

# 学 力 検 査 問 題

## 外 国 語 (英語)

### リーディング・ライティング

(5問)

平成19年2月25日

自15時20分

至17時20分

#### 答案作成上の注意

- 1 この問題冊子には、リーディング・ライティングの問題があります。総ページは11ページです。
- 2 解答用紙は1枚（表裏の2ページ）です。解答はすべてその解答用紙に記入しなさい。
- 3 **受験番号**は、解答用紙の所定の箇所に、必ず記入しなさい。
- 4 配付した解答用紙は、持ち出してはいけません。

このページは白紙です。

[ I ] 次の英文を読んで、その要旨を日本語で170～200字にまとめなさい。数字や句読点も1字に数えます。

A child's first birthday is a cause for special celebration in most cultures. By this age, children are able to follow the direction of an adult's gaze, they are sensitive to gestures such as pointing, and they tend to pay attention to the same things as the adults with whom they are interacting. Not coincidentally, this is also about the time that they first venture into language.

A child's first word is one of the great milestones in life. For most children this happens when they are around 12 months old, give or take a few weeks in either direction. On average, a child has 10 words in his or her vocabulary by age 15 months and 50 words by age 18 or 19 months.

And, yes, it's true that the first words learned by children the world over are usually the names for "mother" and "father." They get a lot of help with this, though. Words like *mama*, *papa*, and *dada* are very easy to pronounce — they consist of very simple sounds arranged into very simple syllables — and they are a natural by-product of children's spontaneous expressions. In fact, "mama"-like sounds have been detected in children's speech starting from as early as two weeks of age up to around five months, usually in a "wanting" context (such as wanting to be picked up or wanting food).

Parents are quick to help a child assign meaning to these early noises, telling them that *mama* means "mother" and *papa* or *dada* means "father." Children go along with the game, it seems, and before long they start using those words in just the right way.

(Adapted from an article by W. O'Grady, 2005)

〔Ⅱ〕 次の対話を読んで、下の問いに答えなさい。

Wife : Honey, I know I'm going to be coming home from work late tomorrow. ( A ) pick up the kids from the day care center?

Husband : Tomorrow... Let's see. I don't think so. We've got a meeting starting at 4. Could you ask someone else?

Wife : I guess I could ask the next-door neighbor again. But I'd rather not bother her all the time. Isn't there some way you could do it? A lot of dads leave off and pick up the kids at the school.

Husband : Sorry, but there's no way I can do it. You don't want me to get fired, do you?

Wife : But I'm in the same boat as you. I need to work late sometimes, <sup>(1)</sup> too. Other fathers manage to do it. Don't think that you're a special case.

Husband : I know I have responsibilities as a father, too. But do you expect me to tell the boss that \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Wife : Sometimes you should. <sup>(2)</sup> At my work, they're always saying that women with children are unreliable. I get sick of hearing that. You men need to carry more of the load! ( B ) be better if we shared everything?

Husband : I know how you feel, but I just can't leave work so early in the afternoon. I think it's better if you do certain things, and I do certain things. It's called specialization. It works well. I take care of the car, dust the house, and wash the dishes. Can't you pick up the kids?

Wife : Hmm. The same old stuff.

Husband : ( C ) if we pay someone to do it?

Wife : I guess so. That's going to cost us, though.

Husband : Yeah, but it'll be worth it.

Wife : OK.

問 1 空欄( A )から( C )を補うのもっとも適当なものを下から選び、それぞれ記号で答えなさい。

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| ア. Could you possibly | イ. Do you think |
| ウ. How about          | エ. Wouldn't it  |

問 2 下線部(1)と意味がもっとも近い英文を下から選び、記号で答えなさい。

- ア. Our means of transportation are the same.
- イ. Our situations are identical.
- ウ. We're leaving at the same time.
- エ. We were both fired.

問 3 下線部(2)にふさわしい英文を 10 語程度で補いなさい。

問 4 この対話において、(1)夫と妻はどんな問題について議論し、(2)どのような解決策を見いだしましたか。それぞれ日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。

〔Ⅲ〕 次の英文[A]と[B]を読んで、それぞれの問いに答えなさい。

[A]

The Internet contains a lot of bad articles, and not without reason. It's a wide-open forum and there is a lot of stuff out there that is highly disturbing. But there are also some really good sites you can visit. One of the sites I have in my "favorites" list is a very good place to receive some findings of the latest research and discoveries in various fields of study. The information is presented in a way that even non-scientist types (like me!) can easily understand.

