinking, judgement, self-expression; 3) Willingness to learn from cooperation with diverse range of people, with self-direction
- ◆ Promote reforms of selection of university applicants
- ◆ AY 2020 Introduce Common Test for University Admissions *With essay questions and assessment of four English skills
AY 2024 Implement further changes based on the New National Curriculum Standards

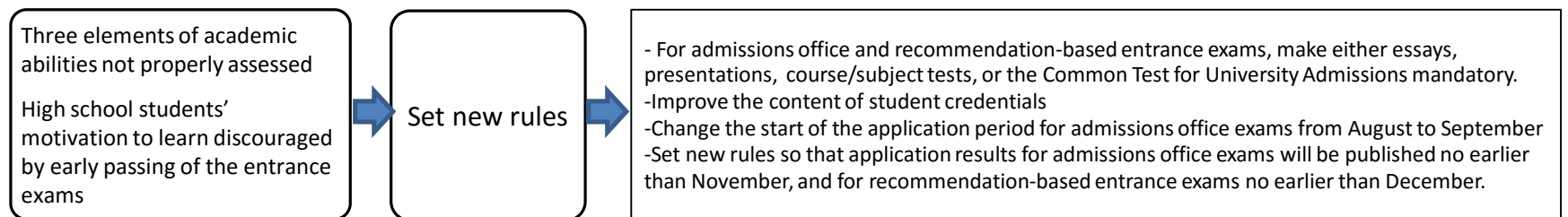
Current System

Common exam (currently the National Center Test)



System after academic year 2020

Individual admissions by Institutions



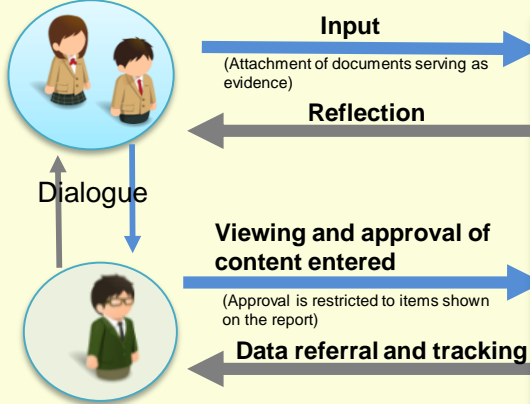
State of Efforts to Use Models for Selection of University Entrants Utilizing ICT to Evaluate “Independence, etc.”

“JAPAN e-Portfolio” High School-to-University articulation Portal Site (Commissioned Program for Promoting Reform for Selection of University entrants by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s Committee for Promoting Reform of Selection of University Entrants (Independence Area))

- High school e-Portfolio and university application portfolio site being created with the aim of being a mechanism that can be utilized in the selection of university entrants.
- Activities related to a student’s independence, etc. are recorded in “JAPAN e-Portfolio”.
- It is aimed to contribute to the realization of multifaceted and comprehensive evaluation by appropriately evaluating the three elements of academic ability, especially “attitude for independently learning by collaborating with wide variety of people.”
- The decision to participate in efforts aimed at the commissioned project (independence, etc.) is made by each high school and each university.

The use in high school education

○ **Students:** Recording and reflection upon “data on learning”
 *Metacognition” of active learning leading to the next step by reflecting on own learning activities



○ **Teachers:** Referral to and tracking of “data on learning” by students
 → Utilized in the creation of “reports” and “learning guidance records”
 Utilized in evaluation of education and the review of teaching methods

- [Report: Items added and changed from FY2021]
- Behavior characteristics, special skills, etc.
 - Club activities, volunteer activities
 - Study abroad/overseas experience, etc.
 - Specific content of efforts, period, etc.
 - Qualifications and certification examinations obtained
 - * Content of qualifications and certification examinations, score obtained, time obtained, etc.

Internet application
 Linking data with JAPAN e-Portfolio

One of the efforts aimed at the commissioned project (independence, etc.)

JAPAN
e-Portfolio
 高大接続ポータルサイト

“High School e-Portfolio”

Looking at data on learning

Web application portal

- Public and private universities nationwide
 Link to Web application site
- Registration of basic student information
 Name, telephone number, address, guarantor name, high school name, etc.

Selection of University Entrants

