

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.

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

”A law should be passed in Japan establishing a minimum percentage of women in key positions in the government and major corporations.”

このテーマは1984年の慶應・経済の読解問題に、したがって自由英作文のトピックとして、出題されている。早稲田・政経の受験者は一橋や慶應・経済、さらには早稲田の他学部の問題に目を通すことが必要不可欠である。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I agree with this argument. First, passing a law is probably the most effective and powerful way to solve social problems. If not forced by law, long-standing practices will not change or disappear with ease. In this case, the Japanese traditional idea of the division of gender roles between men and women is too high a barrier to be broken by individuals' efforts. Second, today's Japan undoubtedly needs women's participation in political and economic activities. If they take key positions and the initiative, with their unique viewpoints and ideas, they will activate the government and major corporations. (97 words)

※他のテーマにも応用できる英語表現を用いることを主眼としている。したがって、細部に及ぶ理由にはあえて触れていない。

実際には、大手予備校の反対論にある通り、ときに悪平等や逆差別にもなりかねず、また出産や育児の問題をクリアせず性急に割当制を導入すると、かえって女性の足を引っ張る結果にもなりかねない。さらには a minimum percentage が a maximum percentage になる恐れもあり、具体的な数字の設定はたいへん難しい。

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree. Japan is reported to be one of the worst in the world concerning the gap in promotion between men and women. Our country, an economic superpower now, should be one that deserves the name. Also, it is unfair that people can't get promotions just because they are women. Unfortunately, many men in Japan think that it isn't a good idea to put women in high positions because they are likely to leave their jobs when they get married or have a baby. However, this is an old-fashioned idea! there are many women now who continue to pursue their careers. (101 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this idea. First, there is a strong possibility that women will quit their jobs when they get married or have a baby. People who might leave suddenly should not hold high positions in the government and major corporations. Second, setting a minimum percentage means that even when it may

be necessary to put women in key positions even when they are not qualified for them, cutting off men who could do the work better. This is unfair, and won't be of any help in reducing the promotion gap between men and women. (95 words)

※Second, 以下を読んで理解できる人はいないだろう。おそらく次のようなことを言おうとしているのではないかと思われる。

setting a minimum percentage means that it may be necessary to put women in key positions even when they are not qualified for them, and this means cutting off men who could do the work better

【B予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this idea. Such a law would help to create a fairer society and energize our economy. Today, many women want or need to work full-time but cannot do this while raising children because they receive little support from their employers or the government. Most politicians and company directors are men and unsympathetic to women's needs, so few daycare centers are built, little maternity leave is given, and companies that mistreat female employees go unpunished. Educated and talented women give up promising careers to become housewives. Their skills, experience and knowledge, which could help Japanese companies to develop new products, are wasted. The only way to change this situation is to put more women in powerful positions in companies and government departments. (124 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this idea. It is true that we need more female business leaders and politicians. Japanese companies are falling behind their rivals in other countries due to a lack of new ideas. With their fresh perspective, women can help firms to create new products and services that will be popular all over the world. We also need more female politicians to create a more family-friendly and less workaholic society. However, simply putting people in key positions because they are women won't work. To be effective, leaders must earn their position by showing superior ability. Otherwise, they will not be respected by their subordinates. Also, giving undeserving women these jobs will create resentment among male workers and lead to corporate and governmental dysfunction. (124 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I agree that a law should be passed in Japan establishing a minimum percentage of women in key positions in the government and major corporations. Thinking in demographic terms, roughly one half of the population of Japan is made up of women, and so, important decisions that affect women (and this one half of the entire population), should naturally be made by women themselves. Also, women are different from men in many aspects and can add that feminine touch and sensibility to everything from product design to how to create a better health care system. (95 words)

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.

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

”Every university student in Japan should be required to study abroad for at least one semester.”

