

Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination

1 Overview

The upper secondary school equivalency examination tests those who cannot take college entrance and other exams because they have not graduated high school, in order to certify whether they have the scholastic aptitude equivalent or greater than a high school graduate, in accordance with Section 1 of Article 90 of School Education Law. Those who pass are then qualified to take entrance exams of university, junior college and professional training colleges.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has lobbied the business world to encourage businesses to treat those who pass the upper secondary equivalency examination the same as those who have graduated from high school in terms of hiring, qualifications and other exams, in order to increase social acceptance of the equivalency exam. The ministry has also, since fiscal year 2007, partnered with the Ministry of Justice to administer the exam at correctional facilities around the country in order to expand opportunities to sit for the exam.

2 Qualifications to take the exam

Must turn 16 or older during the academic year (April to March) of the exam. Those who already have qualifications to enter university may not take the exam.

※ Current full-time high school students and others, who formerly were unqualified for the University Entrance Qualification Examination, are also eligible for the equivalency test.

3 Starting year

Academic year 2005 (University Entrance Qualification Examination: Academic year 1951)

4 Test subjects/requirements for passing

Course	Subject	Passing requirements
Japanese Language	Japanese Language	
Geography and History	World History (A, B)	One of these subjects
	Japanese History (A, B) Geography (A, B)	One of these subjects
Civics	Contemporary Society	Subjects on top line or subjects on bottom line
	Ethics and Politics/Economy	
Mathematics	Mathematics	
Science	Science and Our Daily Life, Basic Physics, Basic Chemistry, Basic Biology, Basic Earth Science	Two subjects including <i>Science and Our Daily Life</i> or three subjects excluding <i>Science and Our Daily Life</i>
Foreign Languages	English	

※ **Number of subjects courses required for passing is 8, 9 or 10 depending on candidate's selections.**

※ Those who pass the exam while still under age 18 will be recognized as successful candidates upon their 18th birthday.

※ School principals may decide to recognize passed subjects as matriculated credit toward graduation.

5 Administration timing and frequency

Twice annually in August and November

6 Exam venue

One venue in each of Japan's 47 prefectures, at juvenile reform schools, prisons and other correctional facilities around the country

7 Examination fee

7 to 10 courses	8,500 yen
4 to 6 courses	6,500 yen
1 to 3 courses	4,500 yen