

Choose one of the situations below. In English, write an appropriate letter for that situation. The length of your answer should be 100-130 words. Correctly indicate the number of words you have written at the end of your answer.

*解答の中に、あなたの本名や住所などの個人情報は絶対に書かないで下さい。

(2017年 一橋・前期)

- ① You have been dating your partner for three years. Last week was your birthday, and your partner completely forgot about it. He/she did not buy you a present, telephone you, or even say, "Happy birthday." Write a letter to your partner explaining how disappointed you feel.
- ② You traveled by airplane to New York during the summer, but there were many problems with the flight that ruined your vacation. Write a letter to the airline company president complaining about what happened.
- ③ Your friend always stays at home alone, watching television or playing games. She/he never goes outside to do anything or meet anyone, so you are worried about her/him. Write your friend a letter advising her/him about what she/he should do.

前年度の、3題すべてが画像を基にした問題から一転して、2017年度は3題すべてが手紙文を書く形式に変わった。もちろん偶然だと思われるが、東京大学の自由英作文(B)との一致は「驚き」としか言いようがない。目まぐるしいほど出題傾向が変わるのは、今後も年度ごとに変わることを予告しているのか、あるいは大学(出題者)が試行錯誤の最中なのか。従来、文章題3題のうち1題は比較的平易なテーマを取り上げて選択の余地を残してきた。この年度は一見、大同小異の3択のようにも思われるが、中では「1」が最も書き易く、(架空とはいえ)航空便に関する事実の指摘を伴う「2」は難度が高いかもしれない。

A予備校の解答例2やB予備校の解答例のように手紙文の体裁をとることを求めているのか、あるいは本文を書くだけでもよいのか。これが採点に影響するのだろうか。「あなたの本名や住所などの個人情報は絶対に書かないで下さい」という注記からすると手紙文の体裁を求めているように思われる。いずれにしても、来年度からは何でもありという前提で、英語の表現力だけでなく、imaginary/fictitiousな内容も書けるだけのimaginationを養っておく必要があるだろう。

正直言って、次ページ以下に紹介する大手予備校の解答例だけで「お腹がいっぱい」になってしまった。これ以上の解答例を挙げると受験生諸君が「食傷・消化不良」を起しかねない。阿佐谷英語塾の解答例の提示は控えて、コメントも最小限に止めます。

【① A予備校・解答例1】

I can't begin to tell you how disappointed I am that you forgot my birthday last week. Last year you sent me that beautiful hand-made card, and the year before you took me out for dinner to my favourite restaurant, but this year I didn't even get a phone call. You know how important my birthday is to me, and in the three years we've been dating I've never forgotten yours, so I can't understand what's happened to you. I know you've been very busy lately, but I can't help thinking that if you can't even spare five minutes to pick up the phone to wish me a happy birthday, there isn't really a future for us. I'm sorry, but this is goodbye! (123 words)

※there isn't really a future for us は、「本当は[実際には]私たちには未来はない」という意味になると思われる。

【① A予備校・解答例2】

Dear Yuri

Forgive me if I'm mistaken, but I'm afraid you've forgotten something important. My birthday! It was a week ago, but you haven't given me a present, or sent me a birthday card, or even said, "Happy birthday." I'm extremely disappointed.

We've been going out for three years, and I've never forgotten your birthday. Every year I've made a reservation at a fancy restaurant to hold a birthday party for you and given you as nice a present as I can. In contrast, this year you forgot my birthday completely! Don't you love me any more? Don't misunderstand me. I absolutely don't mean to ask for a present, but I'll be really glad if you send me a belated birthday card or something.

Love

Taro (126 words)

【② A予備校・解答例1】

I am writing to you because I wish to complain in the strongest terms about the problems I encountered on my flight to New York in August. From the moment I checked in right up to the final disembarkation, nothing went right. The check-in staff at the airport were extremely rude and said my travelling companion and I couldn't sit together. As for the food on the flight, there was no vegetarian option and what was served was almost inedible. After we landed in New York, we were made to wait for over an hour inside the plane, with the temperature over thirty-five degrees because the air-conditioning had been switched off, and none of the flight attendants could explain why. I feel that you owe me an apology. (128 words)

