

Read the statement below and write a paragraph giving at least two reasons why you agree or disagree with it. Write your answer in English in the space provided on your written answer sheet. (2013年 早稲田・政経: 解答欄は150mm×14行)

(It is suggested that you spend no more than 15 minutes on this section.)

”The automobile is the most important invention of modern times.”

※課題文が短いという2012年度のスタイルを踏襲しているが、この傾向がいつまで続くかはわからない。テーマ的には前年度よりはだいぶ書き易い。というより例年になく平易である。自動車と他の発明を比較をするのに必要な程度の知識は誰もが持ち合わせているはずだ。賛成論を展開するぶんには車のメリットだけに絞って書く手もあるが、反対論となるとそうはいかないだろう。早稲田・政経の合否は、短い時間内にまとまった量の手堅い英文を書く自由英作文の出来にかかっているが、対策は後ろ倒しになりがちだ。読む力と並行して書く力を鍛えていかないと、合格点の確保は難しい。受験生諸君はそのことに早く気づいてほしい。

この年度の手予備校の解答例を見ると、教える側の意識もようやく高まりつつあるようだ。提示されている英文のレベルも飛躍的に進歩している。十分に参考になるだろう、と言いたいところだが。気になる点も散見される。英語が文法体系に難のある変化の激しい言語であることを前提に、瑣末な批判や揚げ足取りにならない範囲で指摘していきたい。

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree. In the days where there were no automobiles, if people wanted to go to far away places, they had to walk, ride a horse, or use a carriage drawn by horses or oxen. So, the number of places where they could go was limited, and it took them many days, sometimes even months! Today, thanks to automobiles, it is far easier for us to get about and we can do so much faster. Moreover, our society wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for automobiles. Today's villages, towns and cities are all organized on the assumption that people will use them. It is difficult to imagine life without them. (111 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I don't think the automobile is the most important invention of modern times. Certainly the automobile is a convenient way of transporting people or goods. However, it cannot run without emitting exhaust gases. These gases are extremely harmful to the environment, causing air pollution, global warming, and acid rain. We wouldn't have these problems if it were not for the automobile. Any invention that causes such damage to the earth cannot be regarded as important. I believe electric trains, which can carry far more people or things than cars, should be considered more important because they don't emit exhaust gases. (100 words)

※最後から二つ目のセンテンス Any invention that causes such damage to the earth cannot be regarded as important. は No invention that causes such damage to the earth can be regarded as important. とすべきである。同一センテンス内で any や either が not に先行するのは誤りである。Anything I have is not more expensive than your car. (誤) Nothing I have is more expensive than your car. (正)

【B予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this statement. No other recent invention has had a bigger impact on people's lives and the world we live in than the automobile. This impact has been both positive and negative. On the one hand, the automobile has strengthened the economies of car-manufacturing countries and created thousands of jobs. It has also brought many people enjoyment and a sense of freedom. It has allowed people to commute to work or go on trips without having to depend on public transport. At the same time, however, the automobile has hurt our health and that of the environment. We get little exercise if we use cars, and the exhaust gases released by them are one of the major causes of global warming. (123 words)

※この解答例は ... giving at least two reasons why you agree or disagree with it. という指定を無視して、賛成の論拠と反対の論拠を挙げている。設問文の意味を取り違えているようだ。厳密に採点するとどうなるだろう。

【B予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this statement. In my opinion, the most important invention of modern times is not the automobile but the microchip — because it made personal computers possible. Since these computers first appeared in the 1970s, the amount of information that human beings can gather, process and share has increased dramatically, and there have been more scientific breakthroughs in the last 40 years than at any other time in our history. This is especially true in the field of medicine, where computers have enabled scientists to develop new drugs and treatments to save and improve the quality of millions of people's lives. The automobile, on the other hand, has made our lives worse. It has polluted our air and made our cities noisy and stressful places to live. (128 words)

※後ろから三つめのセンテンス ... where computers have enabled scientists to develop new drugs and treatments to save and improve the quality of millions of people's lives. の文構造はどうなっているのか。save と improve the quality of の共通の目的語が millions of people's lives ということになるが、文のリズムが良くない。save millions of people's lives and improve their quality [the quality of them] としたほうが文意が明確になるのでは。