One of the articles that captured my attention on the site last week was a feature that examined whether or not some of the popular myths we have all heard enough times to assume they are probably true actually hold up under the harsh light of scientific investigation. A few examples follow.

■ People use only 10 percent of their brains. Although it certainly seems like many of the people we meet in life are using only a small portion of their mental capacity, the wonders of MRI imaging have demonstrated that all parts of our brains are active and in use. We will need to come up with another explanation for the stupidity you see everywhere that seems to define much of the human experience.

■ Chickens can live without a head. Shockingly, this one is true. Apparently, the brain stem, which controls the bird's reflexes, is not located in the head so the body can continue to function for a time without the head. One headless chicken apparently survived for 18 months.

■ Water draining from a container in the Southern Hemisphere rotates in the opposite direction than it does in the Northern Hemisphere. Not a portion of truth to this one. The rotation is affected by the shape and design of the container being drained, but is not affected by your geography.

■ Hair and fingernails continue to grow after you are dead. This is not

true even though visual evidence might suggest otherwise. As the body loses liquid after the death, it only appears that hair and nails are getting longer as the skin around them shrinks.

(Adapted from *The Daily Yomiuri*, 2006)

問 1 下線部は、何を示そうとする例ですか。日本語で説明しなさい。

問 2 次の(1)~(8)の中から、本文で主張されている考えとほぼ同じものを3つ選び、番号で答えなさい。

- (1) Science compels us to accept the fact that 90 percent of our brain is left unused.
- (2) The stupidity of our human nature is not evidence for the claim that we use only 10 percent of our brains.
- (3) Chickens may survive for a while without the head for their special distribution of their brain system.
- (4) The argument concerning the chickens without the head is intolerable as well as unscientific.
- (5) Water rotates in opposite directions in the Southern Hemisphere and in the Northern Hemisphere because of the shape and design of the container being drained.
- (6) The direction of the rotation of water in a container is a highly controversial issue because it depends upon the geography of the place where the rotation takes place.
- (7) As far as we can see, hair and fingernails seem to continue to grow even after a person is dead.
- (8) Hair and fingernails continue to grow even after a person is dead because the body shrinks.

[B]

In some countries, the idea that there is life on other planets would make people laugh. In others, the inhabitants not only believe in life elsewhere in the universe but make efforts to communicate with it. There are certainly doubters and believers on this issue.

One traditional argument for the existence of life outside the earth, known as plenitude theory, is that there are so many star systems in the universe that it is unlikely that only earth would bear intelligent life. ( A ), it could be considered human arrogance to think that we are the only intelligent life in all of space. Another current and more convincing argument comes from convergence theory. Convergence theory refers to situations when two different species are faced with a problem and independently arrive at the same solution. For example, both bats and birds evolved wings in order to fly. ( B ), octopus and squid have camera-like eyes. The species evolved separately, arriving at these adaptations independently. Simon Morris has argued that where nature has produced something once, it is likely to produce it again. All this suggests that although there may be infinite possibilities in the universe, nature tends to repeat itself.

On the other hand, those who support a third theory called contingency theory <sup>(1)</sup> argue against the possibility of life on other planets. Their argument, and it is a compelling one, is that life is a happy accident. They claim that the processes which led to the evolution of life are so complicated that it is extraordinary they occurred even once. They consider it extremely unlikely that the same set of processes could ever occur again. ( C ), although Morris argues that nature is likely to repeat itself, he himself recognizes that even the basic conditions for life may be rare in the universe. Nature may be willing but the conditions might not be right. It is probable that the exact conditions required for life <sup>(2)</sup> will not be found more than once. It is unlikely that other planets will be exactly the right distance from their sun, with the right

gravity, the right combination of chemicals and physics, with water and atmosphere.

