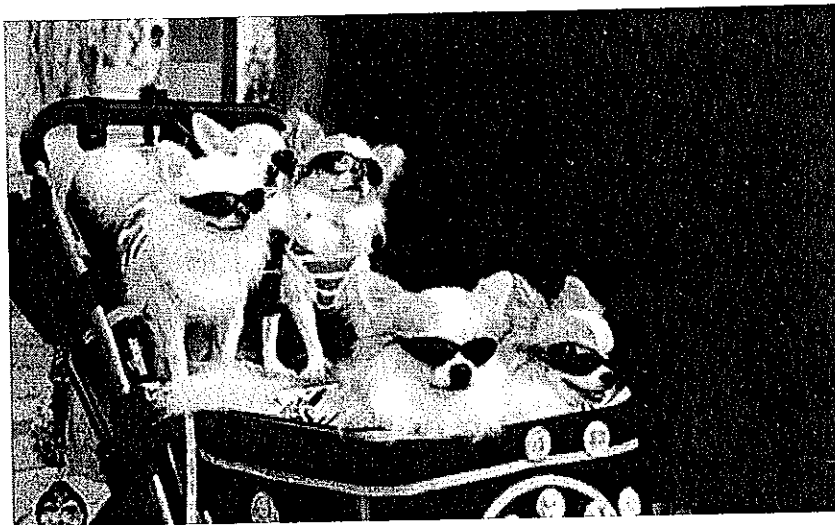


Source A

21st Century non-fiction: an online article from *The Guardian* newspaper from 2012 called *Why Japan prefers pets to parenthood*. The writers give examples of why people in Japan prefer owning pets to having children of their own.

Why Japan prefers pets to parenthood

Ruth Evans and Roland Buerk. Friday 8 June 2012



1 In a smart and expensive neighbourhood of Tokyo, Toshiko Horikoshi relaxes by playing her grand piano. She's a successful eye surgeon, with a private clinic, a stylish apartment, a Porsche¹ and two pet pooches: Tinkerbelle, a chihuahua², and Ginger, a poodle. "Japanese dog owners think a dog is like a child," says Horikoshi. "I have no children, so I really love my two dogs."

5 Many Japanese women like Horikoshi prefer pets to parenthood. Startlingly, in a country panicking over its plummeting birthrate, there are now many more pets than children. While the birthrate has been falling dramatically and the average age of Japan's population has been steadily climbing, Japan has become a pet superpower. Official estimates put the pet population at 22 million or more, but there are only 16.6 million children under 15.

10 Tinkerbelle and Ginger have their own room and a wardrobe full of designer clothes. They have jumpers, dresses, coats and fancy dress outfits, neatly hung on jewelled hangers; hats, sunglasses and even tiny shoes. Horikoshi says she shops for her dogs most weekends and they get new clothes each season.

15 In Japan designer labels such as Chanel, Dior, Hermès and Gucci offer luxury dog products. This canine couture³ doesn't come cheap. A poodle pullover can cost £160 or more. In many parts of Tokyo, it is easier to buy clothes for dogs than for children. Boutiques sell everything from frilly frocks to designer jeans, from nappies to organic nibbles, and smart "doggie bags" and buggies or pushchairs to transport them in.

20 Japan has arguably the world's most pampered pooches⁴. Tiny lapdogs such as miniature

dachshunds⁵, poodles and chihuahuas are particularly popular because most people in Tokyo – one of the most densely populated cities in the world – live in small apartments. And there's a growing market in services and treats for pets.

25 The pet industry is estimated to be worth more than £8.2bn a year and has expanded into gourmet dog food stores, hot spring resorts, yoga classes and restaurants where dogs sit on chairs to eat organic meals.

30 In his one-room flat in a Tokyo suburb, Jiro Akiba feeds treats to his dog Kotaro, a miniature dachshund, weighing only 3.4kg. His name means "first-born son". "He's like a first baby for us, so that's why we decided to call him Kotaro," says Akiba. "It's good to have a dog if you don't have a baby, because it is quite fun to take care of him like a baby."

One young man we spoke to had dressed his dog up in a white hoodie and jeans, shoes and sunglasses because, he said, he wanted his dog to look "cute, cool and tough". His proud owner said he hoped his dog's look might attract young women, but so far he hadn't met anyone to share his life with.

35 Economic stagnation has hit young men particularly hard. More than 10 million people aged between 20 and 34 still live with their parents. They can't afford to get married and start a family, but for the odd luxury or treats for their dogs, they can – and do – splash out.

40 Smart buggies and designer doggie bags are essential for any self-respecting dog like Kotaro. "My dog really hates to go out with his feet," says Akiba. "Kotaro doesn't like walking at all."

45 For dogs in urgent need of exercise after a lifetime being pushed or carried around, there are spas and hot springs, which look identical to the ones for humans. For £65 a session, an attendant in a wetsuit will give Kotaro one-to-one swimming lessons, relaxing bubble baths, body massages using aromatherapy oils, deep-pore cleansing and mud packs, and even flossing or manicure services. Many dogs are "regulars" who come at least once a week – running up annual bills of £3,200 or more.

