

# KIRITAKA English Journal Vol.31

~Stay Independent, Stay as ONE TEAM~ March 22nd, 2024



## Kiwi Corner



Do you enjoy singing?

Happy March, everyone! I can't believe it's already the end of another school year. How quickly this year has gone by! At the beginning of this month, Kiritaka held its graduation ceremony.

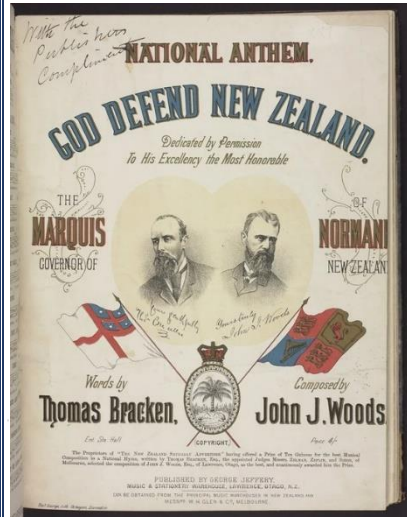
There, everyone sang not only the school song, but also the national anthem of Japan, known by the name 'Kimigayo.' This made me think about how interesting national anthems are, and how different Japan's is from New Zealand's anthem.

Firstly, I'd like to talk about **Kimigayo**. The lyrics were originally from a waka or a classical Japanese poem, written in the Heian period. The current melody to match the original lyrics was chosen in 1880, and was formally adopted as Japan's national anthem in 1888. Although the melody is based on a traditional mode of Japanese court music, it is composed in a mixed style influenced by Western hymns.



Kimigayo sheet music from 1888

Next, I'd like to introduce my country's national anthem. The national anthem of New Zealand is called **God Defend New Zealand**. Like *Kimigayo*, *God Defend New Zealand* was originally a poem which then had a melody produced for it. The poem was written in the 1870s, and the melody was arranged as part of a competition in 1876. However, until 1977, New Zealand's only anthem was 'God save the King,' the U.K.'s national anthem. *God Defend New Zealand* was eventually made New Zealand's second anthem, after gaining the consent of Queen Elizabeth II. This means that



New Zealand's national anthem

**New Zealand actually has two national anthems!** Despite this, only *God Defend New Zealand* is usually played at events as the national anthem.

Another interesting fact about New Zealand's national anthem is that it is sung in **two different languages**. The first verse is sung in **Maori**, the language of the indigenous people of New Zealand. This is followed by a verse in **English**.

Maybe you never really thought about your national anthem before. Of course, I love my country's national anthem, and I still get goosebumps when I listen to it now! You can listen to New Zealand's national anthem, 'God Defend New Zealand,' [here](#). Do you prefer Japan's somber anthem, or the style of New Zealand's?

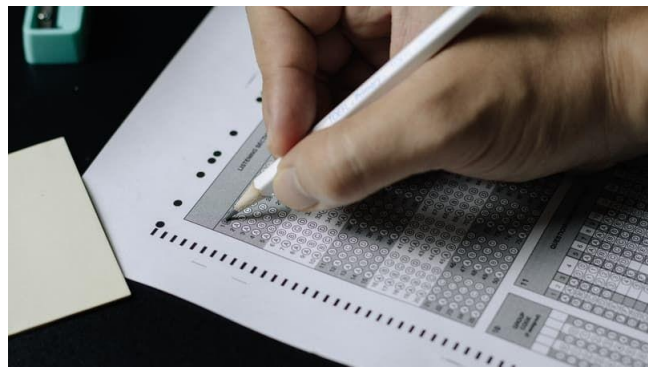
This edition of Kiwi Corner brings an end to the year's English Journal. I hope you've enjoyed reading them!

(Liam Campbell)

# Lauren's Newsletter



## College Admission Tests in the USA: SAT vs. ACT



An average standardized test answer sheet

Happy spring, everyone! This month, I'd like to share with you about college admission exams in the USA. In Japan, only the third years take college entrance exams, studying for months until they go in for a written exam and possibly an interview. This is quite different that what we do in the US, so let's dive into it!

In the USA, we have two standardized tests that most colleges accept for their applications, however, some colleges don't require either exam. Both **juniors** (third years) and **seniors** (fourth years) in the US take the SAT and/or ACT, the two different tests for college admissions. Students only need to take one of the tests, and can take each test multiple times. However, some students choose to take both tests and put their highest score on their application. Now, let's break down each exam.

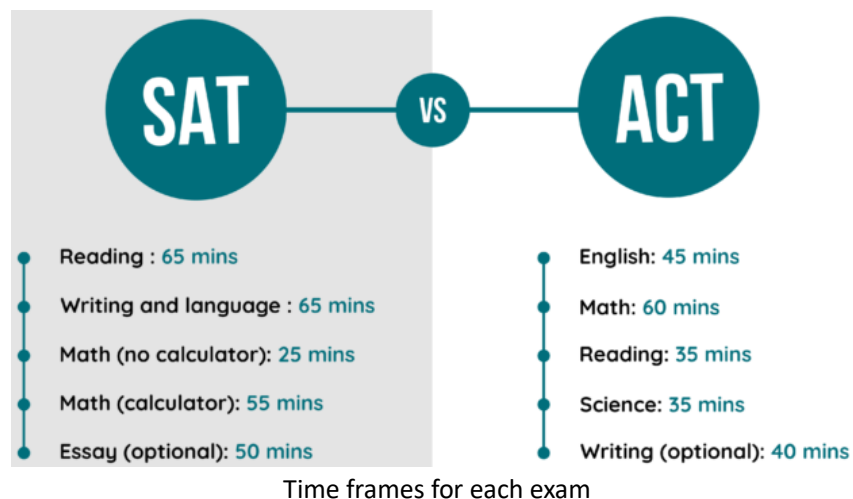
First, the **SAT**, previously known as the Scholastic Assessment Test, is taken at a high school in your local area. The test measures skills for writing, math, and reading. Including the optional essay, the test takes a total of about **4 hours**. I took the SAT three times; that's about 12 hours of test taking! The exam is split into two sections, EBRW (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing) and math, each weighing 50% of your total score. Additionally, calculators are only allowed for some of the math questions. The test is scored between **400-1600 points**, with the average score landing at around 1050 points.

The **ACT**, which used to stand for American College Test, is also proctored at nearby high schools, however, it measures skills for writing, math, reading, as well as science. With the optional writing section, the test is about **3.5 hours** long, and is scored from **1-36**. There are four sections that cover English, math, reading, and science, each section accounting for 25% of your score. Also, calculators are allowed, so students can use them during the entire math portion of the exam. The average score for the ACT is 19, so it is a bit lower in percentage than the SAT.

What do you think about the college admission exams in the US? Would you want to try and take one, and which one would you take? Thank you for a wonderful school year and I hope you have a great spring break!

Your Friendly Neighborhood ALT,

**(Lauren Taylor)**



To celebrate spring, here's a popular pop song about flowers and self-love. It was the best-selling global single in 2023! Take a listen here:

