

The 7 Steps - April



1. CONTEXT



Gambling in Japan

Mindmap anything you know about the topic, including vocabulary. Do some research online to help.

2. QUESTIONS

Read the listening questions to check your understanding. Look up any new vocabulary.

Listening Questions 1

1. What are 3 examples of government-run gambling?
_____.
2. When was the Japan Racing Association founded, and what does it manage?
_____.
3. How much money did gamblers bet on the Japan Cup in 2016?
_____.
4. Why is Pachinko not considered a form of gambling?
_____.
5. What is the annual revenue of Pachinko in Japan larger than?
_____.

Listening Questions 2

1. What happened on July 20th, 2018?
_____.
2. How many casino licenses will be given according to the new law?
_____.
3. How much will it cost for Japanese residents to enter a casino, and what restrictions are placed on them?
_____.
4. Which location is the leading candidate for an Integrated Resort?
_____.
5. How much is the estimated casino market in Japan worth, and what ranking would it be in the world?
_____.

3. LISTEN

Listen and answer the questions using full sentences. Circle the number of times and % you understood.

Listening 1				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Listening 2				
1	2	3	4	5
%	%	%	%	%

Discussion Questions

1. What are your experiences of visiting casinos?
2. What kind of dangers might be associated with legalizing casinos?

4. CHECK ANSWERS

Read through the transcript and underline the answers. Check them against your own answers.

TRANSCRIPT 1

What places come to mind when you think of gambling, perhaps Las Vegas, Macau, or Monaco? Well Japan has them all beaten in terms of revenue, but without any casinos. Instead, the current betting **landscape** in Japan consists of horse racing, lotteries, Pachinko, bicycle racing, boat racing and J-league soccer pools known as "Toto." Apart from Pachinko, all gambling is run by the government.

Horse racing is perhaps one of the most popular forms of gambling in Japan. The Japan Racing Association was founded in 1954 and manages all racecourses, betting facilities, and horse training facilities. In 2015, a total amount of \$22 billion was **wagered** in Japan on horse racing. The purse for the Japan Cup in 2016 was \$5.25 million and gamblers bet over \$179 million on the race.

Although public gambling is **lucrative**, it doesn't compare to the privately-run pachinko. It operates within a grey area of the law and is not technically considered gambling as no money is exchanged inside. Instead, players receive metal balls which can be converted into prizes or items that can be sold for cash outside of the parlor. Japanese gamblers spend over \$200 billion on pachinko yearly, which is 30 times the annual gambling revenue of Las Vegas and more than New Zealand's entire GDP. Nearly half of the country's leisure time is spent in these parlors and the industry employs more people than the top 5 car manufacturers in Japan.

5. CHECK VOCABULARY

Read the transcript and circle any new vocabulary you find. Look them up and add them to your list.

Landscape	Wager	Lucrative	Enact	Candidate
Fill-in the blanks with the appropriate word / phrase above:				
1. The government is considering _____ing a new law in response to the pandemic.				
2. His unique idea turned out to be _____ for the company.				
3. The financial _____ has changed due to many mitigating factors.				
4. Kevin is the main _____to take over her position when she retires.				
5. Many companies are _____ing their success on the upcoming decisions to be made by the government related to consumption tax.				

6. READ ALOUD

Read the transcript aloud at least 5 times, focusing on intonation and pronunciation.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

7. SHADOWING

Say the transcript aloud at the same time as the audio without reading it. Circle how many times below.

1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

TRANSCRIPT 2

On July 20th, 2018, Japanese lawmakers voted to **enact** controversial legislation to legalize casino resorts called "Integrated Resorts," or IRs. To start out, there will only be 3 casino licenses issued with a 30% gaming tax to be paid to local and central governments. These casinos will be built as part of a large resort area and will be limited to only 3% of the resort floor space. Entry will be free for international visitors but for Japanese residents it will cost ¥6,000. Additionally, residents will be limited to 3 visits a week and 10 per month.

It is expected that casinos will be the biggest profit generators at these IRs. At the Marina Bay Sands complex in Singapore, 70% of total revenue came from casino gambling in 2018. The leading **candidate** for one of the first three casino licenses is Osaka, which has proposed building an IR on the artificial island of Yumeshima. Apart from Tokyo and Yokohama, Sasebo, Nagasaki, Wakayama, and Tomakomai, Hokkaido have also expressed interest in licenses.

Goldman Sachs estimates Japan's casino market at \$15.8 billion if three resorts are opened. This would make it the world's second-biggest gambling market after Macau. In the first half of 2018, Japan had nearly 16 million international visitors, which was up 16% from the year before according to the organization JNTO, adding to the potential of casinos in Japan.