

琉球大学

英語

問題

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裁定申請日 【2017年】 8/1 【2018年】 4/24、9/20 【2019年】 6/20

1 次の英文を読んで、以下の各問に答えなさい。(30点)

The issue of poverty and its connection to food insecurity* is an increasing problem worldwide, including in the US. When people think of the US, they don't often think of poverty or lack of food; however, the latest statistics show that more Americans are living in poverty today than at any time in the last 52 years. In fact, it has been reported that the US had ⁽¹⁾ approximately 2.6 million people who were facing poverty last year. Increasing poverty means an increasing number of people who do not have enough money to buy food.

Food banks are centers where people who are living in poverty get an opportunity to receive healthy food to survive. At present, there are now 46.2 million Americans living with food insecurity, and many of them show up at food banks. Marcia Wells, an officer at a local food bank in Tennessee, told news reporters, "We have seen a ⁽²⁾ steady increase in the number of food insecure households since the bad economy of 2008." The statistics are not surprising because poverty and unemployment go ⁽³⁾ hand-in-hand with food insecurity. In the US, food insecurity simply means people cannot get fresh or healthy food to meet their daily needs. The poverty line for a family of four in 2014 was \$22,314 with 15.1 percent of Americans living below that level. This is the highest ratio since 1993.

Not surprisingly, unemployment remains high at 9.1 percent, meaning 14 million Americans cannot find steady work. Young people under 30 are having a particularly hard time. "It is all about jobs. In America, if you don't have a job, you don't have much self-respect," said Timothy Smeeding, Director of the Institute for Poverty Research at the University of Wisconsin. He is passionate about this issue and is concerned about the ⁽⁴⁾ significant relationship between poverty, employment, and food insecurity. He believes, "The longer a person is unemployed in their 20s, especially non-college graduates, the harder it is to find a stable job with a good salary and benefits."

Ms. Wells sees all types of people going to food banks but thinks the increase in citizens using food banks over the last two years has been caused by unemployment. In particular, senior citizens and single parents ⁽⁵⁾ rely on food bank services. "I was at a food bank just recently and met a woman who was having trouble raising her two grandchildren," Wells said. "She receives \$120 worth of government food coupons* that can only be used for food. Unfortunately, the coupons usually run out before the end of the month." She also stated, "The woman was so glad there was meat at this particular food bank because she had not eaten it in a month. It was simply too expensive. One major problem is that a lot of seniors are forced to choose between buying food or buying medicine."

Food insecurity does not just mean feeling hungry. Specifically, it means limited or irregular access to quality food. About 15 percent of households in the US face a food shortage and about a third of those are in the severe category, where people are eating less than they should be. Some rural and poor urban neighborhoods are considered "food deserts" as there are no supermarkets or other shops selling fresh, healthy food at good prices. In the same way, food insecurity significantly affects certain minority groups. Overall, African Americans and Hispanic Americans are 2.5 times more likely to face food insecurity than European Americans.

According to a published report in the US, being poor in America is not a life-or-death issue. This report shows that 80 percent of poor households have air-conditioning, and 42 percent of poor people own their own homes. One third of poor Americans have wide-screen TVs, and two thirds of poor Americans have DVD players. Director Timothy Smeeding has doubts about this analysis. He argues there are certain things that have become regular parts of life. Unlike much of the world, poverty in the US "does not mean living on one dollar per day." It is more like "eight dollars per person, per day," Smeeding said.

Back at the food bank in Tennessee, Marcia Wells knows poor Americans still have an easier time than people in many parts of the world. "I certainly see that our problems seem smaller when compared to the ⁽⁶⁾ widespread poverty and hunger you see in other countries," she said. "But it is all relative and food insecurity is no less real here, in relation to the American lifestyle," she added.

