

In some countries secondary education is conducted in separate junior and senior high schools, while in others it takes place in a single secondary school. Which system do you consider to be preferable? Write a paragraph in ENGLISH, providing specific reasons and examples in support of your answer.

(2016年 早稲田 国際教養)

※前年度に比べると取り組みやすいテーマである。中高一貫と中高分離の両方を経験したことがある人はまずいいと思われるが、兄弟姉妹あるいは友人の例を参考にすれば、書く材料が不足することもないだろう。providing specific reasons and examples in support of your answer という指示に注意したい。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

From my experience, separate high schools are preferable. First, we can experience two different school cultures, so we can broaden our minds and form larger social networks. If I had chosen a single secondary school, now I would have far fewer friends. Second, though we could live our school life in a relaxed manner/way in a single high school, six years is too long for the young to spend in the same atmosphere. I know I am not the way/what I was three years ago mentally and physically. The world around us is changing rapidly, so we should change through venturing into a new environment. (105 words)

【B 予備校・解答例】

I believe educating children at a single secondary school is preferable. It is true that staying in one school for six years can make students lazy. Some people use this time to build large social networks that eventually become more important than their classes. However, for most students, the familiar environment of a single school provides stability at a time of difficult physical and emotional change and helps them to concentrate on their studies. Also, not having to change schools at the age of 16 encourages more students to stay in school until they are 18 and go on to college. (101 words)

【C 予備校解答例 1】

My personal preference as to whether secondary education should be conducted in separate schools or not is based on my own experience. At my school, junior and senior high school students all studied together in the same building. I believe that it is easier for us to learn social skills by having to learn to deal with people who are both younger and older than we are. I understand some people might want to separate the schools to prevent too much bullying, but rather than 'avoid' or 'run away' from that problem, it is time to face it and deal with it. (102 words)

※日本でも、私立だけでなく、公立の中高一貫校が増えてくると、中高分離の選択肢は狭まることになる。

In recent years, many local and national governments have considered imposing a tax on sugary drinks (Coca-cola, Pepsi, etc.) because such drinks are thought to be a major contributor to health problems such as being significantly overweight. Would you support or oppose a tax on sugary drinks? Write a paragraph in ENGLISH, providing specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. (2017年 早稲田 国際教養)

前年度よりもさらに書きやすいテーマになった。この学部の受験生で何も書けなかったという人はまずいないだろう。その分、英語表現としてのミスやケアレス・ミスをしないことがさらに重要になる。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I would oppose a tax on sugary drinks. Would it be appropriate to try to solve health problems by imposing an indirect tax? We should not tackle/solve these issues through taxation but through promoting health education. Being overweight is a product of whole eating-habits or rather overall/whole lifestyles, including doing exercise, even if sugary soft drinks are a primary contributor. Moreover, indirect tax is not fair to low-income consumers, especially children. Even in developed countries as well as developing countries, there are some who are unable to buy enough food and drink. They are suffering from calorie shortage, far from becoming too fat due to too many calories. (108 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I would support a tax on sugary drinks. We need to reduce our consumption of these products because they harm our health and create waste, and making them more expensive would help. Governments have tried educating the public about healthy diets and have encouraged drinks manufacturers to behave responsibly. However, consumers have not listened and drinks manufacturers have continued to behave irresponsibly. They still advertise these products mainly to children, who are too young to understand how dangerous they are. Also, the bottles and cans that the drinks are sold in are a growing environmental problem. Only a small number of them can be recycled. Most end up in landfills. (110 words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

I would definitely support a tax on sugary drinks. The problem of obesity among young people is becoming more and more serious, and it does not only affect the health of those young people now, but it will also affect them later in life. Perhaps it can even shorten their lives and put pressure on society as a whole. I suppose this will be an extra burden of caring for an increasingly unhealthy population that will not be able to work as much or contribute to society. (87 words)

【C 予備校・解答例 2】

I would not support a tax on sugary foods. Some say we should put a tax on sugary drinks because it is causing health problems. However, sugary drinks are not the only factor in causing such problems. People are eating fast food with lots of fat and foods that contain artificial additives. So, imposing a tax on sugary drinks will not be an effective solution to health problems. I think there are better ways to change the system, beginning with education that introduces healthy diet to young people. (88 words)

Qualities like mental focus and dexterity are very important in some sports. This has led some people to propose that playing video games should be recognized as an Olympic sport. Write a paragraph in ENGLISH giving your own opinion on this proposal, with appropriate reasons and examples.

(2018年 早稲田 国際教養)

※2024年のパリ大会からオリンピックの正式種目になるのではとされている。米・韓・中に較べて日本はゲーム後進国とも言われているようだ。real と virtual の境界がますます曖昧になる時代の趨勢があるとはいえ、ゲーム専用の国際大会を盛大に行えばよいのではないか。なお dexterity「機敏さ」を知らなくても、支障はない。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I disagree with the opinion that playing video games should be an Olympic sport. First, the Olympic Games are originally events for selected athletes to show superior physical ability. Olympians [Olympic athletes] have trained their body so hard as to enhance their capacity. On the other hand, playing video games requires no such bodily performance even if it takes mental focus and dexterity. Second, to be sure, video-game playing is a form of sport which attracts and excites many spectators. However, this cannot be the reason for including it among Olympic events, because we can hold its world championship game separately. (In short, playing video games needs not to be an Olympic sport.) (99-112 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I am against this proposal. It is true that some of the qualities needed to win video games are similar to those needed in established Olympic events such as archery and table tennis. It is also true that, given the popularity of video games, including them in the Olympics would attract a large television audience and, in turn, a lot of corporate sponsorship. However, I believe that this would have a negative effect on the health of young people. Playing video games encourages a sedentary, indoor lifestyle and damages players' eyesight. This contradicts the original goal of the Olympics: to inspire people to lead healthy lives by rewarding physical excellence. (110 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I agree with those who propose that playing video games should become an Olympic sport. Some people are just not good at sports and other physical activities and yet they are good at using their brains and have good reflexes when it comes to playing video games. This should be recognized. Also, video games can be played by handicapped people and even the elderly. There is no physical limit as there is with many traditional sports. Introducing video games as an Olympic sport will allow many more people a chance to win a medal. (94 words)

Write a paragraph in ENGLISH explaining whether you agree or disagree with the statement in the box below. You should offer at least one reason and/or example to support your view. (2019年 早稲田 国際教養)

"It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

(Professor Dumbledore to Harry Potter in J.K. Rowling,
The Chamber of Secrets, 1998)

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling

私自身は 'Harry Potter' を読んでいないので、筆者の真意はよくわからないことを断っておきます。

なお、国際教養学部は英検の結果が加点されるので、英検の writing 対策も必要です。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I agree with the statement above. The reason is the following. Our past choices have made us what we are, and those we make now will make us what we will be in the future. Our abilities are important elements of our qualities, so what we can do is a significant part of how we are. However, our capacities are the results of our selections. For example, what I can do has a close relationship with the culture of my high school. Had I decided to go to another high school, I would be a different person. Therefore, our choices show what we truly are far more than our abilities. (110 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I disagree with this statement. This is because our personalities are shaped not only by our decisions and our skills, but also by our age, by circumstances beyond our control, by people we happen to meet. I am nineteen years old. All the major choices in my life, such as which schools to attend, have been made for me by my parents. Right now, my best subject is English, but my abilities will evolve. Neither I nor the people closest to me can guess who I truly am. (88 words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this statement. I believe our lives are all about choices. Although we cannot choose our parents or nation, after we are born and have grown to a certain age, then everything we do comes down to a choice: what school we go to, whether to study hard or not, what friends to keep, whether to go on to university and what to study there, what job to get, if we marry and to whom, how we raise our kids and live the rest of our lives. Thus, it is these choices that define and shape us. (99 words)

【C 予備校・解答例 2】

I disagree with this statement. I realize that we are often faced with a choice, and whether to turn left or turn right, whether to wait or to go forward, but in the end, I believe it is our abilities to deal with the outcome of the choices we make that show who we truly are. It might happen that we make the wrong choice at some point in our lives. That is not a problem. What is important is our ability to deal with that wrong choice and how we move on afterwards. (94 words)

"Wearing a protective helmet while cycling should be made compulsory in Japan for both children and adults." Write a paragraph IN ENGLISH explaining whether you agree or disagree with this statement. (You may also express an opinion partly agreeing and partly disagreeing.)

You should offer at least one reason and/or example to support your view.

(2020年 早稲田 国際教養)

※かなり平易なテーマである。ただし You may also express an opinion partly agreeing and partly disagreeing. という補足が付いた。つまり「どちらとも言えない」という立場である。その解答例を掲載するが、これは案外、書きにくいので、選ぶときは注意したい。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I partly agree with the statement that wearing a protective helmet while cycling should be made compulsory in Japan for both children and adults. If cars and bicycles hit each other on roads, it can cause serious head injuries for cyclists without a helmet. Of course, we should protect them from suffering such damage. but I partly disagree with the statement. The original reason for these accidents is that cars and bicycles, or also bicycles and walking people, usually share the same roads. They seldom have separate lanes (each can use exclusively). The government should first tackle this problem, instead of compelling cyclists to wear a helmet. (104-108 words)

*walking people=pedestrians/passersby

【B予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this statement. Making helmets compulsory would reduce the number of head injuries suffered by cyclists and save the government money. Many adults nowadays ride to their work places to save money and to improve their health. They usually ride on roads, so if they are knocked down by cars, their injuries are often serious and expensive to treat. Children are rarely injured on the roads, but can still be badly hurt when they fall off their bikes because their skulls are still fragile. Also, children are too young to understand the dangers of cycling. They need to be protected by the law. (104 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this statement. It is true that making helmets compulsory would reduce the number of head injuries and reduce the amount of money the government spends each year on treating injured cyclists. However, I believe people should be allowed to decide for themselves whether they or their children wear helmets. By not doing so, they endanger only themselves. It is not like riding without lights at night, for example, which is dangerous for both cyclists and drivers. Also, if the government forces us to become too safety-conscious, we will become afraid to take risks generally. We will venture little and gain little. (104 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

I agree that cyclists should be made to wear helmets in Japan. The roads are quite narrow and separate bicycle lanes hardly exist anywhere except in the newest suburbs of large cities. For this reason, bicycles usually need to share the roads with cars or the sidewalks with pedestrians. Both are dangerous, so at least helmets should be used, just like helmets must be worn by all motorcyclists in Japan.

2021年から二題出題されるようになった。

I Write a paragraph in ENGLISH giving your opinion on the statement below, with appropriate reasons to support your position.

A universal basic income (UBI) is a proposal that would provide all citizens of a country (or other geographic area) with a specific sum of money, usually paid monthly, regardless of their income, employment status, or assets. A UBI would, as examples, replace welfare payments, increase labor mobility, and offset the risks of job loss from automation.

*設問は give your opinion on the statement であり, whether you agree or disagree with the statement ではないことに注意。つまり, 必ずしも A universal basic income (UBI) に対する賛否を述べる必要はない。とはいえ, B 予備校の解答例のように the statement (課題文の記述) に対する評価を述べることを求めている訳ではない。この解答例を受験生に提示するのは適切でない。ただし, 課題文の記述が UBI の説明として不十分かつ一面的なことは事実である。2021年2月の時点では, 大半の受験生が, そもそも UBI とは何のことなのか理解していなかったと思われる。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

There are many different views about the purpose and use of a universal basic income. Some governments and local governments have already introduced it, but it is experimentally and conditionally for a limited time. So they have not yet come to a clear conclusion that can persuade most ordinary people. There seem (to be) some points to consider carefully. The first is how to obtain money resources. Does the introduction of UBI mean cutting costs for social welfare and health insurance? The second is whether it can discourage people's incentive to work and encourage a moral hazard. Covid-19 has accelerated movements for UBI, but its impact on our life and society is still unknown. (112 words)

【B 予備校・解答例】

In my opinion, this description of a universal basic income is too vague to be useful. It does not explain why a UBI is needed, for example, or how the money will be raised by the government to make these payments possible. Also, it does not make it clear how a UBI would increase labor mobility, that is, help people to move from low-paid jobs to better ones. Finally, it does not tell us how a UBI differs from regular welfare payments. From the information given here, it seems to be the same thing. (94 words)