【② A予備校・解答例2】

This summer I traveled to New York in one of your company's airplanes. When the plane was about to take off, it was announced that the departure would be delayed because of poor maintenance, and in the end it left three hours behind schedule. Then in the airplane, while serving coffee, a flight attendant spilled some on my white shirt, which utterly ruined it. Moreover, when I received my baggage in New York, I found one of my bags was missing. Of course your staff promised that they would try their best to find it, but I have heard nothing from your company. I am not seeking a refund, but I desperately want to say something to you in order to relieve my frustration. (124 words)

【③ A予備校・解答例1】

I'm getting really worried about you. Is it true that you've started staying at home alone all day watching TV and playing games, and stopped going out to meet people? That's quite scary! I think you need to see your doctor as soon as possible. You might be suffering from some sort of social anxiety disorder, and that kind of thing only gets worse if it isn't treated properly. Your doctor will be able to tell you what's wrong and if necessary, prescribe some medication to help you feel better. If you're frightened of going on your own, let me know when your appointment is and I'll come with you. (110 words)

※on your own は on your own のスペルミス。

【③ A予備校・解答例2】

Dear John

I heard you always stay at home, and never go out to see people, and I'm worried about you. If you go on like that for too long, you'll end up being depressed, and depression can cause physical harm. So I advise you to first go and talk to someone. It can be anybody, and if you talk with them about the TV programs or video games you like, the programs or games will be all the more enjoyable for you. Also, by talking with other people, you are sure to find something that will make your life more enjoyable.

Yours

Kenji (104 words)

※them は anybody を受けていることになる。every ~ を they で受けることはよくある。手紙文であることを意識して意図的に them を用いたのだろうか。やはり him/her で受けたほうがよいのでは。

【① B予備校・解答例】

John,

I know it's strange to write instead of phoning or texting, but this way I think what I say will have more impact.

The fact is, I'm worried about our relationship. Last week you forgot my birthday. You didn't buy me a gift or even ring me about it. This is not the first time this kind of thing has happened. The week before last, for example, you didn't turn up at Angela's party even though we'd arranged to meet there.

If you don't want to go out with me anymore, have the courage to say so. Breaking up will be painful, but I don't want things to drag on like this.

Give me a call, OK?

Cindy

(119 words)

【② B予備校・解答例】

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to complain about my experiences on flight AA123 from Narita to New York on July 15 of this year.

My plan to spend a week sightseeing in the city was ruined because of errors made by your airline. Firstly, the departure of the flight was delayed and we arrived at 3.00 a.m., when no public transportation was available. I was forced to sleep in the airport, which was very uncomfortable. What was worse, you lost my bag and only returned it to me on the fourth day of my trip. I had to buy new clothes.

I believe you owe me an apology and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Emiko Watanabe
(105 words)

【③ B予備校・解答例】

Dear Jason:

I've tried phoning and emailing you repeatedly, but you never reply. Yesterday, I went round to your house and rang your doorbell. You didn't come to the door, even though I know you were home. So, now I'm writing to you because I don't know how else to get in contact with you.

I know you've been depressed since your parents got divorced, but shutting yourself in your room like this isn't going to help. You need to come back to school and start taking classes again. If that feels too scary right now, maybe you should get some professional help. My aunt's a counselor and she often works with teenagers. Give her a call: her number's 012 345 678.

We all miss you.

Jennie
(127 words)

【① C 予備校・解答例】

Dear Makoto,

It has been three years since we first started dating. I think that we both have a pretty good idea of each other, what we like and what we don't like. And our relationship has been getting more and more serious. My mother even asked me a few weeks ago if we are planning on getting married after we graduate. Unfortunately, however, last week I turned 21, and I did not even get a "Happy birthday" from you. No present, no romantic dinner, nothing! I did, however, receive a present from Taro, Takashi and Jun from my kendo club, and I have known them for only three months! Perhaps you and I are not the best match after all. I need some time to think things over. (129 words)

【② C 予備校・解答例】

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing to you about what happened this summer after flying with your airline. Things did not begin well. When I arrived at Narita Airport I was informed that the flight was delayed. A few minutes I understand, but a six-hour delay seems like a lot. When we finally took off, it appears your ground team forgot to refuel because after two hours in the air. The captain announced that we needed to land somewhere in Siberia, because the plane had run out of fuel! Well, you know what happened. We actually landed on the ice, breaking the landing gear. Nobody was hurt, fortunately, but we were stuck in Russia for three days and I never got to see New York. My holiday was ruined. (129 words)

