

Japan's defense overhaul, export policy shifts, and economic reforms in focus

Japan Politics · Answer Key · 21 Questions

1. In late March 2026, Japan significantly bolstered its deterrence capabilities by deploying what type of advanced weaponry?

- A) Newly developed stealth fighter jets and drones
- B) Domestically developed long-range missiles and hyper velocity gliding projectiles**
- C) Nuclear-capable ballistic missiles
- D) Advanced cyber warfare units

2. Which significant policy shift did Japan's Cabinet approve on April 21, 2026, pertaining to its defense industry and international relations?

- A) A ban on all foreign military aid
- B) A relaxation of restrictions on lethal arms exports**
- C) Increased military spending on domestic R&D only
- D) A complete withdrawal from all international defense agreements

3. What is the approximate range of the upgraded Type-12 surface-to-ship missiles that Japan began deploying in late March 2026?

- A) Around 200 kilometers
- B) About 500 kilometers
- C) Approximately 1,000 kilometers**
- D) Over 2,000 kilometers

4. In response to evolving regional security challenges, Japan's fiscal year 2026 budget included a record defense allocation. What was this allocation approximately?

- A) ¥5 trillion
- B) ¥7 trillion
- C) ¥9 trillion**
- D) ¥11 trillion

5. What is the primary aim of Japan's newly approved policy on defense equipment transfers, as stated by Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara?

- A) To exclusively focus on domestic self-defense capabilities
- B) To deepen cooperation with allies and improve sustained combat capabilities**
- C) To solely provide non-lethal equipment to developing nations
- D) To increase military presence in international peacekeeping operations

6. As of April 2026, how many nations does Japan maintain defense equipment and technology transfer agreements with, allowing for potential lethal weapons exports under specific conditions?

- A) 5
- B) 12
- C) 17**
- D) 25

7. What major environmental policy initiative did Japan and Canada announce on April 24, 2026, to address shared challenges?

- A) A joint initiative to build a new fleet of nuclear-powered icebreakers
- B) Collaborative efforts to tackle methane emissions, plastic pollution, and biodiversity loss**
- C) A plan to jointly develop and export carbon capture technology
- D) A partnership to create a trans-Asian high-speed rail network

8. The Japanese government approved an amendment to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act in April 2026. What significant reclassification did this amendment enact regarding cryptocurrencies?

- A) Cryptocurrencies were classified as commodities
- B) Cryptocurrencies were reclassified as financial instruments**
- C) Cryptocurrencies were banned from domestic exchanges
- D) Cryptocurrencies were designated as legal tender

9. Japan's Green Transformation Emissions Trading Scheme (GX-ETS) became mandatory in April 2026. Approximately how many companies are regulated under this initial phase?

- A) 100-200
- B) 300-400**
- C) 500-600
- D) 700-800

10. In late March 2026, Japan deployed upgraded Type-12 surface-to-ship missiles. Where were these missiles deployed?

- A) Camp Fuji, central Japan
- B) Camp Kengun, Kumamoto**
- C) Okinawa Prefecture
- D) Hokkaido Prefecture

11. Which notable international agreement concerning defense cooperation was signed between Japan and Australia on April 18, 2026, involving Mogami-class warships?

A) The Tokyo-Canberra Defense Pact

B) The Mogami Memorandum

C) The Pacific Security Alliance

D) The Maritime Security Accord

12. The House of Representatives passed a bill in late April 2026 to establish a national intelligence council. What is a key function of this planned council?

A) To oversee the nation's space exploration program

B) To investigate and discuss intelligence activities related to national security and terrorism

C) To manage international trade agreements

D) To regulate the stock market

13. What is the estimated range of the new hyper velocity gliding projectiles (HVGPs) that Japan deployed in late March 2026?

A) Hundreds of kilometers at supersonic speeds

B) Up to 500 kilometers

C) Around 1,000 kilometers

D) Over 5,000 kilometers

14. Japan has been increasing its defense spending, with its fiscal year 2026 plan exceeding ¥9 trillion. This allocation marks a significant development as it is the first time this defense budget has reached this level.

A) True

B) False

C) Partially True

D) Cannot be determined

15. On April 21, 2026, Japan's Cabinet approved changes to its defense equipment transfer principles. Which of the following is *not* a category into which defense equipment is now classified?

A) Weapons (lethal systems)

B) Non-weapons (non-lethal equipment)

C) Restricted items

D) No classification change was made

16. What was the approximate value of the emergency stopgap budget passed by Japan's Parliament in late March 2026 to fund basic services until April 11?

- A) ¥5.56 trillion
- B) ¥8.56 trillion**
- C) ¥10.56 trillion
- D) ¥12.56 trillion

17. What is the target year for Japan to achieve net zero emissions, as per its long-term climate goals?

- A) 2030
- B) 2040
- C) 2050**
- D) 2060

18. Regarding the reclassification of cryptocurrencies as financial instruments, when is this legislation expected to take effect?

- A) Fiscal year 2026
- B) Fiscal year 2027**
- C) Fiscal year 2028
- D) Fiscal year 2029

19. In a significant development for Japan's defense industry, the country recently abolished restrictions limiting military equipment transfers to how many non-lethal categories previously?

- A) Three
- B) Five**
- C) Seven
- D) Ten

20. Japan's new GX-ETS (Green Transformation Emissions Trading Scheme) regulates companies based on their direct emissions. What is the minimum annual Scope 1 emissions threshold for a company to be covered under this scheme?

- A) 50,000 metric tons
- B) 100,000 metric tons**
- C) 200,000 metric tons
- D) 500,000 metric tons

21. What move by Japan on April 21, 2026, was criticized by China as potentially undermining regional stability and departing from its post-war pacifist commitments?

A) The deployment of new cyber defense units

B) The relaxation of rules on lethal arms exports

C) The establishment of new research centers for AI development

D) The increase in diplomatic ties with Russia