ネタ切れと言えばネタ切れ, up-to-date と言えば up-to-date なトピックである。
”Every university student” と言い切っているところをポイントにして, three reasons の解答例を提示する。second reason を省けば 100 words になる。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I disagree with the statement. I have three reasons for this. First, ”every university student” includes those who already studied abroad for a whole year when in high school. It also applies to those who have some reason that makes it hard to leave Japan, such as physical handicaps. That is not only nonsense but, in the latter case, can violate human rights. Second, the cost of studying overseas is too high for many or most college students to cover themselves. Third, to be sure, to stay in another country when young is a beneficial experience. However, it is just a waste of time for those who want to do in Japan what they think is more meaningful. (118 words)

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this opinion. It is reported that an increasing number of Japanese students want to stay in Japan for their entire university education. I think that’s because studying abroad isn’t compulsory: they can graduate without taking the trouble to do that. However, studying abroad for at least one semester (even though it seems to be rather a short period) will surely bring about good changes in them, as well as improving their ability to understand another language. They will learn a lot by interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds. (92 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I don’t think so. For students who want to get a job abroad or one in which they have to communicate with people from other countries, such a requirement might be okay, but if someone intends to live in Japan for the rest of their lives, they have no reason to study abroad. Moreover, it is expensive: it is often said that it costs about two million yen to study abroad for one year, which means that even staying for one semester would cost from six hundred thousand to one million. Of course there are many students who couldn’t afford that. (101 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I disagree with this idea. It is true that a few university students can benefit from studying abroad, provided they do so for at least a year. They can master a foreign language and gain access to research facilities that are not available in Japan, for example. However, most students will do non-academic work for domestic companies after they graduate. They will use Japanese when dealing with their colleagues and customers, not English or other languages. Rather than studying abroad, these students should focus on acquiring skills that will give them an advantage over their rivals when hunting for jobs. (100 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I disagree that every university student in Japan should be required to study abroad for at least one semester. University students in general have only four years to study and master a subject that they will need for their work in the future. Going abroad for a whole semester will disrupt their studies and other activities and require a great amount of money as well. They will have opportunities to go abroad on business or for leisure later on in life, and in the mean time they can learn almost anything they want about other countries on the Internet. (98 words)

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.

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

”For teenagers, smartphones do more harm than good.”

2020年もまたネタ切れと言えるだろう。阿佐谷英語塾が「2020 予想される自由英作文のテーマと書き方」に「スマホの功罪」として挙げておいたトピックである。自分の実体験に基づいて書けば、特別な背景知識はもちろん、豊富な語彙も想像力も不要だろう。

”teenagers”だと小学生は含まれず、高校生が含まれることになるが、少し厳密さに欠ける括り方である。A予備校の解答例3と4以外は I agree.なのは意外である。最も力を必要とする英作文を担当するのは、ふつう年齢層が高い講師陣だからなのか、あるいは若手の講師陣も agree が本音だからなのか。受験生の感覚からすると agree は少数派で、実際の解答も disagree の立場から答えたものが多かったのではないと思われる。They cannot do without smartphones. だからである。

たいして難しいテーマでもないのに、A予備校が珍しく4つも解答例を挙げてくれている。おかげで、あえて阿佐谷英語塾の解答例を掲載する必要がなくなった。情報過多だと消化不良を起こす恐れがあるからだ。Too much information does more harm than good.

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree. Look at teenagers on the train. They are all busy using their smartphones. Some of them are using Twitter or Line, some reading manga, and some are playing games. They are getting more stupid than ever before. They even risk losing their lives: they might fall off platforms or down stairs because they often stop to check their smartphones and someone from behind may bump into them. Moreover, they are becoming poorer at using their imaginations. They are used to seeing images on the screen and don't know how to imagine things that are in print. (98 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I agree. First, smartphones discourage teenagers from thinking for themselves. Certainly, with smartphones, we can easily search the Internet for things we want to know wherever we are, which may be helpful. But if teenagers depend on them too much, and don't learn anything by themselves, they soon will not be able to do anything without a smartphone. Second, friendships have become less close. Many teenagers boast of the number of friends they have on SNSs like Facebook, but that doesn't mean they have 'real' friends. There is no point having someone as a friend when we haven't even met them. (101 words)

