# AsseSSment type 3: Evaluation

### Summary

**My research project was inspired by my intrigue in understanding my family’s dispute with the Japanese government. My parents have consistently imprinted a negative stigma around the Japanese government within my household, mainly due to historical complications. From my upbringing, I questioned the legitimacy and the extent of bias within their statements. Thus, I decided to undergo research based specifically on, “to** what extent has history shaped the social and political relationship between Japan and South Korea?”

Throughout my research, I’ve used various forms of research processes that allowed me to gain the information required to answer my question including:

* Interviews
* Internet research
* Literature review
* Surveys
* Statistical analysis
* Journal articles

My outcome was presented in essay form which summarised my key findings and suggested the extent of how historical factors have affected the political and societal relationship between Japan and South Korea.

**Word count - 146**

## **e1**

Preliminary research, utilising **internet sources**, has contributed to the vast amounts of basic knowledge surrounding my area of research due to the myriad of secondary sources. Furthermore, internet sources were highly advantageous to my development of understanding contexts around certain political and societal issues within subtopics as it informed me about all the details on why certain political and societal tensions arose between Japan and Korea. Thus, these sources proved to be highly valid. Although these sources were highly beneficial, due to internet sources having limited regulation of the information they provide, the credibility and reliability of these sources were far inferior in comparison to Journal articles. Overall, internet sources were a useful process as it provided a large spectrum of information and furthered my research by filling in the gaps within the research, however, as it contained a large spectrum of information, the key findings were usually generic and not specific to my research question.

My most successful research process, to gather primary qualitative sources, was by **interviews**. Interviews gave me access to firsthand accounts of the Korean perspectives concerning their opinions of Japan. Disadvantages of interviews were that many of the opinions, from the Koreans, were evidently biased and thus their context had to be reviewed. However, interviewing experts with specific questions, to answer various aspects of my research question, proved to be highly beneficial as the information gathered from the interviews directly answered specific sections of my question whilst also being highly credible and reliable. Professor Hundt, a professor of Asian politics at Deakin University, gave in-depth explanations to my questions, most importantly the first section of my question, “To what extent has history influenced the political relationship between Japan and Korea?” His responses included specific links to key information on why certain historical influences still hold political value today, for instance, the trade treaties signed during the Cold War era [[1]](#footnote-1). Furthermore, Professor Hundt provided potential leads to various other aspects that could have influenced political relations between the two nations, most notably the American influence on both nations. In summary, this process was exceptionally beneficial as it provided me with new perspectives, specific answers to my question, and new leads for my research, due to interviewing experts, which allowed me to obtain credible and reliable primary sources.

**Journal articles**, written by accredited Asian political researchers and professors were reliable, valid, credible and beneficial due to the bountiful quantities of articles within websites and archives of published research documents that were relevant to my question. These articles provided highly relevant information and opened up new leads within my research. One article suggested how education systems could influence a new narrative of history to induce a political bias within a society and another article suggested how societal views, especially the Koreans, could be influenced through intergenerational passing of wartime stories[[2]](#footnote-2) [[3]](#footnote-3). Disadvantages of Journal articles were the sophisticated literary techniques used to target their highly educated demographic, however, this led me to discover new words and political nomenclature. Overall, journal articles increased the credibility, reliability and sophistication of my key findings and my research as a whole.

The **statistical analysis** added highly reliable, peer-reviewed key findings to the research. The EAI opinion poll, an example of statistics used, conveyed various statistics from perspectives of both Japanese and Korean society. These sources were highly relevant to my research as they provided evidence on statements from previous sources, for example, professor Hundt stated that many Koreans feel as if Japan showed a lack of remorse for past invasions of the Korean peninsula and the statistics confirmed this as they stated that over 80% of Koreans felt this way[[4]](#footnote-4). Furthermore, the statistics provided conflicted with information gathered by internet sources, thus, allowing me to filter and use the substantiated information which in turn made my outcome more reliable. The main disadvantage of this research process was that statistics, specific and relevant to my research topic, were scarce and the information was difficult to analyse. This was due to the sophisticated writing and structure being targeted at professors and political researchers alike. This led to further research to accurately analyse and understand the information. In summary, statistical sources provided sophisticated numerical evidence to claims stated by previous sources, thus, increasing the reliability and credibility of my key findings.

## **e2**

When finalising the formatting of the survey, I decided that an internet survey conducted on Australian students, would be inappropriate, thus I decided to utilise surveys already conducted by professionals. This decision benefited my research as the information gathered from surveys was professionally sourced and the organisations conducting them such as AsianBoss, a YouTube organisation researching Asian social issues, had extensive experience in the field. This approach was far easier as a method to find more reliable and valid primary sources because many organisations have already conducted large scale surveys, gathering opinions directly from Korean and Japanese societies. The demographic, of these professional surveys conducted, had an extensive range as they interviewed both genders and a myriad of age groups, ranging from teenagers to senior adults. Additionally, I was able to conduct an informal survey with fellow Koreans, in Australia, ranging from 16 to 50 years of age. Although their statements included extensive personal bias, the information gathered allowed me to effectively validate the professional surveys conducted by AsianBoss, thus increasing the reliability of the research. Looking back, the decision to gain primary sources in a more appropriate method was effective because I was able to collect more samples that were relevant and sourced from a larger demographic, thus increasing the reliability of this research process.

A major complication found was the extensive and complicated process to find enough relevant **history textbooks** in conjunction with the inability to access the state library due to COVID 19. I overcame this issue by using textbooks from the internet such as PDF files and online History textbooks from Korea and Japan that had been translated. Furthermore, I found that Journal articles were a great alternative to history textbooks as it was also peer-reviewed and produced by professionals. This resulted in finding a larger range of texts that were more specific to my research topic as I could google books that held key points that were relevant to a specific section of my research. Whilst also finding extensive amounts of relevant information, the level of complexity, reliability and credibility were maintained as the texts were the same literature just in different formats. Furthermore, using the internet to find textbooks proved to be far more efficient as I didn’t have to take time to find specific sections of the library that relate to my topic. Thus, online history textbooks have allowed me to make my research more credible and reliable due to the analysis of vast amounts of textbooks, written by Korean and Japanese scholars professors and education organisations.

## **e3**

**My outcome was founded on information gathered by primary and secondary sources. The research question was answered to a satisfactory extent, explaining the extent of how history has affected both political and societal relationships between Korea and Japan. As my research had a specific purpose and was dissected into manageable sections, sources could easily and bountifully be found that precisely provided information to directly aid me in answering my research question. Furthermore, my personal connections with Koreans, as a Korean myself, has allowed me to gain firsthand insight into Korean values and perspectives, thus validly answering the latter section of my question completely.**

**A strength within my outcome was the use of quantitative sources as it provided verifiable numerical facts. Exemplified by the statistical analysis, quantitative sources increased my logos within the conclusion of my outcome and substantiated information gathered from qualitative sources, thus quantitative sources increased the reliability of my outcome.**

**A weakness of my outcome stemmed from the minimal exploration of the Japanese perspectives. This was due to my lack of connections with Japanese people and my initial focus, to explore why Koreans politically and socially distrust the Japanese. The inclusion of Japanese perspectives would drastically improve my outcome as it would reduce the impact of my bias due to my personal beliefs, thus adding reliability to my research. Furthermore, to well-educated audiences, my research outcome would be deemed unreliable, due to lack of experience as a Year 12 student, and biased, due to my Korean nationality, thus rendering my outcome unreliable. However, my outcome could provide decently substantial information for those intrigued by my personal opinions, as a Korean, and to understand my distrust of the Japanese government. Therefore, my outcome could provide personal insights on my views of the Japanese government, however, they would be required to search elsewhere to find less bias and substantiated information on my research topic.**

**To conclude, my research, although not beneficial to most, has allowed me to personally explore the extent of historical influences on modern Korean Japanese relations allowing me to gain a newfound understanding of my parent’s perspectives and Koreans alike.**

**Total word count - 1498**

1. **Source 4: Interviewee: David Hundt – Currently an associate professor of international relations at Deakin University (Accessed 6/03/2020)** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Source 10: Suh Yonghee, Yurita Makito, Lin Lin, Metzger Scott, 2013, *Collective Memories of the Second World War in History Textbooks from China, Japan and South Korea,*** [**https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1149771.pdf**](https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1149771.pdf) **(accessed 30/03/2020)** [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Song, Seok Won, 2018, *The Japanese Imperial Mentality: Cultural Imperialism as Colonial Control-Chosun as Exemplar,*** [**https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/pafo.12120**](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/pafo.12120) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Source 1: EAI, 2018, Korean-Japanese *Public Opinion Poll*** [**http://www.eai.or.kr/main/english/program\_list01.asp?code=54**](http://www.eai.or.kr/main/english/program_list01.asp?code=54)**) (accessed 17/02/2020)** [↑](#footnote-ref-4)