

Exhibit 31. The five topics emphasized most by grade 8 mathematics teachers. U.S. grade 8 mathematics teachers' five most extensively covered topics accounted for less than half of their instructional periods. This is even more so since one of the topics was 'other content,' a combination of smaller topics. This was true both for Algebra I teachers and other grade 8 mathematics teachers. Japanese teachers' five most extensively covered topics included almost 75 percent of instructional periods (65 percent if 'other content' is omitted). U.S. teachers' actual content coverage echoes the inclusive, unfocused character of U.S. official curricula and textbooks in mathematics. [Each bar shows the cumulative percentage of intended class periods, averaged across teachers, devoted to the five topics allocated most time by grade 8 mathematics teachers. We show bars for Japan, Germany, and the U.S. Each bar segment shows the specific TIMSS framework topics (e.g., 'equations and formulas') involved. Corresponding international data are not yet approved for release.]