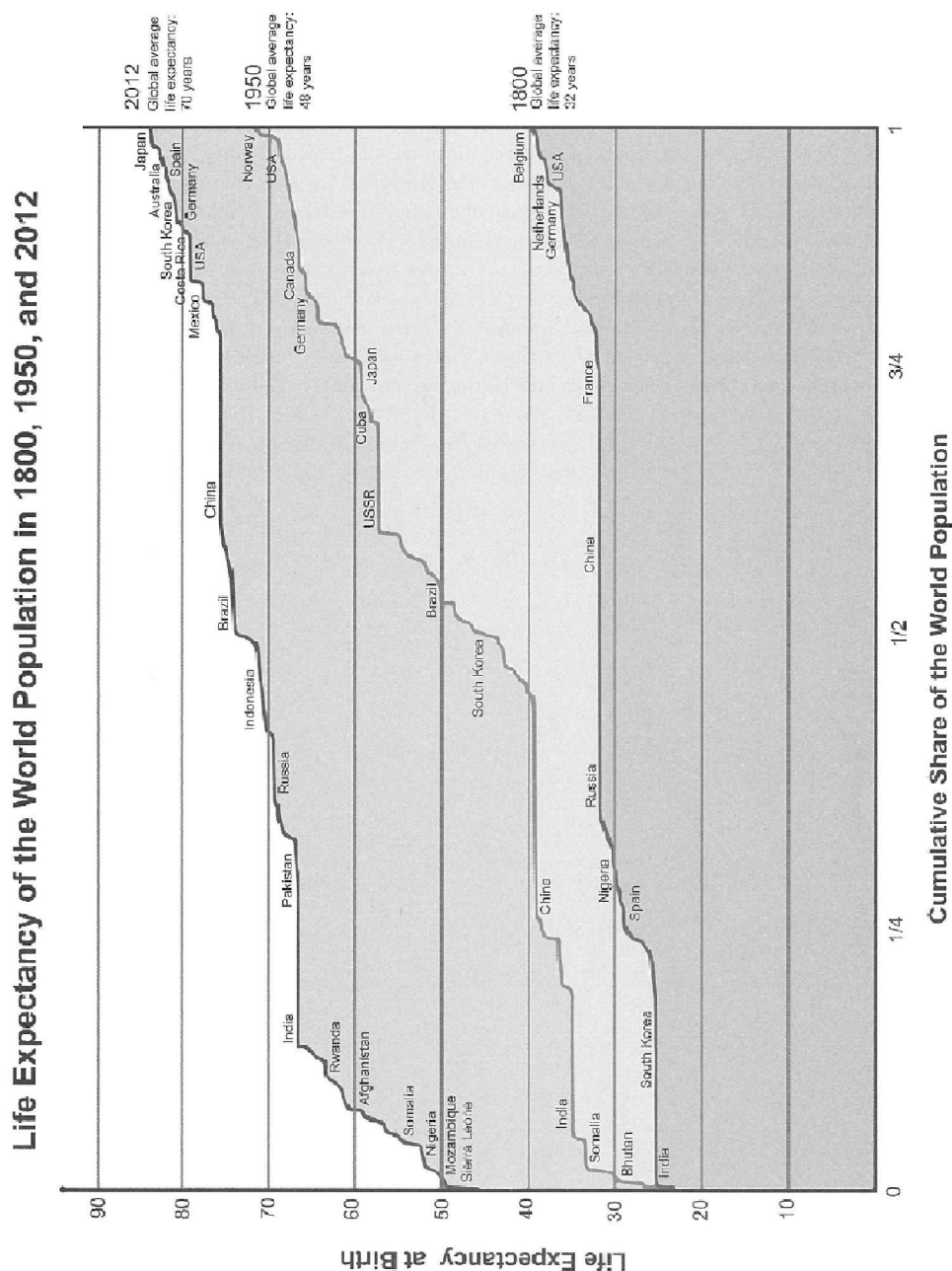
【C 予備校・解答例】

I agree that all people should be guaranteed a universal basic income or UBI. I think that most people are interested in more leisure time for enjoying art and sport, and just spending time together rather than making more money.

Unfortunately, today's social system drives people to make more money. It is time for a new and better form of economic distribution. Education and health should be free for everyone. When it comes to the other four basic needs, food, water, clothes and housing, the government should make sure that all people are provided for equally by providing a UBI to each person each month. We could easily pay for this by diverting the money spent yearly on the military. (120 words)

II Write a paragraph in ENGLISH answering the question below.

From the chart on the following page, what trends and other important information can be identified? For example, you may focus on the movement of the three different lines, countries that stand out over time, or any other points you can identify.



[Adapted from Max Roser et al., "Life Expectancy," in *Our World in Data*, 2019.]

【B 予備校・解答例】

Two trends are made clear by this chart. Firstly, the average life expectancy of people in many countries increased between 1800 and 2012. In 1800, it was just 32 years. In 2012, it was 70 years. Secondly, the position of some countries relative to others changed dramatically during that period. In 1950, for example, Japan was behind Germany and America in terms of life expectancy. By 2012, it had overtaken them. However, is this chart reliable? It is hard to believe we have life expectancy data for Nigeria in 1800, for example. Also, why are no figures available for leading countries like the UK? (104 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

This graph tells us many things about how life expectancy has changed from 1800 to 2012. In 1800, world life expectancy was low, with countries like India and South Korea at about 25 years of age. But things were not much better in other regions; no country had a life expectancy over 40, with Belgium the highest. By 1950 things had improved for many countries and they had higher life expectancies than in 1800, with the richer countries in Europe and the USA having life expectancies over 60. India and China, on the other hand, had made little progress. By 2012, however, with a few exceptions in Africa, life expectancy has greatly risen. (113 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】 省略

ALL answers must be written clearly within the boxes provided on the ANSWER SHEET.

I Write a paragraph in ENGLISH addressing the question below. Give appropriate reasons to support your position.

More and more high schools in the United States are requiring students to volunteer at non-profit organizations (NPOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and various charities for around 40 hours in order to graduate. Do you think that high schools in Japan should do something similar?

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I do not think Japanese high school students need to do something similar to volunteer or charity activities seen in the United States. The reason is that the whole education system of Japan, especially the entrance examination system, is very different from that of the US. So just introducing a specific program will not lead to improving Japanese education. Moreover, if engagement in some activity is a requirement for graduating from high school, it is no longer voluntary in the true sense of the word. Required deeds are half-forced ones. In short, students do them for self-interest, not others' interests.
(100 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I think that Japanese schools should also undertake similar programs and require students to be more socially involved as in the U.S. Requiring Japanese students to volunteer some of their time to some NPO activity or charity will make them more responsible citizens in the future and make them more aware of our various social problems. Also, having such a requirement as a condition for being able to graduate will necessitate a change in the present education model that forces all students to focus solely on passing difficult entrance examinations. (90 words)