【A予備校・解答例3】

I disagree. One good thing about smartphones is that they let us get information quite easily. They are very useful and effective for learning. Older people may insist that reading paper books is the one and only way to accumulate knowledge, and complain that teenagers these days, who don't like reading, are becoming more and more ignorant, but I don't think they are right. Moreover, in case of emergency, nothing can help us more than a smartphone. Suppose a serious accident or a natural disaster happens. We can immediately ask our family or the police for help or tell them whether we are all right or not. (107 words)

【A予備校・解答例4】

I disagree. First, smartphones make it possible to have a lot more free time. In the past, people had to go to the library and spend hours finding information they needed, but teenagers today don't have to do that because with smartphones they can find what they need on the spot. We can use the time doing something more productive such as working part time, instead. Second, smartphones lighten our load. Teenagers once had to carry a lot of books or dictionaries, which sometimes caused back injuries. Now, we don't have to carry that much, since we can carry dozens of books and dictionaries in one smartphone. (107 words)

【B予備校・解答例】

I agree with this statement. It is true that smartphones have many good points. Teenagers can use them to communicate with their friends and families quickly and cheaply using text messages, for example. This improves their social lives and prevents their parents from worrying about their safety. In my opinion, however, the disadvantages of the phones outweigh these benefits. The socialmedia notifications that appear on their screens every few minutes prevent students from concentrating on their studies. Young people feel obliged to respond quickly to new messages, so they text when they should be writing their essays or listening to what their teachers are saying. What is worse, the phones can be used to play games and videos. These are very addictive, especially when the user is wearing headphones, and discourage young people from going out doors and exercising. (139words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I agree with the statement that for teenagers, smartphones do more harm than good. It has been a great-discussed topic recently how young people in general spend less and less time holding face-to-face conversations with family and friends. And this is largely because they are so distracted by their smartphones and the 'virtual' relationships they seem to find so important on the Internet. I believe that teenagers especially need to develop and polish their social skills by interacting with real people. They do not need smartphones for that. (88 words)

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 box on your written answer sheet (配点15点)

”Peaceful protests should not turn violent
even if protesters feel that their voices are being ignored.”

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I agree with this statement. The first reason is that violent protests inevitably produce violent reactions of authority. The actual source of political power is, even in democratic countries, not public opinion but police and military forces. Therefore, protesters' unprepared, spontaneous physical conduct almost always ends up being suppressed. The second is that violence also arouses the same wild behavior of the opposite-side people. Therefore, many of the supporters of peaceful protests may well keep a distance from the radical movement. In short, violent actions are not an effective way of resisting the government. (94 words)

*careless mistake を訂正, 一部 rewrite

【A予備校・解答例1】

I agree with this opinion. Saying ”Peaceful protests should not turn violent” is a contradiction. The word ”peaceful” means not resorting to violence, so if protests turn violent, they can no longer be called ”peaceful”; they are now ”violent” protests. Moreover, if protests turn into violent riots, the protesters' voices will be ignored even more, contrary to their expectations. Who would be willing to listen to people who reject the possibility of discussion? Their demonstrations will no doubt end up being suppressed. In order to get the authorities to accept their demands, they must be ready to negotiate peacefully. (99 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this statement. If people just keep trying to make their complaints in moderate ways, that is, through discussion or negotiation, but find to their disappointment that their voices remain unheard, they will have no choice but to resort to violence. Moreover, I believe that violent ways of protesting are sometimes inevitable. For example, when faced with something that threatens our existence, such as dictatorship or the suppression of human rights, all of us should be prepared to stand up and confront them with violence. Protesting in peaceful ways will get us nowhere; nothing will ever change. (99 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

I agree that protests should never turn violent for two reasons. First, violence scares away potential supporters. Any effective protest movement must appeal to a wider audience to achieve its main goals, but violence does not attract the kinds of support needed to enact change. Recently at Black Lives Matter rallies in America, a small minority began rioting and needlessly damaged the image of the whole movement. Such violence turned many against the movement even though most Americans want African-Americans to be protected. Second, people do not respect those who use violence. Protest movements need admirable and charismatic leaders who can inspire people through peaceful means. Martin Luther King Junior's use of non-violent protests was particularly successful in gaining the admiration of white Americans and they became increasingly sympathetic to the suffering of African-Americans.