【C予備校・解答例1】

I agree that the automobile is the most important invention of modern times. Thanks to the automobile, people have been able to move and travel great distances. The automobile has also made possible the transportation of food, equipment and materials to areas where they were unknown or scarce. This great invention has enabled the great movements of people around the world, resulting in the globalized societies and cultures we find today. Some people might complain about some negative aspects, but I believe that the incredible mixing of peoples, cultures and ideas that has come about thanks to the automobile has and will continue to benefit all people. (107 words)

※第四文の resulting in the globalized societies and cultures we find today は automobile が globalization に一役買っていることになるが、自動車は海を航行したり、空を飛んだりはできないので、少々無理があるのでは。

※最後のセンテンス ... the incredible mixing of peoples, cultures and ideas that has come about thanks to the automobile has and will continue to benefit all people. の文構造は S=the incredible mixing ... で、V=has and will continue ... ということになるが、has continue とは言えないので、has continued and will continue とするべきでは。can and will continue や has been and is beneficial [is and will be beneficial] といった例と混同しているのではないだろうか。

【C予備校・解答例2】

I don't agree that the automobile is the most important invention of modern times. The automobile has taken away our formerly peaceful and relaxed way of life. As a result of this fast-moving invention, our lives seem to be moving faster as well. In Japan alone an average of 5,000 people die in traffic accidents each year. Another terrible effect of all these cars on the roads is the negative change to the environment because of the exhaust gases emitted by cars. And it is not just the cars, but the entire car industry; all the factories that make the different parts also pollute the earth. The car has been a cause of stress for all living things and is ruining our precious earth. (124 words)

※解答例を担当する大手予備校の講師は実際の入試のように15分程度で書き上げているわけでもないだろうし、またネイティブの講師や informant, adviser といった存在もいるはずである ...。ごく短時間にこれだけチェックをすると、こちらのほうが思わぬ誤読をしている可能性もなきにしもあらず。そのときは慎んでお詫びと訂正をします。

※上記の指摘を別とすれば、6つの解答例は受験生が(自由)英作文を書く際の参考として十分な量であり、阿佐谷英語塾としては、参考の参考として、少し違った視点から長文の解答例を提示したい。前半の具体例を思い切って削り、少し細部を省いていけば、解答欄に収まる語数になる。100語を越えるのがきつい人は、語数を増やす書き方の参考にしてほしい。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I agree with the statement. First, it is true that human beings have invented various things in history, especially in modern times: for example, the railroad, the airplane, the radio, the telephone, the television, the word processor, the personal computer, the Internet, and the nuclear electric power generation, as well as the electric refrigerator or the electric washing machine. These inventions have made daily lives remarkably convenient. Among them, railroads and airplanes have sometimes caused accidents and destroyed many people, and we think accidents of nuclear power plants are far more dangerous than these accidents. However, traffic car accidents have killed the greatest number of people, except for wars, natural disasters and epidemics [infectious diseases], but almost no one claims that cars should be abolished. For, as a means of transportation, there are no alternatives to them. This proves the automobile is the most important invention of modern times. Second, although it has negative aspects, including emitting poisonous exhaust gas, the automobile is more than essential for the weak in society, such as seriously sick or injured people, new born babies, the physically handicapped. (182-183words)

*最後のセンテンスの such as 以下で, ... and the physically handicapped. とせず, カンマだけで繋いでいるのは, まだ他にも例があるということを示すためであり, A, B, C, and so on. という表現と同じである。

*epidemics [infectious diseases] を追加。

【和訳→英訳】

私はこの説に同意する。第一に、人類が歴史上、特に近代において、様々な物を発明してきたのは事実である。例えば、鉄道、飛行機、ラジオ、電話、テレビ、ワープロ、パソコン、インターネット、原子力発電、また電気冷蔵庫や電気洗濯機もそうである。こうした発明は日常生活を著しく便利にした。こうした発明のなかで、鉄道と飛行機は時々事故を引き起こして多くの人の命を奪ってきたし、また私たちは原子力発電所の事故は鉄道や飛行機の事故よりもはるかに危険だと考えている。しかし交通事故は、戦争、自然災害、伝染病を別とすれば、これまで最も多くの人命を奪ってきたが、自動車を廃止すべきだと主張する人は皆無に近い。なぜならば、交通[輸送]の手段として、自動車に代わりうるものは存在しないからだ。このことは、自動車が近代の最も重要な発明であることを証明している。第二に、自動車は有害な排気ガスの排出を含むマイナスの側面を持っているにもかかわらず、重病人や重傷を負った人、乳児、身体障害者などの社会的弱者にとって(絶対に)必要不可欠である。

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(It is suggested that you spend no more than 15 minutes on this section.)

”People would be happier if they could live forever.”

従来とは少し毛色が変わった課題文を提示してきた。どちらかという和一橋大学で出題されそうなテーマである。一見すると、特別な背景知識を必要としない文字通りの自由英作文であり、その点では易化したようにも見えるが、実は「不老長寿」は人類永遠のテーマであり、正面から論じるとなると、相当に深い根源的な思索の裏付けが求められる。

とはいえ、受験生としてはあくまでも英語の試験であることを念頭に、論理的に破綻していない限りは、内容はそこそこでも、英語の表現として成り立つことを主眼にしていきたい。ただし、日本語でもまともな内容を書けないレベルの発想の乏しさでは、限られた時間で合格答案を書くことは難しい。

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree. What frightens us most is death. No matter how much a man tries to achieve something, he knows his effort will come to nothing when he dies; no matter how much a woman loves her husband, she knows she will have to part from him when he dies. If death were to be removed from our lives, everyone would be far happier because they would no longer have to experience these things. Also, being immortal would mean that we would have limitless potential. There would be nothing we couldn't do, because we would have more than enough time to do it. (103 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I disagree. First of all, if no one died, what would happen to our planet? The world population is now only seven billion, but this has already caused a lot of problems. If everyone could live forever, the world would be even worse off. Second, suppose a person suffered serious brain damage and went into a vegetative state. Since he would be immortal, he would never die! Could there be any greater tragedy than this? His family would have to pay for his treatment forever. Even if they wanted to commit suicide because of their worries about debt, that would also be impossible. (103 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

People would be sadder if they could live forever. If no one ever died, the world's population would quickly increase. Competition for food, water and other natural resources would become fierce, and many wars would break out. Rivals would not be able to kill each other, but the fighting would nevertheless be painful and stressful. Our consumption of fossil fuels would rise and global warming would become worse. The sea level would rise and many coastal cities would be destroyed. Those that remained would become intolerably crowded. Eventually, we would realize that the only way to make life on earth sustainable would be to stop having children. The earth would be populated by billions of old people. It would be like living in hell. (124 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I disagree with the statement. To be sure, if people face unexpected death, whether it is because of some unpredictable accident or an incurable disease, it certainly upsets and distresses them. People heartily wish they were immortal. However, if people could stay alive forever, it would mean loss of life stages except infancy or childhood. Expanding adult populations would continue endless fierce struggle for [over] various resources, in all places on the earth. In a short period, the world would become what they might call hell. Moreover, what is truly miserable is that, as people could never die, they would have to "live in hell forever." All they could do would be have no children. However, nothing could be more terrible than this. (122 words)

※今回の解答例はB予備校とほとんど同じ内容になってしまったが、少し論理的に考えたら、賛成論はありえないだろう。唯一の解決策は宇宙への旅くらいだろうか。だからといって、A予備校の解答例を批判するつもりはありません。(?)

【和訳→英訳】

私はこの説に同意しない。確かに、人は予期しない死に直面すると、それが不測の事故のせいであろうと、不治の病のせいであろうと、動転して、悲嘆にくれる。人は不死身であることを心から願う。しかし、もし人が永遠に生き続けることができるとしたら、幼児期や子供時代以外の人生の時期は存在なくなるだろう。増大する成人の人口集団が、地球上のあらゆる場所で、様々な資源を求めて[めぐって]、果てしない凄まじい闘いを続けることになるだろう。短期間で、世界はさながら地獄のようになるだろう。そのうえ、本当に悲惨なのは、人は死ぬことができないので、「永遠に地獄で生き」なければならないことである。人ができるのは子供を産まないことだけだろう。しかし、これ以上に恐ろしいことはありえないだろう。

Read the statement below and write a paragraph giving at least two reasons why you agree or disagree with it. Write your answer in English in the space provided on your written answer sheet. (2015年 早稲田・政経: 解答欄は 行)
(It is suggested that you spend no more than 15 minutes on this section.)