※because after two hours in the air の because は不要ではないか。何かの脱落だとすると、あと1語で130語である。

【③ C 予備校・解答例】

Dear Ryuichi,

We have been friends ever since elementary school, so I hope you don't mind that I write to you about something that is worrying me. And that is you. In the past six months I hardly see you any more. You do not attend any activities after school, and your sister tells me that you mostly stay at home watching TV or playing video games. I know that we started playing those games together and that they can be fun, but doing things with other people is also important. I just joined a new club and we need one more member. Why don't we meet and talk about this and I can explain everything? I'll be waiting outside the school gate tomorrow after class. (126 words)

Choose one of the news headlines below. Create an original news story for the headline that you chose. Your news story should be between 100 to 130 words long. Correctly indicate the number of words you have written at the end of your answer.

- ① Strange new insect species discovered in Amazon rainforest
- ② Man arrested for biting dog
- ③ Ministry of Health expects major birth rate increase

(2018年 一橋・前期)

2016年の3題すべてが画像を基にした出題，2017年の3題すべてが手紙文を書く形式から一転して，2018年は3題すべてが新聞記事を書く形式に変わった。今後も年度ごとに出题傾向が変わる可能性は大いにあるが，この3年分の形式に対応できるようにしておけば，一橋の自由英作文対策としては十分であろう。ただし従来の賛否を問う形式や，自由に意見を述べる形式にも慣れておく必要があることは言うまでもない。

なお新聞記事の1行の字詰めからすると，B予備校の一部の解答例のように，実際には改行が必要なるケースもあるが，改行の有無による減点はないだろう。

今年度も大手予備校の解答例だけで十分だと思われるので，阿佐谷英語塾の解答例の提示は控えます。

【① A予備校・解答例1】

A strange new insect species, a type of beetle, has been found in the Amazon rainforest. A month ago, Robert Ripple, a professor at Stanford University, and his research team began to explore an area in which many Hercules beetles live. His purpose was to research the ecology of the insect's subspecies, but he also came across an unfamiliar species of beetle, one that had never been seen before. Ripple said, "I was so excited! And I was so impressed by the diversity of living things on this planet." Unfortunately, the future of the beetles doesn't look very bright. The area surrounding their habitat is now being cleared rapidly to build houses. "The local government should take urgent measures to protect this new species," Ripple said. (126 words)

【② A予備校・解答例1】

One day, a man was walking through his neighborhood when he saw a cute dog sitting in front of a house. Since he loved dogs, he went to the dog and tried to stroke it. However, the dog wanted to play with him and bit him lightly on the hand. Of course, the dog was so small that the bite didn't hurt him; the man didn't get angry but felt it all the cuter, and playfully bit it back on the ear. But unfortunately, at that moment, the owner of the dog came out of her house and saw what was happening. She assumed that a stranger was treating her dog cruelly, and she immediately reported it to the police, who took him to the police station. (127 words)

【③ A予備校・解答例1】

The national birth rate has declined sharply over the past two decades, but a reverse trend is now being observed, according to the Ministry of Health. One major factor, the Ministry says, is changes to childcare policies. More and more women are choosing to remain at work after having children, and to meet childcare needs, many local governments and companies have taken measures to guarantee childcare leave, both for women and men. Another factor is purely economic. The national government has introduced a free education plan for elementary and junior high school students, and this will be effective in a few years. Also, a new childcare allowance scheme will provide financial support to help pay for nursery education for those who have two children or more. (126 words)

【① B予備校・解答例】

Scientists have discovered a new kind of beetle in the Amazon rainforest that uses light not to attract a mate but to defend itself. Maria Santiago of the University of Sao Paulo was on a field trip with a group of undergraduate students near Manaus when she first came across this unusual creature. "It was our first night in the forest," she said. "We saw a series of bright flashes in the trees and then heard things hitting the forest floor." The team investigated and found that the beetles lit up whenever a predator, such as a lizard or a frog, came near. The light was so bright that it blinded the attackers, causing them to lose their balance and fall to the ground. (124 words)

【② B予備校・解答例】

John Smith, a taxi driver from North Drayton, was arrested by police in Central Park yesterday after biting the ear of a Labrador Retriever.

"I was just trying to protect my children," he said. "We were having a picnic by the lake when suddenly this dog appeared. It was behaving aggressively and I thought it was going to attack one of us. I couldn't kick it because I was sitting down, and I couldn't punch it because I was holding my daughter in my arms. I used the only weapon I had — my teeth."

Mr. Smith was released soon afterwards and was not charged. On the other hand, the dog's owner has been fined for letting his dog off the leash in the park. (124 words)

【③ B予備校・解答例】

A Ministry of Health spokeswoman announced today that the government expects a major increase in the number of children born in this country over the next ten years, as a result of government plans to build thousands of new daycare centers in Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka.

"The main cause of Japan's falling birth rate over the last twenty years has been the lack of support for working women," she said. "Nowadays, most married women want or need to work full-time, but there has been a shortage of daycare centers where parents can leave their children during the day. Many couples have had to give up the idea of having children, but that situation is going to change." (117 words)

【① C予備校・解答例】

According to two Stanford University professors exploring the remote depths of the Amazon rainforest, a new and quite unusual species of insect has been discovered. The insect is totally different from anything found before and does not seem to fit into any of the known insect family groups. What caught the researchers' attention at first was that this particular insect had two heads. At first they thought it was a deformity but then began finding several more in the area, all with two heads. They have named the insect Double-Headed Sand Fly for its resemblance to the standard sand fly. Samples are being brought back to the US for further study. (111 words)

【② C予備校・解答例】

Omiya Police arrested an elderly man on Tuesday who had bitten his dog. According to witnesses, the man was walking his dog along the Sumida River, when he appeared to get into an argument with his dog. And though this alone would have surprised most people, suddenly the man bent down and bit the dog on his behind. The dog was as surprised as the witnesses and leaped into the air and ran off. The man was left with a bit of the dog's hair in his mouth, making it easy for the police to find him guilty of such an awful crime. This is the seventh time this month someone has bitten a dog and authorities are advising people to keep their dogs on leashes at all times. (129 words)

【③ C予備校・解答例】

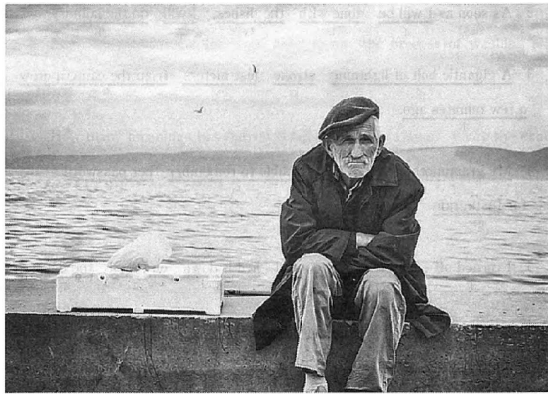
The Ministry of Health is reporting that it expects a major birth rate increase on account of the success of its "Turn off the Electricity" campaign last year. As we all know, the Ministry decided to turn off all electricity to towns and cities throughout Japan during the cold winter nights. The idea was that by doing so, people would be forced to climb into bed together to keep warm and a side effect would be the birth of many babies. Most people laughed when the program was announced, but the plan appears to have worked and Japan's birthrate has made a dramatic turnaround. Sometimes a 'simple' idea is really 'the best'. Other developed countries are now looking into whether to imitate Japan's example. (124 words)

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

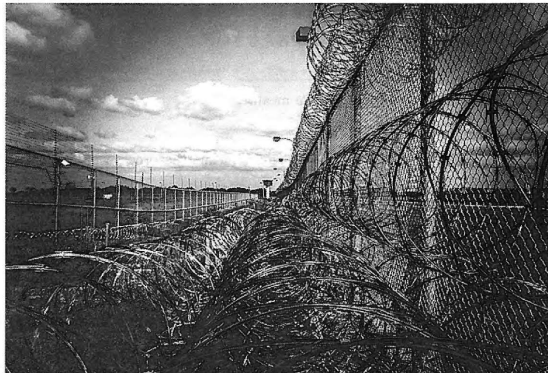
(2019年 一橋・前期)

2017年の3題すべてが「手紙文」を書く形式、2018年の3題すべてが「新聞記事」を書く形式から、2019年は、2016年と同じ、3題すべてが「画像」を基にした出題に戻った。1が比較的書きやすいと思われる。というよりも、1以外、特に2は大変な難題である。画像の選択を誤らないことが重要。今後も年度ごとに出題傾向が変わると思われる。この3つの形式に加えて、従来の賛否を問う形式や、自由に意見を述べる形式にも対応できるようにしておく必要がある。したがって、一橋の自由英作文対策はかなりの時間と労力を要することになる。

1



2



3



このレベルの自由英作文になると、ほとんどの受験生が、何を書いたら良いのが容易にアイデアが浮かばないはずである。したがって自由な発想のヒントとなる内容を、受験生が知っている語彙で表現する解答例が望まれる。受験生が知るはずもない単語や知識を前提とした解答例は意味がないと言わざるを得ない。

【1. A予備校・解答例1】

There is an old man sitting on the seawall, with his arms crossed. Behind him is his fishing rod and beside him is an extraordinarily big box of tissues specially made for him. He has a strong allergy to cedar pollen. This season every year he suffers from repeated sneezing and a runny nose and he can't do without tissues. So this year he's ordered a special box of Kleenex from which he can pull out many more tissues than from a usual one. During the season he carries it with him everywhere. Today is his day off and he has gone fishing for a change, with his tissue box, of course. He looks unhappy, not only because he has caught nothing, but also because he can't stop sneezing.

(129 words)

*an allergy to cedar pollen(スギの花粉症)を知っている受験生はまずいないだろう。ただし、an allergy to pollen(花粉症)は覚えておくと役に立つかもしれない。

【1. A予備校・解答例2】

It is a cold, miserable day. There are clouds in the sky and there seems to be a strong wind blowing. This old man, dressed in shabby clothes and an old cap, is sitting on the sea wall with his arms folded, trying to keep warm. He looks as miserable as the weather. He hasn't shaved this morning and he doesn't appear to have many teeth. Perhaps he doesn't have a home. One strange feature is a large box of tissues on the wall beside the man. This box is about twice as big as an ordinary box of tissues. It doesn't look as though it belongs to him; nor does it look like the kind of thing someone would leave behind by accident. (124 words)

【1. B予備校・解答例】

This photograph shows a man sitting on a harbor wall by the sea. Judging from his appearance, he is Italian or Greek, about seventy years old and rather poor. He's wearing a cap and a heavy coat, so perhaps the picture was taken soon after dawn when the air was still cold. Next to him on the wall are a polystyrene box, about 60 by 30 by 15 centimeters, and his fishing rod. On top of the box there appears to be an empty plastic bag, which was perhaps used to carry bait. The expression on the man's face suggests he is tired after waking so early, but also satisfied with what he has caught.

(115 words)

*polystyrene: ポリスチレン(発泡スチロール)を書ける受験生はまずいないだろう。

【1. C予備校・解答例】

This is a picture I took of my grandfather after my grandmother died. They were both very old, but I think my grandfather always thought that he would pass away first. He was terribly shocked and saddened when she died. When I went to visit him a short time after, he would always be sitting here by the sea, where he first proposed to her. He has so many special memories of this place because they would always come and sit down together here on their anniversary. Now he comes here every day and seems to want to go and be with her wherever she might be. I feel very sad for him. (113 words)

*出題者が求める内容かどうかは別として、ここまで物語を作る想像力は素晴らしい。

【2. A予備校・解答例1】

We see in this picture fences made of wire, which are stretching far into the distance. Apparently, the fences are designed to separate the two areas behind them. I can't imagine where they are located; perhaps, this is not the real world but an imaginary one. It might be a symbol of our way of thinking. When we see other people in trouble, it sometimes happens that we unconsciously build a "fence" in our mind and don't want to help them. We just don't want to get involved in their problems. We feel that it doesn't matter to us whether they are having trouble or not. I believe this mentality is undesirable; we should try as hard as possible to avoid it. (122 words)

【2. A予備校・解答例2】

This looks like the outer perimeter of an airport, with two rows of high wire fences and rolls of barbed wire both on top of the inner fence and between the two fences. The authorities are probably keen to guard this airport from attack, possibly by terrorists, or maybe by angry demonstrators who did not want the airport built on their land. In the distance there is the control tower and there are powerful lamps along the fence so that anyone approaching at night can be easily seen. There are no guards patrolling this part of the fence, perhaps because the authorities believe it is already secure enough. (108 words)

