

Marks

Question 2 (6 marks)

Name a country, and identify ONE feature of that country that demonstrates BOTH continuity and change.

Japan - Gender roles

With reference to the country you have named, evaluate how power and authority impact on the feature you have identified.

6

Women's role in Japan have seen a huge change over the past ~~decade~~ century. Where women traditionally were the mothers & housewives, today approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of Japanese women are employed part or full time. As Japanese women viewed the independent lives of women in western countries, they came to question their subordinate positions. This lead women in general to question the power and authority of the men in the country. This was a huge cultural change from a traditional view of "husband and wife are like air". However, Japanese women do not have equality in the home or the workforce. Most Japanese men would prefer a woman to fulfill her traditional role. In many cases women are not promised any help in domestic duties and must lead a busy and tiring life. The United Nation ranked Japan 38th in terms of gender equality in 1998. This reflects that there is continuity in traditional gender roles. With the world's women owning mere 1% of the world's wealth, they generally must adhere to the power and authority of males in order to secure themselves a comfortable lifestyle.