"The voting age in Japan should be lowered to 18."

このテーマは2004年に、早稲田の法学部で出題されている。それから10年以上経過しているが、このときの解説で書いたとおり、憲法改正(悪?)を最大の政治課題とする第一次安倍政権がすでに国民投票法を改正して、投票年齢を18歳に引き下げている。残された手続きは民法と公職選挙法の改正である。現第二次安倍政権で、憲法改正がいよいよ具体的な政治日程に上ってきた今日、政権与党の狙いが国民投票で若者の票を取り込むことにあるのは間違いない。与党内には、保守の立場から、成人年齢の引き下げには反対する人もいる。しかし他の権利や義務と切り離して選挙権だけ付与するととなると、まったく筋が通らない。

このテーマはどの大学・学部でいつ出題されても不思議ではない。他大学・他学部の過去問を解くことの重要性を認識してほしい。あえて「解答例・暗記例文」と銘打っているのはそのためである。暗記例文というのは、全文をそのまま暗記するという意味(だけ)ではない。個々の単語・熟語・文法・構文といった英語の表現と同時に、内容に関する背景知識を持つこともきわめて重要である。大手予備校の解答例を掲載するのはそのためである。批判やあら探しをするためではない。ただし、内容や英語表現に不備があれば、最小限の指摘をするのは当然であると考え。

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree. There are many people who are opposed to giving voting rights to eighteen-year-olds, claiming that they aren't mature enough to take part in politics. This is nonsense. Teenagers have learned the difference between right and wrong, and they are beginning to be responsible for their behavior. So, at the age of eighteen, they should be given the right to vote, as in the U.S. and many other countries. Also, in Japan, the number of old people is increasing now, so their interests are given a higher priority. Young people should have a greater voice. (96 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I disagree. People in Japan are living longer and longer, and it is not unusual for them to live to over eighty! In the days when people only lived to fifty, eighteen-year-olds may have already been real adults, but at present you definitely cannot call them adults; they aren't mature at all. What will happen to Japanese politics if they are given the right to vote? Moreover, most of them aren't interested in politics, and they will most likely not go to vote. So, there is no merit whatever in lowering the voting age to eighteen. (96 words)

※最後のセンテンス So の後のカンマは不要。

※there is no merit whatever: there is no merit at all

【B予備校・解答例】

Some people say the voting age in Japan should be lowered to 18 because this will encourage more young people to take an interest in politics and how society works, and because this will make them more responsible citizens when they are older. In my opinion, however, people of this age are too immature to vote. Most of them are still students and depend on their parents for food and housing. They would be easily manipulated by political candidates and would vote for people based on their looks or celebrity rather than the policies they wanted to carry out. We should leave the voting age as it is.

(108 words)

※最後から二番目のセンテンス would vote for people based on ... の based on 以下は長めの分詞構文であり, would vote for people, based on ... と前にカンマを打ったほうがよいと思われる。ただし採点には影響しないはず。

【C予備校・解答例1】

I agree that the voting age in Japan should be lowered to 18. First of all, Japanese society is rapidly aging, and there are more and more elderly people. The concerns of the elderly are not always the same as the concerns of the young, so unless there is a balance, the elderly will be deciding things that may be good for them, but not for the future generations. So younger people need to vote and make their voices heard politically. Also, by lowering the voting age to 18, young people may feel more of a sense of responsibility and value. That would surely benefit our present and future societies. (110 words)

【C予備校・解答例2】

I disagree that the voting age in Japan should be lowered to 18. First, young people in Japan today are not mentally mature enough to understand or think about politics and the consequences of one person's vote in an election. Second, most students are too busy playing video games, reading manga or else studying for some exam. They do not engage in political discussions or seem to be aware of the problems facing Japan. I would be afraid of giving them the power to vote until they are really ready. If we gave them the vote too early, most of them would probably just vote for the most handsome or beautiful candidate! (112 words)

※最後から二番目のセンテンス I would be afraid of giving them the power to vote until they are really ready. の until は before の間違いではないのか。

次ページに2004年 早稲田・法学部の阿佐谷英語塾の解答例を提示する。理想としては100語以上の解答を求められる現在の政経学部と当時の法学部では語数が違い、また one reason と two reasons の違いがあるが、基本的な論点は使えるはずである。

【早稲田(法) 阿佐谷英語塾・解答例1】

I agree with the current law. The main reason is that in Japan at the age of 18, most of us are just busy preparing for university entrance examinations, so we cannot afford to do social activities or think about social problems. We are not yet mentally mature enough to be called adults. (52 words)

【早稲田(法) 阿佐谷英語塾・解答例2】

I think the age of majority should be reduced to 18, because after graduation from high school, some of us begin to work and pay income tax. In practice, we come of age at eighteen. Rights should go with duties. We should be given the right to vote at the age of 18. (53 words)

*in practice: practically *come of age: become adults

この解答例を倍の語数に膨らませて、政経学部の解答例を提示する。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例1】

I agree with the statement. First, the voting age usually accords with the age of majority, and it is 18 in many countries. Why in Japan, one of the most advanced countries in the world, should it be 20? Some people argue that young Japanese today are not mentally mature enough to become adults. However, this is the result of the age of majority being higher than that of other countries. The argument just confuses the cause with the effect. Second, not a few young Japanese begin to work and pay income tax after graduating from high school. Practically, they come of age at 18. They should have the right to vote at 18. (114 words)

*accord [agree] with ...: be in accordance [agreement] with ...

*the age of majority: the age at which people come of age

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例2】

I disagree with the statement. First, in Japan, at the age of eighteen, around half of the young people are just busy preparing for university entrance examinations. So they cannot afford to do social activities or think about social problems. In other words, they are not mentally mature enough to have the right to vote. Second, the voting age usually accords with the age of majority. Lowering it to eighteen can lead to imposing the duty of paying social costs, such as pension and medical insurance, on eighteen-year-olds. However, many of the young Japanese at twenty depend upon their parents for living expenses. The lowered voting age could merely burden parents two more years. (114 words)

*two more years: 二年余分に

大手予備校の解答例で様々な視点が提示されているので、解答例2の後半では、この問題をあえて別の観点から取り上げた。

Read the statement below and write a paragraph giving at least two reasons why you agree or disagree with it. Write your answer in English in the space provided on your written answer sheet. (2016年 早稲田・政経)

(It is suggested that you spend no more than 15 minutes on this section.)

”Smoking should be made illegal in Japan.”

【A予備校・解答例1】AGREE

I agree. Smoking is not only bad for the health of smokers but for that of nonsmokers. Passive smoking is a big problem today. It has been scientifically proved that exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke increases the risk of cancer and circulatory diseases. Moreover, smoking causes fires very frequently. It often happens that because of a lit cigarette a fire breaks out in one room of an apartment, spreads to the neighboring rooms and, in the worst case, the whole apartment building is destroyed. Many innocent lives may be lost due to one smoker. (94words)

【A予備校・解答例2】DISAGREE

I disagree. Tobacco prices include a tax. This means that smokers contribute to the revenue of the government by buying tobacco. The taxes smokers pay amount to a great deal of money. If smoking were made illegal, the government would have to think of ways to make up for this money, which would certainly be tough. Also, making smoking illegal would mean that tobacco would be treated like illegal drugs. As a matter of course, tobacco production would be made illegal too. However, there are many farmers in the world who earn their living by growing tobacco. What would happen to them? (102 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I disagree with this idea. It is true that smoking does harm to the health of smokers and non-smokers who are near them. It can cause lung cancer and heart disease, for example. It is also true that hospitals spend a lot of time and money treating sick smokers every year. However, to keep our democracy healthy, I believe adults should be allowed to do what they want with their bodies provided they do not hurt others. If we ban smoking, we will have to ban other harmful activities such as drinking alcohol or eating too much chocolate. It will never end. Furthermore, smoking is good for the economy. The government collects a lot of tax on cigarette sales, and the tobacco industry provides thousands of jobs for people in this country. (132 words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