* C予備校が賛成論を掲載しているので、阿佐谷英語塾としてはあえて反対論を述べた。A予備校はこの学部解答例を掲載したことがない。また昨年まで掲載していたB予備校も2022年には掲載を中止しているが、その真意は定かでない。仮に早稲田の国際教養学部を受験しないとしても、他大学・他学部の問題に取り組むことの重要性は改めて言うまでもない。

II の解答例は次ページ。

II Write a paragraph in ENGLISH answering the question below.

グラフに示されたデータを読み取る問題である。グラフが細かすぎて取り込めないため「阿佐谷英語塾」の解答例を省略し、「C 予備校」の解答を掲載させて頂く。

【C 予備校・解答例】

The graph shows connection between income and mismanaged plastic waste. Countries with a higher income per capita, such as Japan, Korea and Sweden, have the lower rates of plastic waste and the countries with a lower income per capita, such as Congo and Liberia, have a higher rate of mismanaged plastic waste per capita. However, Sri Lanka, the country with income per capita between the two groups of countries, has the highest rate of mismanaged plastic waste per capita. Rich countries can afford to manage plastic waste effectively, while poor countries do not have the economic capability of producing greater amounts of plastic waste than Sri Lanka does. Sri Lanka has the economic capability of producing tons of plastic waste but not up to the point of managing plastic waste as effectively as Korea, Japan, and Sweden. (137 words)

ALL answers must be written clearly within the boxes provided on the ANSWER SHEET.

I Write a paragraph in ENGLISH addressing the question below. Give appropriate reasons to support your position.

Dodgeball is a team game in which players on two teams throw balls and try to hit opponents, while avoiding being hit themselves. It is quite popular with many Japanese schoolchildren, but has been banned in some schools. Do you think dodgeball should be banned in all schools in Japan? Why or why not?

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

Dodgeball should be banned in all Japanese schools. First, unlike other ball games, it scores by hitting the opposite team's players with a ball. So it is not so much a ball game as boxing using a ball instead of gloves. How many people agree with adopting boxing in physical education classes? Second, most sports are more or less the simulation of battles in wars. They often accompany rough plays. However, dodgeball is entirely different because from the beginning, it aims at hitting another's body with a ball to win the game. In short, Japanese schools need not encourage children's aggressiveness through dodgeball. (103 words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

I agree that dodgeball should be banned in all schools in Japan and will explain why. First, this is a very physical sport or game in which those who are physically strong will win, and of course those who are physically weak will always lose and perhaps even be seriously hurt. Second, there is a lot of bullying at Japanese schools, and this sort of game could be a way for bullies to intimidate and/or hurt weaker students. (78 words)

【C予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with the idea of banning dodgeball in all schools in Japan. First of all, this game is in part a social game in which children learn to play and have fun, sometimes bump into each other and even hurt or bruise each other. Through this game children learn to get along, help and forgive, try hard, fail and try again. Animals in nature also engage in similar sorts of 'games' and it is only natural that we do the same. (82 words)

II Write a paragraph in ENGLISH answering the question below.

Comparing the two charts below, explain their similarities and differences. What advantages are there in displaying data like this in two such different ways?

グラフに示されたデータを読み取る問題である。グラフが細かすぎて取り込めないため「阿佐谷英語塾」の解答例を省略し、「C 予備校」の解答を掲載させて頂く。

【C 予備校・解答例】

The two charts both deal with world GDP per capita. However, one is based on actual GDP per capita by region whereas the other is based on the percentage change. The advantage of presenting this data in two such different ways is to be able to see things from a different perspective as we can see both the situation at a certain point in time and how the situation has been changing. For example, we can see per capita GDP of East Asia is relatively low but its growth rate is very high. Only one graph would not show the bigger picture.
(102 words)