*food insecurity 食料不足がもたらす生活の窮乏 *food coupons 生活扶助のための食料品引換券

Adapted from an online article written by Chris Arsenault (2011), published by *Al Jazeera*. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2011/09/2011915172736118705.html>

問1 本文中の下線部(1)~(6)の各語について、置き換え可能な同意語を選択肢 a ~ d の中から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。(6点)

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| (1) approximately | a. exactly | b. mainly | c. roughly | d. typically |
| (2) steady | a. consistent | b. irregular | c. rapid | d. slow |
| (3) hand-in-hand | a. effectively | b. opposite | c. separately | d. together |
| (4) significant | a. casual | b. crucial | c. exact | d. informal |

- (5) rely on
 a. believe in b. count on c. give up d. shrink from

- (6) widespread
 a. basic b. extensive c. incredible d. severe

問2 次の(1)~(6)について、本文の内容と一致する場合には○、一致しない場合には×を記入しなさい。(12点)

- (1) The number of Americans who are living in poverty is at its highest level in the past five decades.
 (2) Marcia Wells believes that the latest economic decline is an outcome of food insecurity.
 (3) Unemployed Americans in their 20s are more likely to experience food insecurity later in their lives.
 (4) The woman who is receiving \$120 worth of food coupons every month can barely manage to raise her two grandchildren.
 (5) Some households in urban neighborhoods may experience food insecurity despite the fact that there are grocery stores and supermarkets nearby.
 (6) The experience of poverty is the same regardless of a society's economic standards and people's lifestyles.

問3 次の(1)~(4)について、本文の内容と一致するように、下線部にあてはまる最も適切なものを、選択肢 a ~ dの中から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。(12点)

- (1) People who are least in danger of food insecurity are _____.
 a. company employees b. ethnic minorities
 c. senior citizens d. single parents
- (2) According to Professor Smeeding, the main factor that negatively affects the self-respect of people who did not go to college is _____.
 a. education b. food insecurity c. poverty d. unemployment
- (3) Seniors often end up being food-insecure because _____.
 a. they are expected to raise their grandchildren
 b. they have trouble finding a stable job with a good salary and benefits
 c. they need to choose from spending money on either food or medicine
 d. they receive government food coupons
- (4) The most appropriate title for this article would be _____.
 a. Causes of Food Security in the US and Other Countries
 b. Health Problems Associated with Hunger
 c. Poverty and Food Insecurity Rise in the US
 d. Unemployment and its Connection to Food Deserts in the US

2 次の英文を読んで、以下の各問に答えなさい。(30点)

The Japanese Art of (Not) Sleeping

The Japanese don't sleep. This is what everyone — the Japanese above all — say. It's not true, of course. But it is very interesting as a statement about Japanese culture and society.

I learned about these interesting attitudes to sleep during my first stay in Japan in the late 1980s. At that time, Japan was at the height of the bubble economy. Daily life was very busy. People filled their schedules with work and leisure appointments and hardly had any time to sleep. The way of life at this time is well summed up by a wildly popular advertisement of the time, about the benefits of an energy drink. "Can you battle through 24 hours? Businessman! Businessman! Japanese businessman!"

Many people complained: "We Japanese are crazy to work so much!" But in these complaints one detected a ^(A)sense of pride at being more hard-working. Yet, at the same time, I observed many people sleeping on underground trains. Some even slept while standing up, and no one appeared to be at all surprised by this.

I found ^(B)this attitude contradicted other things Japanese people were saying about sleep. They had a positive image of the worker bee, who cuts back on sleep at night and doesn't sleep late in the morning, but so-called "inemuri" — napping on public transportation and during work meetings or classes — was also acceptable. Women, men, and children apparently did not hesitate to nod off whenever and wherever they felt like doing so.

If sleeping in a bed or a futon was considered a sign of being lazy, then why wasn't sleeping during an event or even at work considered an even greater sign of laziness? What sense did it make to allow children to stay up late at night to study if it meant that they would fall asleep during class the next day? These impressions and apparent contradictions led me to choose the theme of sleep for a research project several years later.