I agree that smoking should be illegal in Japan. It has been proven again and again that smoking is bad for the health and a leading cause of lung cancer and other respiratory problems. And it is not only smokers who suffer. Second-hand smoke, the smoke we non-smokers are forced to inhale when we are near or around smokers, is just as harmful as inhaling the smoke from a cigarette directly. Carelessly smoking in bed is one of the main causes of fires in people's homes and many lives are lost each year to this useless habit. There is absolutely nothing good about smoking, and it should be banned altogether. (110 words)

【C予備校・解答例2】

I do not agree that smoking should be made illegal in Japan. Japan is a democracy and people should be free to make decisions about their lives, even if it means doing their own bodies harm. Nobody has the right to take away that liberty and freedom from others. However, those who do not smoke should also be respected, and they also deserve the freedom to live without having to inhale somebody's second-hand smoke. In order that both groups can live and work in harmony together, the government should set up more 'smoking stations' where smokers can smoke and enjoy their habit. In that way everyone would be happy. (109 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I disagree. First, if smoking is so bad a habit as (it is) considered in general, why (should) have (many) people in various places of the world made it a practice to smoke (ever) since ancient times? Something that has existed standing the test of time must have some merits as well as demerits. Making tobacco an illegal drug could create unexpected or, strictly, expected severe social problems as the prohibition of drinking alcohol did. Second, we should not deprive people of their right to do what they want to except when they behave against the public interests. Therefore, smoking should not be prohibited totally, but just in public places. (105-110 words)

*standing the test of time: 時の試練に耐えて, 時の試練を経て (分詞構文)

strictly: strictly speaking; to be exact

except when ...: unless ...

※喫煙の害といった具体的なことには触れず, 一般論だけを述べたのは, 多様なテーマの出題に対応できる解答例を示すためである。

2016年の早稲田法学部の解答例も, 基本的に同じスタンスに立っている。

※私自身は苦勞の末にようやく禁煙に成功したが, 止めてみると, 確かに喫煙は好ましい習慣ではないと個人的には思う。ただし, 他人の権利を制限することには常に慎重でありたい。かつての米国の禁酒法は, 人間の愚かさには限りがないことを如実に物語っている。

Read the statement below and write a paragraph giving at least two reasons why you agree or disagree with it. Write your answer in English in the space provided on your written answer sheet. (2017年 早稲田・政経)

(It is suggested that you spend no more than 15 minutes on this section.)

”Gay marriage should be made legal in Japan.”

塾長のメッセージ(2.24)で「どのようなトピックが出題されようとも、手持ちの語彙と英語表現、背景知識と想像力を駆使して対処してほしい。... きわめて up-to-date で思い切ったものであったが、特に書き難いテーマではない」と書いたが、これは以下のことが前提になっている。「予想外の、しかもかなり専門的なテーマを出題された時には、数百題の暗記例文を身に着けていようと、語彙と知識の不足は免れない。したがって、この暗記例文の本当の狙いはそこにはない。あくまでも確かな文法と構文に則り、なおかつ一定レベルの語彙を生かしながら、専門知識と専門用語の勝負にはまるのを避けて、(高いレベルの)一般論を展開することにある」(自由)英作文用暗記例文:短文&中文

このテーマは、まともに取り組むと「同性婚」と、その前提となる「同性愛」の是非をも、社会的、文化的、歴史的、宗教的、道徳的、そして法的側面から論じることになり、たいへんにレベルが高い。もともと大学受験生のレベルを大きく超えている。しかも使える時間はせいぜい20分程度である。したがって上述の方針を基本的なスタンスとすることの意義を理解してほしい。もちろん或るトピックについて(たまたま)知識も語彙も豊富な場合は別であるが。

なおこのテーマは(2013年に一橋の前期でも出題されているが)、前年度の2016年に慶應経済の自由英作文で出題されたばかりである。早稲田政経と慶應経済を併願する受験生は少なくないとはいえ、早稲田専願の受験生もいるはずである。この年度は、過去問に目を通して慶應経済の併願者が圧倒的に有利になり、合否が分かれた可能性もある。2016年の「喫煙の非合法化」というテーマも2年前に一橋で出されたばかりであった。早稲田政経の出題者は、他大学の併願者に有利となることを承知の上で、あえてこうしたテーマを選んでいるのだろうか。

