

九州大学 一般
後期

平成25年度入学試験問題

英 語

英 語 II
リーディング
ライティング

〔理 学 部〕
〔医 学 部〕
〔歯 学 部〕
〔薬 学 部〕
〔工 学 部〕

(注 意 事 項)

1. 問題冊子は指示があるまで開かないこと。
2. 問題冊子は5ページ、解答紙は3枚あります。「始め」の合図があったらそれぞれを確認すること。
3. 解答紙それぞれの2箇所に受験番号を記入すること。
4. 解答はすべて解答紙の所定の欄に記入すること。
5. この教科は、100点満点です。なお、医学部及び薬学部については、150点満点に、歯学部については、200点満点に換算します。

英

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[1] 次の英文を読み、設問に答えなさい。(40点)

My father moved to the United States when he was eight years old. His family escaped from Germany in the 1930s, and they arrived with essentially nothing. My father spoke no English and his parents didn't have enough money to support their two children, so he lived with relatives, with whom he couldn't communicate, until his parents could afford to bring him home. From these humble beginnings, my father built an impressive life and career, and ⁽¹⁾retired as *executive vice president and chief operating officer at a large multinational corporation.

Reflecting on his life, my father determined that his most important insight is that you shouldn't take yourself too seriously nor judge others too harshly. He wishes he had been more tolerant of mistakes he made and those made by others, and that he could have seen that failure is a normal part of the learning process. He realizes now that most of our errors are not so serious, and shared the story that brought this home for him. Working at *RCA early in his career, he and his team had a project that was going very badly. My father and his colleagues stayed up for days on end trying to fix the problems. Working to find a solution became their entire focus for weeks. Shortly after the project was successfully completed, the entire program was cancelled. Even though the project was the center of their universe, to others it was not so important. He learned many times over that most things in life, ⁽²⁾especially our failures, aren't as important as we think they are at the time.

My father also reminded me that success is sweet but transient. When you're in a position of influence, authority, and power, the benefits are wonderful. But once the position is gone, the privileges evaporate. Your "power" comes from the position you hold. When you're no longer in that ⁽³⁾position, all that goes with it quickly fades away. Therefore, you should not define yourself by your current position nor believe all the good things that

people may say about you. Enjoy the spotlight when you have it, but be ready to yield center stage when it's time to go. When you leave a job, the organization will go on without you, as you are not indispensable. Of course, you will leave a legacy of all you have accomplished, but that too fades with time.

Today, my father is also acutely aware of the joy of being alive. Several years ago he had a heart attack and his implanted *defibrillator is a constant reminder of his mortality. We all know intellectually that each day is precious, but as we grow older or deal with a life-threatening illness, this sentiment⁽⁴⁾ grows increasingly more real. My father works hard to make each opportunity stand out, to appreciate every moment, and to avoid wasting even a single day.

注

*executive vice president: 副社長

*RCA: 合衆国の通信機器製造会社

*defibrillator: 心臓細動除去器

問 1. 下線部(1)の具体的内容を日本語で説明しなさい。

問 2. 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3. 下線部(3)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 4. 下線部(4)の具体的内容を日本語で説明しなさい。

〔2〕 次の英文を読み、設問に答えなさい。(40点)

For most of human history, high birthrates and high *mortality rates tended to balance each other out. That began to change in the nineteenth century, when healthier food and improved living conditions lengthened people's lives. The world's population grew from about one billion in 1800 to seven billion today.

Although overpopulation affects much of the developing world, many developed societies are now suffering from the opposite problem: birthrates so ⁽¹⁾ low that each generation is smaller than the previous one. Many countries of southern and eastern Europe, as well as Austria, Germany, Russia, and the developed nations of Southeast Asia, have alarmingly low *fertility rates, with women having, on average, fewer than 1.5 children each.

At the same time as women are having fewer children in developed countries, *life expectancies there have reached record highs. As a result, the dependency ratio—the ratio of the working population to the nonworking population—has become increasingly unfavorable, and it is projected to get even worse. With fewer working-age people to tax, governments will have to ⁽²⁾ choose from among several unpleasant options: cutting benefits, raising the retirement age, or increasing taxes.

Low birthrates threaten not only the management of the developed world's social welfare systems but also developed countries' very survival. In many parts of Europe and Asia, depopulation is a real possibility. Countries there risk falling into what experts call "the low fertility trap," ⁽³⁾ a vicious cycle whereby fewer and fewer women have fewer and fewer children, leading to an accelerating spiral of depopulation. In some countries, such as Austria and Germany, it may already be too late: surveys show that women there desire an average of only 1.7 children, well below the level needed to keep the countries' populations from decreasing, and they actually have an average of about 1.3

children. A culture of childlessness has already developed in these countries; many people choose to have no children at all.

Low birthrates are also changing the world's population balance, with poorer countries taking over richer ones. The population of Pakistan, to name just one developing country, rose from around 50 million in 1960 to about 190 million today, whereas the French population grew from about 45 million to 65 million in the same period. At some point, the population gap between the rich and the poor could grow so large that some developed countries will have to accept a huge number of immigrants to meet their economies' labor needs. But that much immigration would likely prove politically unfavorable.

Population decline poses a serious danger to the developed world. Yet⁽⁴⁾ there is nothing inevitable about it. History shows that governments can raise birthrates close to sufficiently stable levels — if only they adopt the right kinds of policies. This means making available high-quality and affordable child care, offering families financial support, and supporting mothers who pursue careers.

注

*mortality rates: 死亡率

*fertility rates: birthrates

*life expectancies: 平均余命

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問 2. 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3. 下線部(3)の具体的内容を日本語で説明しなさい。

問 4. 下線部(4)について、筆者がそう考える理由を具体的に日本語で説明しなさい。

〔3〕 次の文の下線部(1), (2)を英語に訳しなさい。(20点)

自分の仕事に責任を持つのは当然です。一般に、責任をとるということは自らのミス⁽¹⁾の償いをするという意味ですが、仕事上の失敗に金を払ったり、辞職をしてもそれですむものではありません。むしろ一面では無責任のそしりをまぬがれないでしょう。

責任は“とる”ものではなく“果たす”ものと考えべきなのです。仕事をするということは、自己の責任において仕事を完成させることなのです。たとえミス⁽²⁾を犯したとしても、最善の方法で対策を講じ、仕事を完成させるよう努力しなければなりません。同時に、なぜ誤りが発生したのか、その原因を追求し、二度と同じような誤りをしないよう研究することが、責任を果たすことなのです。