^(C)After some years of investigating this issue, I finally realized that on a certain level, *inemuri* is not considered sleep at all. Not only is it seen as being different from night-time sleep in bed, it is also seen as being different from taking an afternoon nap or "power nap*."

How can we make sense of this? The clue lies in the term itself, which is composed of two Chinese characters: "I" means "to be present" in a situation that is not sleep and "nemuri" means "sleep." Erving Goffman's concept of "being involved in social situations" is useful, I think, in helping us understand the social significance of *inemuri* and the rules surrounding it. Through our body language and spoken expressions, we are involved to some extent in every situation in which we are present. We do, however, have the capacity to divide our attention into dominant* and subordinate* involvement.

In this context, *inemuri* can be seen as a ^(D)subordinate involvement which can be accepted as long as it does not disturb the social situation at hand. Even though the person might be asleep, they have the ability to return to the social situation at hand when active contribution is required. They also have to maintain the impression of fitting in with the dominant involvement by means of body language, dress code, and so on.

Inemuri at work is a case in point. In principle, active participation is expected at work, and falling asleep could create the impression that a person is lazy or escaping their duties. However, it is also viewed as the result of being exhausted because of work. It may be excused by the fact that meetings are usually long and often involve simply listening to the boss's reports. The effort made to attend is often valued more than what is actually achieved. As one person told me: "We Japanese have the Olympic spirit — participating is what counts."

Commitment to a cause, which is expressed by working long hours and giving one's all, is highly valued as a positive moral trait in Japan. Someone who makes the effort to participate in a meeting despite being exhausted or ill demonstrates such commitment: a sense of responsibility and being willing to make a sacrifice. By overcoming physical weaknesses and needs, ^(E)such a person is considered reliable and will be promoted. If, in the end, they fall asleep due to exhaustion, a cold, or another health problem, they can be excused and an "attack of the sleep devil" can be held responsible.

Moreover, being modest is also a virtue that people value a lot. Therefore, it is not possible to boast about one's own commitment to a cause — and this creates the need for other methods to achieve social recognition. Since tiredness and illness are often viewed as the result of previous work efforts, *inemuri* — or even pretending *inemuri* by closing one's eyes — can be employed as a sign that a person has been working hard but still has the strength and moral virtue necessary to keep themselves and their feelings under control.

Thus, the Japanese habit of *inemuri* does not necessarily reveal a tendency towards laziness. Instead, it is an informal feature of Japanese social life which tries to ensure the performance of regular duties is possible while offering people a way of being "away" for a short time while performing these duties. And so it is clear: the Japanese don't sleep. They don't nap. They do *inemuri*. ^(F)It could not be more different.

*power nap 疲れた人が英気を養うために仕事の合い間にとる仮眠 *dominant 支配的な, 優勢な

*subordinate 従属的な, 付随する

Adapted from Steger, B. (2016). The Japanese art of (not) sleeping. *BBC Future*. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20160506-the-japanese-art-of-not-sleeping>, originally published in *CAM 77* (the alumni magazine of Cambridge University)

問1 次の(1)~(4)について, 本文の内容と一致するように, 下線部にあてはまるもの, または質問の答えとして最も適切なものを, 選択肢 a ~ d の中から一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。(8点)

- (1) The Japanese (A) sense of pride can be found in _____.
- businessmen's ability to work while sleeping
 - businessmen's preference for napping over working
 - their attitude toward longer working hours
 - their complaints about the bubble economy
- (2) Which of the following statements best describes underlined sentence (C)?
- Foreigners in Japan are not surprised by *inemuri*.
 - Inemuri* appears similar to sleeping but in fact it is different.
 - "Power nap" is also known as *inemuri* in Japan.
 - Some hard-working Japanese people value an afternoon nap.
- (3) *Inemuri* as (D) subordinate involvement can be acceptable if _____.
- it occurs naturally in public and not intentionally
 - it is required by the social situation in business meetings
 - people can go back to their work task right away
 - people can listen to their boss's reports carefully
- (4) Which of the following statements best describes underlined sentence (F)?
- Inemuri* is in no way difficult when one is very tired.
 - Inemuri* is by no means similar to sleeping or napping.
 - Inemuri* is done differently according to the individual.
 - Inemuri* is not so different from the act of sleeping.