In Tokyo, it is easier for Horikoshi to find a canine daycare centre for Tinkerbelle and Ginger than it would be to find a nursery place for a child. If Akiba and his partner decide to go on holiday, they can pay £70 a night to leave Kotaro in a dog hotel.

Glossary:

Porsche¹ – a very expensive, sporty car

chihuahua² – a very small breed of dog

Canine couture³ – expensive clothes and fashion items for dogs

pooches⁴ – informal term for dogs

dachshund⁵ – a small dog with a long back and short legs

Turn over for Source B

Turn over ▶

Source B

Battersea Dog's Home in London is respected for saving thousands of stray dogs each year. When it was first established in the 19th century, it was called 'The Home for Lost and Starving Dogs'.

A storm of indignation and ridicule has been aroused due to the opening of the "Home for Lost and Starving Dogs." Really it would seem that by some people any help given to suffering dogs is considered a crime, and they think it is perfectly acceptable to allow the poor animals to die of persecution and starvation in the streets.

- 5 The "Home for Lost and Starving Dogs" owes its origin to a lady by the name of Tealby. She had for some time been in the habit of collecting the poor animals which she found in the streets, in a starving state, in her own neighbourhood, and paying a person so much a week for each until they were recovered, and new homes could be obtained for them.

- 10 Surely no one will venture to deny that the dog deserves this care at our hands? For of all animals, the dog, I think, may without doubt be the most domestic, the most intelligent, and the most exclusively devoted to man. He is entirely dependent upon us, and gives up his whole life, with all its energies and all its instincts, to our service. His master possesses his whole heart. He attaches himself with the most unselfish love to him and to his family: be the master a king or a beggar, happy or miserable, kind or cruel.

- 15 Now, I would ask, what more dreadful cruelty and inhumanity could men be guilty of than allowing hundreds of animals so utterly and entirely dependent upon us for food as the dog is, to die of lingering starvation in the streets?

- 20 In the case of the poor dog there is no dishonesty, no pretence, theirs is real suffering; and I confess I cannot understand how any person can witness the dejected, pleading look of a starving dog without being deeply affected by it. All around life is bustle and activity, whilst these poor abandoned animals, every one possessing a heart ready to expand with such love and gratitude to a benefactor¹ as few are capable of feeling, are lost and starving, are battered and persecuted and left to die a most painful and lingering death. The object of this Home for Lost and Starving Dogs is to afford a remedy for this great and too abounding misery.

- 25 Every dirty little ragamuffin² boy I am sorry to say, seems to take the greatest pleasure in pelting³ and persecuting these poor outcast animals. Destitute⁴ and poor, he is forced to scrape a living and takes revenge on all poor animals unfortunate enough to cross his path. He is driven to beg, or steal until a lucky windfall provides him with money. He is a dirty, houseless, poor little gutter prowler⁵.

- 30 At that point we step in, receive the poor animal into the Home, feed him and take care of him, and restore him to his master if he be sought after, or, if not, exert ourselves to obtain another kind master for him. I may here just make a passing remark, that no distinction is made; every homeless dog, be his race or condition what it may, is received into the Home when brought there.

Glossary:

benefactor¹ – a kind person

ragamuffin² – a scruffy and naughty child

pelting³ – throw things at

Destitute⁴ – extremely poor

gutter prowler⁵ – a street thief

END OF SOURCES

Paper 2 Practice Paper

1. Read again Source A from lines 1 to 10.

Choose four statements below which are TRUE.

- Shade the boxes of the ones that you think are true
- Choose a maximum of four statements. [4 marks]

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| A | Toshiko Horikoshi lives in a run down and cheap neighbourhood of Tokyo. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B | She has a well-paid job. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C | She does not like dogs. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D | Japanese women would prefer to be a parent than a pet owner. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| E | There are fewer children born in Japan than there used to be. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| F | There are more old people in Japan than there used to be. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| G | There are more pets in Japan than there are children. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| H | In Japan there are 22 million children under 15. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. You need to refer to Source A and Source B for this question.

The ways that Toshiko and the ragamuffin boy lead their lives and treat dogs are different. Use details from both Sources to write a summary of the different ways they lead their lives and treat dogs. [8 marks]

3. You now need to refer only to Source B.

How does the writer use language to emphasise the suffering of stray dogs? [12 marks]

4. For this question, you need to refer to the whole of Source A, together with the whole of Source B.

Compare how the writers convey their different perspectives on the treatment of dogs. In your answer, you could:

- compare their different perspectives
- compare the methods they use to convey their perspectives
- support your ideas with references to both texts. [16 marks]

5. 'Pets are either treated too well or too cruelly!'

Write the text for an article to be published on your school's website in which you explain your own point of view.

(24 marks for content and organisation 16 marks for technical accuracy) [40 marks]