【A予備校・解答例1】AGREE

I agree. All humans should have equal rights. Legally, gays and lesbians can't do anything for their partners: they aren't allowed to make them beneficiaries of life insurance! they can't receive an inheritance from them. If gay marriages are made legal, they will be granted the same legal rights as non-homosexuals. Also, I hear there are many gays or lesbians who want to have a family. Gay marriages will make it much easier for them to adopt children. Then, the number of orphans will decrease, and they will have a better chance of having two loving parents. (97 words)

【A 予備校・解答例 2】 DISAGREE

I disagree. In my opinion, marriage should be limited to relationships between a man and a woman. I don't care whether someone is gay or lesbian, but making gay marriages legal is an entirely separate matter. Is it reasonable to regard a same-sex couple as a family? Is it a good thing for a child to have gay parents? Also, there is a great risk that various social systems will be abused. If two non-homosexual men or women have their marriage registered, they are regarded as a married couple and enjoy the benefits of social security. Gay marriages might be used to commit crimes. (104 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 1】

I agree with this idea. One reason is moral. I believe that in a democratic society like ours, people should be allowed to do what they want provided that they do not harm others. Allowing gay couples to marry will not harm heterosexuals, but by preventing them from marrying, heterosexual society hurts gay people a great deal. We deny them property rights, for example, and even the right to visit a loved one in hospital. My other reason is practical. An inclusive society that gives full rights to all its members, whether they are male or female, able-bodied or handicapped, heterosexual or homosexual, is stronger than one divided by prejudice. Japan is falling behind its rivals in the international marketplace. We need new ideas, from as many different people as possible. (131 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 2】

I disagree with this idea. If we allow gay people to marry, we must allow them to raise children. Unfortunately, even well intentioned gay couples are unable to provide a healthy environment in which to do this. To function effectively in our society, a child needs the influence of both a father and a mother. To give two examples: a boy brought up by two women is likely to become effeminate and, as a result, to be bullied by his classmates; a girl going through puberty cannot get the help she needs if both her parents are men. Also, let us not forget that gay couples break up more often than straight couples do. Their children are therefore more likely to be raised by a single parent, and to suffer both emotionally and financially. (134 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

I agree that gay marriage should be made legal in Japan. First, to forbid same-sex marriage is to offend basic human rights. I think all the people have a right to decide who they live with or love. In fact, gay marriage is already legal in many developed nations around the world. Japan stands as a developed nation and so she should also respect her citizens' basic human rights. Second, some may say that legalizing gay marriage will break the tradition of male-and-female marriage in Japan, but essentially, Japanese traditions have changed over time. Therefore, the meaning of marriage should be reconsidered, based on the tendency of our times. (109 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I agree. First, many developed countries and some developing countries have already legalized gay marriage. That is a trend based on the idea that all people have the right to look for happiness. It is natural for different societies to have different (values, cultures, traditions, and) legal systems. However, all men and women should enjoy equal rights as to such fundamental needs as sexual preferences unless they harm other people. Second, even though they are a minority in Japan, the proportion of gay people is estimated at five percent. That means that some six million Japanese are gays. This figure is too high to be disregarded, so keeping gay marriage illegal can be a disadvantage (, rather than an advantage,) to the sustainability of our society. (117-125 words)

*sexual preferences 以外はごく一般的な語彙である。such fundamental needs as sexual preferences → fundamental needs

*the proportion of gay people is estimated at five percent. That means that some six million Japanese are gays. This figure is too high to be disregarded → the proportion of gay people is thought to be not so small. That means that not so few Japanese are gays. This fact should not be disregarded とすれば、「同性愛・同性婚」に関する具体的な知識はいっさい不要になる。

※私なりの背景知識を援用すると、絶対の自信を持って I agree. と言うことは出来ないが、I disagree. と言い切ることにはより大きな抵抗を感じる。「英語の試験」だと割り切って答えるしかないだろう。