It is unlikely that there is life outside the earth. For over 100 years, radio waves have been used to track space for signs of life and so far have uncovered nothing. If there was intelligent life out there, it is probable that we would have identified some sign of it by now. Although (ア) theory indicates that nature tends to reproduce the same outcomes, and (イ) theory argues that the multiplicity of star systems increases the likelihood of life outside the earth, the arguments are not convincing enough. The conditions for life itself are so fragile and complex that it is remarkable that life occurred even once, much less that it could be repeated elsewhere.

(Adapted from *Critical Thinking Skills*, 2005)

問 1 空欄( A )から( C )を補うのもっとも適当な語を選び、それぞれ番号で答えなさい。

- |                     |                  |               |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|
| (A) (1) First       | (2) However      | (3) Indeed    |
| (B) (1) Certainly   | (2) Similarly    | (3) Then      |
| (C) (1) Furthermore | (2) Nevertheless | (3) Otherwise |

問 2 下線部(1)を日本語で説明しなさい。

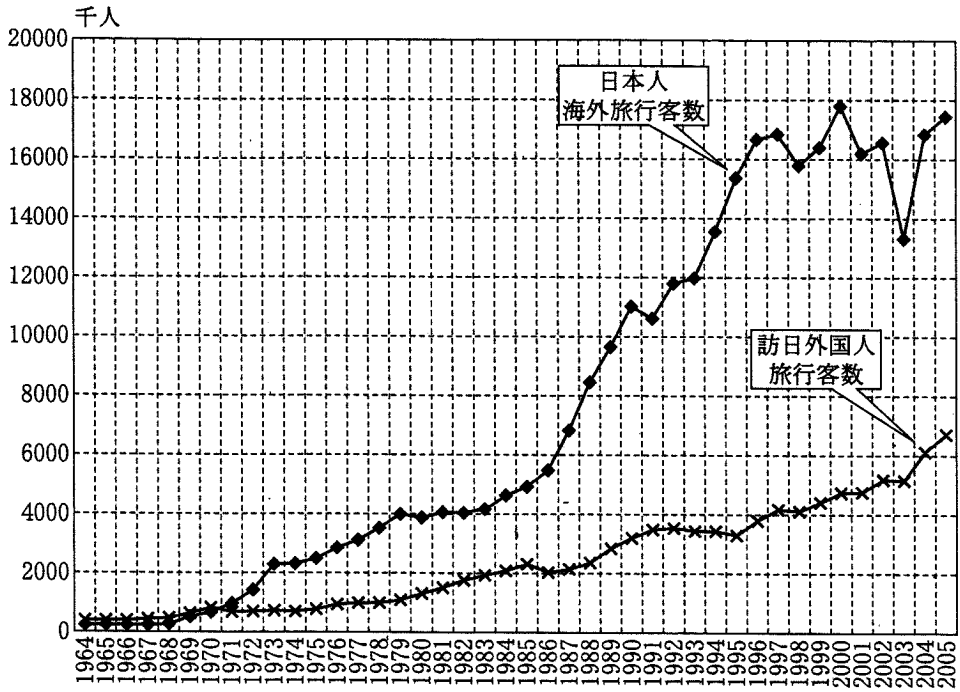
問 3 下線部(2)の内容を具体的に日本語で述べなさい。

問 4 空欄(ア)と(イ)を補うのに適当な単語を、それぞれ本文中から抜き出しなさい。

問 5 筆者が伝えたい結論をもっとも簡潔に述べた文を、本文中から抜き出しなさい。

[IV] 私たちはモノをいとも簡単に捨ててしまう時代に生きています。しかし、モノには人間と生活をともにした記憶が刻まれていると、建築家の安藤忠雄さんは言います。あなたが大切にしまっているモノは何ですか。なぜそれを現在も持っているのですか。この2点について80語程度の英語で書きなさい。コンマやピリオドなどは語数に含めません。解答欄の最初の( )に語数を記入しなさい。

[V] 下の図は、海外を訪れる日本人旅行客数と、日本を訪れる外国人旅行客数の推移を示しています。その特徴について、100語程度の英語で書きなさい。コンマやピリオドは語数に含めません。解答欄の最初の( )に語数を記入しなさい。



(資料)観光白書