(134 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

I believe that violence should always be a last resort. Certainly, it should be avoided if possible, but in some countries where people are not allowed to protest freely, those who are oppressed have no choice but to become violent. It may be the only way for such people to get their message out to the outside world. If these supporters can gain the support of foreign governments, these governments may in turn help to put pressure on the government in that country. Also, it is often only violence that threatens dictators' hold on power, so such dictators may be willing to give into protestors' demands if it prevents further violence. (111 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I agree with the statement for the following two reasons. First, a "peaceful" protest means that — that it is peaceful. If a "peaceful" protest turns violent, then people who may have considered supporting the protesters, might be turned off and give up any idea of lending them support. In other words, trust would be lost. Second, although we have seen both violent and non-violent protests throughout history, it is the non-violent protest movements that have had the most lasting impacts. Good examples are Mahatma Gandhi's and Martin Luther King's respective non-violent movements to free India from British colonial rule and to gain more equality for black people in the USA.

(110 words)

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 provided box on your written answer sheet. (配点15点)

”Participants in online conversations should use their real names.”

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I agree with the statement (that participants in online conversations should use their real names) for the following reasons. First, people who express their opinions online have notably increased in recent years. Some spread fake news based on unreliable sources and attack other people in aggressive language even when employing their actual names. Second, if people can use false ones, their manners in online chatting inevitably become worse, and hate speech become more offensive. Some argue that using handles has the advantage that it can protect freedom of speech against the undemocratic government. However, human nature is evil rather than innocent, even in democratic societies.

(105 words)

*even when employing their true names: 副詞節中の「主語+be動詞」の省略 or 接続詞付きの分詞構文

*handle: 和製英語の handle name に当たる

* () 内を省けば 95 words

【A予備校・解答例1】

I think they should. When we use fake names in online conversations, we tend to say anything we like because we don't think we have to take responsibility for it; after all, no one knows who we are! For example, even if you are usually mild-mannered, if you can be anonymous, you may use aggressive language and hurt other people's feelings. Moreover, if using real names is obligatory, it may lead to the prevention of crime, or at least will be of great help in reducing hate speech, because people who use it will easily be identified and punished. (99 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I disagree with this opinion. Of course, anonymity may have disadvantages, but I believe its advantages are far greater. First, being anonymous means that our privacy is protected. Sometimes we will find it difficult to give our opinions if we have to use our real name. For example, when we talk about sexual minorities on the Internet, our conversation will go more smoothly if we can be anonymous. Second, it is just fun to be able to get involved in different conversations as if you are a completely different person. Pretending to be many different characters makes life more interesting.

(100 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

(agree)

I agree that those chatting online should use their real names for two reasons. First, people who reveal their true identities are less likely to say offensive things. These days, too many people on social media verbally attack others. I think most people would be too ashamed to attach their real names to such online posts. Second, without the cover of fake names, fewer people would spread fake news. It is a serious problem that more and more people are getting inaccurate information from unreliable internet sources. This fake news is divisive and creates social unrest. In order to verify information online, we need to know the names of those posting information and the sources they use. People must take responsibility for what they say and do online and not hide behind their fake identities. (135 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

(disagree)

It is sometimes best to use a fake name when participating in online conversations. Quite simply, people are more willing to tell the truth and express themselves freely when they can remain anonymous. Many people who reveal crimes and corruption come forward only because they can do so without any fear of their identities being revealed. Also, in countries led by dictators, only those with hidden identities feel safe enough to report the truth and criticize the government. Indeed, if they used their real names, they would run the risk of being arrested or even executed. Clearly, anonymity is essential for free speech. (103 words)

【C予備校・解答例】

I disagree with the statement. I believe that anonymity should be protected in online interactions. I have two reasons for this. First, the opportunity to speak freely without concern for social standing is a strength of being online. Second, being anonymous makes it easier to speak your mind without feeling the pressure of other people's eyes on you. For example, it would be easier to accuse people of doing bad things in an organization, which can make society more transparent. While it is understandable that the use of real names has a deterrent effect on crime, the benefits of anonymity are greater than those of using real names on the internet.

(110 words)