*perimeter は書けないどころか、読めない単語である。

【2. B予備校・解答例】

In this photograph, we can see two parallel fences stretching into the distance. They seem to be part of a barrier surrounding either a prison or a high-security military facility in a rural area. The fences are about seven meters high and ten meters apart. Coils of barbed wire have been placed on the ground between them and along the top of the outer fence. There are lights to illuminate the barrier every fifty meters or so, and there is an observation tower at the far end of it. Since no people or buildings are visible here, it's hard to tell whether the barrier is there to prevent prisoners from escaping or intruders from entering. (115 words)

【2. C予備校・解答例】

This is a photograph of what the border looks like in some areas between Mexico and the United States. President Trump wants to expand this so that it covers all of the border between the two countries. It is a kind of wall even though it is made of two fences, with much barbed wire in between the two fences. So even if you can somehow manage to climb the fence, you will probably get stuck in the barbed wire and eventually be caught. In many countries today they are building fences like this to keep people out and sometimes to keep people from leaving. I think both are wrong and all fences and borders should be taken down. (119 words)

【3. A予備校・解答例1】

This is a photograph of a painting by Ilya Repin, a Russian artist. In this picture he depicted a scene from the Russo-Turkish War. Here, a lot of Cossack soldiers have gathered around a table. They are all laughing; some are probably drunk. Actually, as the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire had sent them a letter telling them to surrender, even though the Turkish army was losing the battle, these soldiers, who couldn't read or write themselves, hired a man to write

a letter of rejection. The man at the table is writing the letter, saying things like "Go to hell!" or "You bastard!", so everyone is roaring with laughter, (111 words)

*イリア・レピンがロシアを代表する画家であること、この絵『トルコのスルタンへ手紙を書くザポロージュ・コサックたち』が彼の代表作のひとつであることなど、仮にいくら英語が得意でも、ふつうの受験生が知っているはずもない。こうした解答例を提示する意図が理解できない。解答例1と2を逆にすべきではないか。

【3. A予備校・解答例2】

This is a painting of a historical scene, showing a group of men surrounding a table where a young man is sitting, writing something with an old-fashioned pen. The men look like warriors, but they are not preparing to fight a battle. Instead, they seem to be enjoying themselves; the older man in a fur cap is laughing and one of the men behind the writer is also laughing and pointing at something in the distance. The man in the foreground is sitting on a barrel and leaning back; there is a jug on the table, so he might be drinking wine. Some of the other men are leaning forward; they may be telling the young man what to write. (120 words)

【3. B予備校・解答例】

This painting shows a group of fighters celebrating a victory, perhaps at a battle in eastern Europe about three hundred years ago. It seems that the fighting has only just ended. Smoke is still rising from fires in the background and one of the men is still bleeding from a wound on his forehead. Judging from these people's wild appearance, they are not members of a regular army. No one is wearing a formal uniform, and one man is not even wearing a shirt. They have set up a table on the battlefield, where one of them is writing something with a quill. Perhaps it is a letter to his wife, telling her that he is safe and will return to her soon. (123 words)

*quill(羽ペン) を書ける人はまずいないだろう。

【3. C予備校・解答例】

This is an old painting of a funny event in history. There was a famous battle between a Turkish army and a Russian army. On that day, the Turkish army was victorious and after the battle and a large lunch, the soldiers decided to write a letter to their king telling him of their great victory. However, they realized that few of them could actually write. At last they found one man who could write and they all gathered around a table and started telling him what to write to the king. Of course, many of them exaggerated quite a bit and this caused many of them to break out laughing, (111 words)

【1. 阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

An old man with a cap is sitting on the concrete wall by the sea. He is wearing a thick overcoat with his arms folded, so it must be a cold day in the winter. Beside him is a large box, and behind him is something like a rod. Perhaps, while the sea is not calm, he might have come here for fishing, but he could not have caught anything at all and may feel depressed. However, this does not entirely explain his sad and painful facial expression. Grey hair under his cap and unshaven face with deep lines seem to suggest his hard life till now and at present. (110 words)

*おそらく大半の受験生が1を選択したと思われるので、平易な単語を用いた1の解答例だけ掲載。2, 3は大手予備校の解答例を参考にしてほしい。