

Write 120 to 150 words of English on one of the topics below. Indicate the number of the topic you have chosen. Correctly indicate the number of words you have written at the end of the composition. (2015年 一橋・前期)

1. "An education changes your mirrors into windows." Explain what this quote means.
2. TV news programs and newspaper articles should only state the facts and avoid expressing political viewpoints. Explain why you agree or disagree with this opinion.
3. Write a description of this picture.

2014年よりさらに本格的で多様なテーマの出題である。3. でルノワールの「舟遊び（をする人々）の昼食」に描かれた情景の説明を求めているが、一橋としては新傾向である。東京大学を意識してのことかどうかは分からないが、語数を含めて、一橋のほうがはるかに手強い。元々絵画に造詣の深い人は別として、あえて 3. を選ぶ必要はないだろう。1. もまた最近の東大の出題テーマと共通するものがある。

これまでは、一橋の自由英作文に関しては大手予備校の解答例を載せてこなかったが、参考のため掲載させて頂く。

1. "An education changes your mirrors into windows." Explain what this quote means.

この引用文の元の表現は "The whole purpose of education is to change mirrors into windows." であり、前世紀のアメリカのジャーナリスト Sydney J. Harris の言葉である。相当なりベラル派であり、次のような言葉も残っている。

"Terrorism is what we call the violence of the weak, and we condemn it; war is what we call the violence of the strong, and we glorify it." (米 Wikipedia より引用)

入試の際にこうした背景知識などあるはずもないが、mirrors と windows という比喻について、的外れでない解釈を正しい英語表現で書けるかどうか問われている。

【A予備校・解答例】

This quote means that an education broadens the mind. In this sentence the word "mirrors" means your narrow mind. When you look into a mirror, there you can only see yourself and the things around you. Likewise if you don't receive an education, then you only know about yourself and your surroundings. In contrast, the word "windows" in this quote means your broadened mind. When you look through windows, unlike when you look at mirrors, you see an enormously wider world. Through education you learn about a great number of new things and become able to see this world. The more education you have, the larger the "window" will be and the wider and the farther you will be able to see. (122 words)

※第三センテンスの Likewise は接続語として用いられているので Likewise, if... とカンマを打つべきである。

※下から三番目のセンテンス unlike when you look at mirrors の unlike は前置詞だが、副詞句や副詞節の前に置かれることがある。cf. unlike in Tokyo

【B 予備校・解答例】

This quote uses simple but powerful imagery to make a strong statement. Mirrors and windows are very similar. Both have frames, both are made of glass, and both control the way we see things. However, mirrors allow us to look in only one direction, at ourselves. Windows enable us to look out at the world. I think the person who made this statement wants to emphasize the importance of getting an education. He is saying that people who do not graduate from high school or college focus only on the world they inhabit, and that this narrow-minded way of thinking traps them and prevents them from developing. By contrast, he is saying that people who have been exposed to the views of others through studying books will have a much wider perspective on life and will do better. (138 words)

以下に提示する解答例は、2015年東大自由英作文2の解答例と、阿佐谷英語塾の英語コンテンツ「最難関大学(自由)英作文対策」の「全文暗唱用例文5」の後半の部分を応用しています。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

This quote means that having an education, we can look at ourselves and the world around us from a broader perspective. What we can see looking into mirrors is just the reflection of ourselves and things behind us in the room. This is a closed experience. On the other hand, what we can see looking through windows is a different world outside the room. This is an open experience. The very basic knowledge we acquire through an education brings about this new experience. With sufficient knowledge, we can leave the room and explore the unfamiliar world, and so we can make various discoveries. These discoveries allow us to realize that our values are relative ones and add richness and depth to our lives. As our lives become rich, we come to understand others and become kind and generous to them. (140 words)

2. の解答例は次ページに掲載

2. TV news programs and newspaper articles should only state the facts and avoid expressing political viewpoints. Explain why you agree or disagree with this opinion.

これは驚くほど今日的なテーマである。

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this because using the news to express political viewpoints is undemocratic. Unfortunately, it is a fact of life that only people and organizations that are rich and powerful are able to own TV stations and newspapers. Just like everyone in society, the rich and powerful owners of TV stations and newspapers have political views, but unlike almost everyone else, they can use the news to present their views in order to influence society as a whole and to benefit themselves. Of course they don't always use the news in this way, but when they do, it gives them an unfair advantage. If ordinary people could also easily express their political views widely in order to influence society, this would not be a problem, but because they can't, the use of news organizations to express political views should be opposed.

