

Marks

Question 2 (6 marks)

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

Japan - Education ~~system~~

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

6

The education system in Japan has been profoundly impacted on by power and authority. Tonnies Gemeinschaft and Gessellschaft theories that describe social change exemplify this impact. Initially a Gemeinschaft society, Japan possessed a strong sense of group cohesion and a consensus of values that was exemplified in its somewhat regimented education system. These features characterised it as a Gemeinschaft society, where the power of the government dictated a strict education system. With the emergence of industrialisation and modernisation, the ~~power~~ authority of the government in their strict control of education has been diminished. There has been a marked movement to a Gessellschaft society where there is a greater ^{sense of} ~~sense of~~ individuality, power for the individual. This has seen the cessation of Saturday school, and a reduction of student workload by 30%. Facets in society ~~was~~ were concerned that the education system produced rigid thinkers who lacked creativity. Whilst government authority still ultimately dictates the structure of education, social changes have provided the individual with greater power and freedom.