

<試験官に関して>

試験官 2 名、1 名は外国人、もう 1 名日本人の女性 40 代。両方ニコニコしている。

JNTO は来ていなかった？リラックスして受験できました。ありがとうございました。
余りマニアックな質問は出てこなかったようです。

<面接試験の実際>

NS	What is your name and where are you from?
I	I am and I'm from
NS	I'm interested in Japanese cars. What is the biggest car manufacturer of Japan? Can I look around their factories?
I	Well, TOYOTA is one of the biggest car manufacturers in the world. Most of its factories are in Nagoya, and there might be some facilities where you can look around. However, I recommend that you should make a reservation beforehand or at least check the information on the Internet, because basically these car factories are not sightseeing spots. If you just want to look cars and not interested in the manufacturing process, then Car exhibitions are also the option. Once or twice a year, Car Expo or such events are held in Makuhari-Messe Convention Center in Chiba.
NS	What is the easiest way to go to Nagoya? I'm interested in Toyota company very much.
I	Shinkansen bullet train is quite convenient. It takes about 2 or 3 hours to get there.
NS	Is it easy to buy a train ticket?
I	Vending machines are available. You can just insert bill and then press button, or station officers can assist you.
NS	I can't speak Japanese.
I	No problem. Especially in the largest stations like Tokyo-stn., there are some people who can understand English, because English is a compulsory education here in Japan. In Shinkansen, announcements are available in English. However, in small towns you might feel inconvenience sometimes, and in such situations, it's good to ask passers-by. Generally speaking, Japanese people are kind.
NS	Why Japanese cars are so popular?
I	There are 2 reasons. First, Japanese cars are efficient. These cars are eco-friendly and emit less exhaust gas. Secondly, Japanese cars are quite reasonable price. Thanks to the automation technology, a lot of high-quality cars are made with relatively cheap cost.
NS	Let's go to other questions. I understand that car manufacturing is one of the most important industries of Japan today. Then, in previous years during Samurai period, what was the main export industry?
I	Well, before talking about that, I have to mention something about Meiji Restoration in 19th century, because Japan had been closed its doors to foreign countries during Edo period. The policy is called "Sakoku". Around that period, silk fabrics are main industries. After the Meiji Restoration, technologies are imported from western countries to Japan, so that gradually variety of products are began to be manufactured.
NS	Did samurais make silk fabric?
I	No. Generally speaking, Samurais are not rich. People in marketing businesses in such cities as Osaka are very rich and sometimes they had there own factories. Samurais

	did not make silk.
NS	What is the Meiji Restoration?
I	People's power toppled the previous Shogunate government, and terminated the feudal era. It's a most important historic turning point of Japan.
NS	Thank you very much. Bye (with smile).
I	Thank you very much.