(141 words → 142 words)

※下線部の to が抜けていたので補っておきました。A予備校としては「弘法にも筆の誤り」か。

【A予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this opinion. If TV news programs and newspaper articles only convey the facts and avoid giving political viewpoints, TV viewers and newspaper readers will not understand things completely. Consider, for example, reports about a tax increase. If the media only report that there will be a massive tax increase and make no comments about it, ordinary people won't be able to understand the intention or purpose of the increase. Why now? What for? Is it really necessary? Who will really benefit from it? If the mass media don't make any comments about these things, they are only doing half their work. Anyway, no one can really be "objective" in the strict sense of the word. Even if the media believe they are only conveying facts, they are already being subjective when they select and arrange the facts they think are appropriate.

(144 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I agree with this opinion. The news media have a moral responsibility to tell the truth as impartially as possible, no matter how unpleasant it may be. If they fail to do this, it is very difficult for ordinary people to make informed decisions about politics, health, education and other important aspects of their daily lives. Media organizations also have to do this to remain profitable. They lose readers or viewers if the public sees their news reports as biased and unreliable, and advertisers stop using them. Certainly, being completely impartial is impossible. A publisher or a broadcaster can state the facts but still show political bias simply through its choices of news items. However, as soon as it openly expresses political viewpoints, it becomes untrustworthy. (126 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例 1】

I disagree with this opinion. Is it possible to report facts or events without explaining or commenting them? Does it deserve calling a news report? In Japan, the broadcasting law requires TV news programs to be politically neutral, and newspapers impose self-regulation on newspaper articles. However, TV stations and newspapers are clearly, or slightly, different from each other in their attitudes toward political affairs. They pretend to be impartial, but in reality, impartiality or fairness just means being obedient to authority, the current government. If all the mass media report the similar news from the similar viewpoints, based on the similar priority, then there is no necessity for the existence of various media. Moreover, besides the traditional mass media, SNS on the Internet is prevailing now, and so it is increasingly useless for news media to avoid expressing political viewpoints. (140 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例 2】

I disagree with this opinion. First, what does "only state the facts" mean? There are such numerous numbers of facts all over the world that TV news programs or newspaper articles cannot report all of them. So TV or newspapers report the facts that they judge to be worth reporting and disregard the rest. Besides, they give priority to some facts over others. Through this process of judging newsworthiness, they have already expressed their "political viewpoints." For example, which should they report first, a celebrity scandal or a demonstration against nuclear power generation or an act of terrorism in Iraq? Second, even if reporting when, where and how things occurred is just stating the facts, is reporting why they occurred equally just stating the facts? Interpretation of the reasons for social phenomena has a close relation to expressing political viewpoints. (140 words)

※newsworthiness: ニュースバリュー

A予備校が賛否両論挙げている一方、B予備校が賛成論だけを提示しているのは意外といえは意外である。内容および英語表現に関するコメントは控えるので、受験生諸君が各自判断してほしい。

ネットの利用拡大とSNSの普及によって、こうしたメディアの影響力が大きな比重を占めている今日、従来型のジャーナリズムの位置づけも変わってくるはずだ。現に米国では、共和党寄りのメディアと民主党寄りのメディアが存在する。日本でも、新聞とその系列テレビ局による論調の違いは明らかである。

メディアが時の権力者に厳しい目を向けるのは当然のことであり、一方、権力が強大になればなるほど、批判に対して不寛容になるのもまた事実である。そのとき掲げる請求書が「政治的中立・政治的公正」であるうちは、まだ社会は健全である、という逆説が通用しなくなったときは、いよいよ赤信号である。権力と権力に依拠する者は、どういう訳か、自分たちは不当な攻撃に晒されている、正義を主張する少数派であるという被害者意識を抱くようだ。既存のメディアを全面的に擁護するものではまったくないが、全面的に否定するのは明らかに行き過ぎである。社会の多様性は得難い価値だからである。