問2 本文の下線部(B)と(E)に関する次の問いに英語で答えなさい。(10点)

- (1) What does the author mean by (B) this attitude?
- (2) Who is the author referring to by (E) such a person?

問3 本文の内容と合致するように, 次の空欄(1)~(4)に入る語句を選択肢 a ~ h の中からそれぞれ一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。(12点)

Inemuri is a Japanese term meaning sleeping in (1); however, it doesn't simply mean that people sleep or nap during an event or at work. In Japan, working long hours can be considered a (2) moral characteristic because it shows a sense of responsibility and being willing to make a sacrifice. Even though working for long hours is seen as a virtue, *inemuri* shows not only that people are (3) to hard work but that people are both physically and mentally strong enough to participate. In other words, *inemuri* shows a feature of Japanese social life that ensures people can (4) their responsibilities and be seen as hard-working while sometimes allowing them to be "away" from their duties.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| a. avoid | b. committed | c. favorable | d. fulfill |
| e. negative | f. public | g. resolved | h. trains |

3 次の英文を読んで、以下の各問に答えなさい。(10点)

- Carlos:** Hi Shun! ⁽¹⁾_____ a surprise! I didn't expect to see you here in the US. It's been such a long time since we last saw each other. It's been more than two years since we graduated from university. How's it going?
- Shun:** Hi Carlos. Yeah, long time no see. I'm doing great. It's so nice to see you. What have you been ⁽²⁾_____ for the last couple of years?
- Carlos:** I've been working at a bank in London, England for the past 18 months. Today, I'm here in Washington, D.C. on holiday.
- Shun:** Really, that sounds amazing. I've always wanted to go to England but have never had the time or money. What's it like?
- Carlos:** Yeah, it's very different from Japan but really exciting. First of all, London is filled with people from all over the world, so I get to make friends with people from different cultures all the time. Also, I get to eat a variety of food every day. Honestly, the curry there is delicious and the tea tastes so good. You know the museums are fantastic too, and many of them are ⁽³⁾_____, so you don't even have to pay. But most of all, people are soccer fans. They are always talking about it.
- Shun:** Wow! That sounds really cool and very multicultural. You are so lucky to live in such an amazing place. Do you think I could visit you this year?
- Carlos:** Of course, you can visit. I would love that. ^(A)_____ here in the US?
- Shun:** I'll be here for the next 10 days. Maybe we can do something together.
- Carlos:** Yeah! What about tomorrow around 10:30 am? We can meet up for coffee at McPherson Train Station. There is an amazing coffee shop there. Then, if you like, we can visit the National Museum of American History together.
- Shun:** That's perfect. If you need to change anything, just contact me at the Plaza Hotel. That's ⁽⁴⁾_____ I'm staying.
- Carlos:** Okay. Bye for now, and I look ^(B)_____ you tomorrow.

Shun: Same here. See you then.

問1 下線部(1)~(4)に適切な英単語(一語)を入れて会話文を完成させなさい。(4点)

問2 (A)及び(B)の各下線部に英単語を一語ずつ入れて会話文を完成させなさい。(6点)

4 次の文をよく読んで問いに答えなさい。(30点)

ロボット技術の進歩により、家事をはじめ、介護、宇宙開発、農業、警備などさまざまな分野でロボットの活用が期待されています。人間がこれまで行ってきた仕事や役割をロボットにさせることに賛成の人もいれば、反対の人もいます。人間に代わりロボットに仕事や役割を任せるべきであるという主張に、あなたは賛成ですか、反対ですか。賛否を明確にした上で、その理由や根拠を示しながら自分の意見を150語程度の英語でまとめなさい。

(参考) ロボット robot, 家事 housework, 介護 nursing care