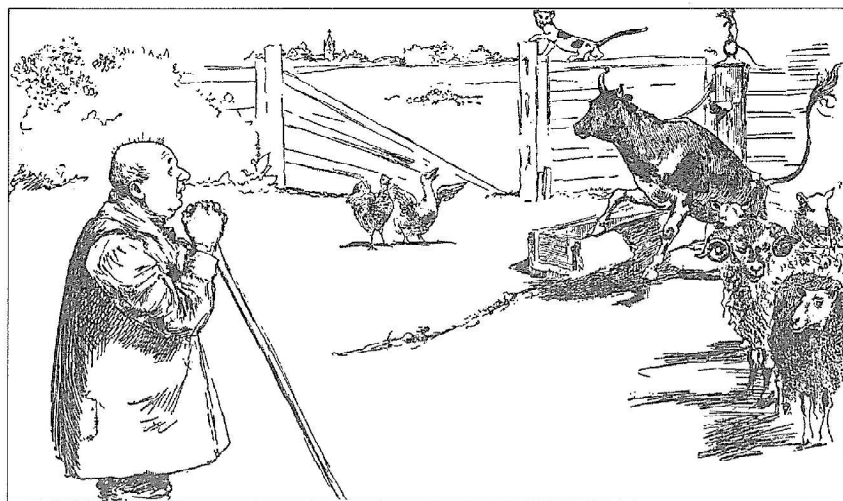
Choose one picture. Write 100 to 130 words of English about this picture. Indicate the number of the picture that you have chosen. Correctly indicate the number of words you have written at the end of the composition.

(2016年 一橋・前期)

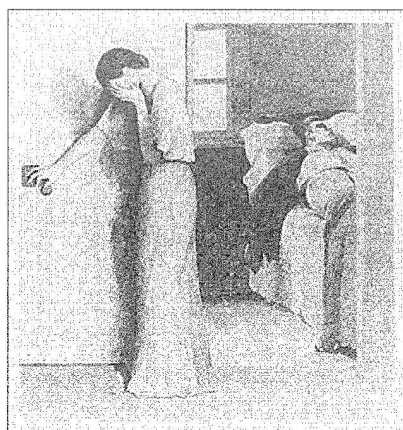
①



②



③



ずいぶん思い切った出題傾向である。昨年と異なり、3題とも画像について述べることを求めている。従来の文章題を前提に対策をしてきた人は戸惑ったに違いない。明らかな方向転換なのか、それとも実験的な出題なのか。必ずしもこの傾向が続くとは限らないが、少なくとも1題はこの手の出題になると考えたほうがよい。対策は欠かせないだろう。

なお語数が100～130語で20語減少し、昨年に続いて Correctly indicate the number of words ... という指定がついている。従来、120語以上書くのがきつい受験生が多かったからではないかと思われる。同時に、どの画像を選ぶかによって明暗が分かれる可能性は否定できない。これまでと同様、重要なポイントは選択を誤らないことだろう。

①はコピーだとほとんど判らない(出来れば張り直したい)が、少女が憂い顔で窓枠にもたれかかっている。窓ガラスには雨滴が見え、外の景色は山村のように見えるが、少女は外の景色を眺めているわけでもなさそうだ。一見写真風のこの絵が最も書きづらと思われる。

②は描写がかなり具体的であり、このイラストの細かい説明をすれば、それだけで相当な語数になるだろう。ただし柵の上にはネコとネズミ(?)の姿が見え、写実的なイラストとは言えない。やはり想像力を働かせる余地がある。

③の絵画は、①に比べるとイメージが湧きやすい。創作能力のある人であれば、ストーリーを組み立てるのにそれほど苦労はしないだろう。ただし、概して今の受験生に欠けているものは柔軟な想像力だとすると、この種の問題はかなりの難問だと言えるかもしれない。

【① A予備校・解答例1】

This is a picture of a young girl looking out a window on a rainy day. She planned to meet her friends and to play outside, but has been told to stay inside by her mother because of the rain. As she looks out the window, imagining what she is missing, she is obviously disappointed and sad. No doubt her emotions feel very strong to her, but to any older person who has experienced real difficulties they might seem rather unimportant or even silly. However, to me, that is what is charming about the picture. It shows the innocence and simplicity of childhood. (103 words)

※下から四行目 but の後 to から difficulties までは関係詞節を含む長めの副詞句であり、difficulties の後にカンマを打つのが望ましい。

【① A予備校・解答例2】

A girl, a school child who has just turned ten, is sadly looking out the window. It's raining, and the entire world outside looks dark and gloomy. Because of that, she feels all the more gloomy and depressed. Last night when she was just about to go to bed, her parents suddenly announced that they were going to get a divorce. To her dismay, they told her to decide whether she wanted to live with her mother or with her father. "It's your choice," they said, but how can you choose between your mother and your father? She is thinking, "What's my life going to be like? Why do I have to make such a choice?" She is totally at a loss what to do. (125 words)

【① B 予備校・解答例】

In this photograph, a young girl is leaning against a window. She seems to be in a train. Outside, it is raining and there are fields and trees. Perhaps the train is passing through the countryside of northern England. The girl seems sad and tired, and although she is looking out of the window, her attention is not focused on anything in particular. I imagine that her parents have recently divorced, and that she is on her way home after visiting her father who now lives in a town far away from where she and her mother live. She wishes her parents could get back together, but at the same time she knows this is not likely to happen. (119 words)

【① C 予備校・解答例】

This is a picture of a little girl looking out of her bedroom window on a rainy day. The girl's name is Mary and she had been hoping to go out to play with her best friend, Sally, whose father is a farmer and who has a horse named Bella. Mary loves riding horses and especially loves riding Bella with her friend Sally. Usually on Sundays she spends the whole day on Sally's farm, and those are the happiest times for Mary. But today the sky is dark and it is raining and her mother has told her she cannot go out riding this time. So she is sitting by her window and seems to be wishing for the rain to stop. (122 words)

※大手予備校の解答例はそれぞれ、この画像のメイン・ポイントである、少女の gloomy な facial expression の 解釈に語数を費やしている。おそらく出題者の狙いもそこにあると思われる。そこであえて、まったく別の視点から最少語数をクリアする別解答例を提示したい。採点者がどう判断するかは興味ぶかいところである。

【① 阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

The situation depicted in this picture seems rather odd. A young girl appears to be leaning on the window frame of a train passing through the countryside. Though, the shape of the window looks a little different from that of a train. Then, if the girl is not on a train but in a building, it follows that she lives or stays in a rural place because there are mountains, trees, and fields out of the window. At the same time, from the scenery outside, she must be on an upper floor of the building. Maybe she is staying at a hotel in the country. (105 words)

②の解答例は次ページ

【② A 予備校・解答例 1】

The man in the picture does not seem to be a farmer; rather he seems to be a man who grew up in a city but who, for some reason, has decided to try farming. Perhaps he had always wanted to own a farm, and once he retired decided to buy one. Unfortunately, he has no idea what to do! He is just looking at the animals hoping that the right things will happen, that the animals will get the food they need, the chickens will lay eggs where he can find them, the sheep's wool will be cut so he can sell it, and the cow will put milk in a bottle so he can drink it! (118 words)

※三行目 ..., and once he retired decided to buy one は ... and, once he retired, decided to buy one が正確な表記法である。

【② A 予備校・解答例 2】

This picture shows an old man looking carefully at various kinds of animals. He is in despair about his life, perhaps because something terrible happened to him. He is thinking that if he were born again, he would like to be an animal, since he believes animals' lives are free of troubles. He is thinking about what animal he would like to be. If he were a bird, he could fly in the sky. Then he realizes that a hen can't fly. Next, he wishes he could be a cow; if he were, he could graze quietly on grass all day. However, he suddenly realizes that some day he might be eaten by humans! He begins to feel that an animal's life might be full of worries like his. (129 words)

【② B 予備校・解答例】

This drawing seems to have been made about fifty years ago. It is not realistic and perhaps was created to accompany a nursery rhyme or to illustrate a parable. It shows a farm on the edge of an English village. A farmer is worried because part of the fence surrounding his farm yard has fallen down and his cow is about to escape. If it does so, he will have difficulty catching it because he is over weight and his health is poor. Fortunately, the farmer's chicken and goose are preventing the cow from leaving by flapping their wings and screeching at it. A cat, a mouse and some sheep are waiting to see what happens next. Maybe the birds are repaying the farmer for being kind to them. (127words)

【② C 予備校・解答例】

This is a drawing of old Joe Macdonald, who lives on his farm with his wife and dog and many other animals. He has become good friends with his animals and cannot bring himself to eat them, so they all live happily together. There is a duck and a chicken, whose names are Di and Do, and a cat who likes to sit on the fence. Her name is Lily. There is a cow named Moo, who thinks she is the boss, and three sheep named Ennie, Miney, Mo. Old Joe is getting old, but every morning he takes a walk outside and likes to talk to the animals about politics and the economy. The animals like to listen to him talk, but his wife thinks he is crazy! (129 words)

※①と同様、大手予備校が想像をたくましくして(?)、様々な解答例を提示しているので、異なる角度から最少語数をクリアする解答を例示したい。

【② 阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

This picture draws a man and several kinds of animals and birds living on his farm. The fence surrounding it makes the boundary between the world inside and outside. The pen/fence partly broken, no animals and birds, including a cat and a mouse standing on the fence, are trying to escape out of it. Why? They feel comfortable living enclosed inside, in other words, they are all domesticated. Once they get used to the inside world where they now live, all animals and birds, as well as humans, do not tend to venture into the unfamiliar outside world. For sometimes it means risking their lives.

(105 words)

*The pen partly broken=Though the pen is partly broken (独立分詞構文)

【③ A予備校・解答例1】

The woman is crying bitterly because she has just killed her husband. She is feeling strong emotions because she has done something so terrible to a man she loved so much. She discovered some time ago that he was a criminal who was selling illegal drugs. She begged him to stop, but he refused. She let him continue because of her love for him, but recently some children died after taking drugs he sold to them. She realized she had no choice. She bought some poison and put it in his food, and now he is dead. She is very sad that she will never be with him again, but knows that she did the right thing.

(117words)

【③ A予備校・解答例2】

A man is lying dead on the bed. A woman, who is his wife, has just come out of the bedroom. She is crying, leaning against the open door, her left hand covering her face. Her husband suffered from heart disease and his doctor had ordered him repeatedly to quit drinking. However, he never did. Last night, as usual, he went to his favorite bar and drank too much expensive wine. He returned home late and went to bed without changing into his pajamas. He was struck by a heart attack as he slept. After sunrise, his wife entered the room and found him dead. The lesson here: good wine does not make good blood.

(115 words)

【③ B予備校・解答例】

I believe that the creator of this painting wanted to emphasize the horror of the Great Plague of London in the seventeenth century by showing its effect on ordinary people. In the foreground, a woman in her late twenties is crying and holding on to a door handle to keep herself from falling. She is dressed in a plain skirt and blouse. She is not wearing any jewelry — not even a wedding ring. Behind her, in the bedroom, her husband is lying dead on a bed. There are no paintings on the walls here, and there is no carpet on the floor. His wife placed a blanket around the man's shoulders, but he has pushed it away. It is an effective way of showing the discomfort he felt before dying.

(129words)

【③ C 予備校・解答例】

This is a picture of a young lady who has discovered that her husband has died in his sleep. She was away all night with her friends at a party enjoying herself and only got back home a few minutes ago. She went to his bedroom to wake up her husband, but noticed that he wasn't breathing. At first she could not believe it and tried to shake him awake, but then realized that he was indeed dead. Now she thinks it was her fault, and that she should not have spent so much time at the party with her friends. She is thinking about how to explain to her husband's parents that their dear son has died. (118 words)

※①, ②と同様, ③についても発想の異なる, 今度は最多語数に近い, 解答例を提示したい。

【③ 阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

When someone creates something, he or she must have some motive to do so. It may be instinctive, for example, when he or she makes a picture of a beautiful flower, lovely baby, or cute puppy. However, this picture is different, for it depicts an apparently tragic scene. A man lying in the bed seems dead, and a woman outside the bedroom is crying. At first sight, this painting seems realistic, but it is not. What exactly the man wears is hard to discern/know. The shadow of the woman on the door is, in practice, impossible. This work may be so-called artwork, but then, what motivation inspired the painter to create this painting? What appeal did he want to make to us? That is invisible. (125 words)

*artwork: uncountable

※3つとも画像についての問題を取り上げ, 大手予備校と阿佐谷英語塾の解答例を紹介してきた感想を述べたい。

一橋は従来, 原則として3つのテーマの中から1つを選ぶ方式を採ってきた。これは早稲田等の私大と比べれば圧倒的に受験者の数が少ない大学だからこそ出来る方式である。メリットがあることは否定しないが, 採点の公平性を妨げることはないのだろうか。

しかもこの年度のように, すべてが画像を基にした想像力のテストになると, 何か釈然としない。画像は何を基準に選んでいるのか。そもそもあまり完成度の高くないイラストや絵や写真について, 内容的に完成度の高い英語を書くことを求めること自体, 無理がある。大手予備校の解答の一部を見ればそう思わざるをえない。結局, 内容は「そこそこ」書けていれば良く, 採点はあくまでも英語表現として成り立っているかどうかに基づいてなされると思われる。そうなると, 時宜にかなった政治・経済・社会のトピックをスキップして, あえてこの種の画像を用いる必要があるのかどうか。

2016年の英語の問題は全体としてかなり平易であり, 整序英作文などはセンター試験レベルである(これもまた理解し難いが)。自由英作文の相対的な重要性がさらに増すときに, この種の出題は望ましいことなのか, 疑問を抱かざるをえない。米国の大統領選に如実に表れているとおり, 日本に限らず, 世界を取り巻く状況はいよいよ緊迫している。時の政権党の教育への過度の介入が大学にまで及んでいることと無関係であれば幸いである。