

Read the statement below and write a paragraph giving your opinion with at least two reasons. Write your answer in English in the provided box on your written answer sheet.

”Music and arts are of less importance for a child’s education than math and languages.”

早稲田政経は「総合問題」という新しい出題形式に変わったが、「自由英作文」に関しては、2023年は、これまで通りのオーソドックスな文章題からの変更はなかった。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

When arguing that music and arts are less important for children’s education than math and languages, what is the basis for this argument? It is no doubt practical use. I cannot agree with evaluating subjects in children’s education by their usefulness. Those who place priority on math and languages also think natural science is more significant than social science or liberal arts at university, for they judge something or somebody based on their productivity. Though it is a recent trend, this view is a narrow way of thinking. Moreover, children have various possibilities in various things. Those children poor at math and languages may develop their potentials in other areas. Education’s purpose should not be to destroy but give confidence. (120 words)

【A予備校・解答例1】

AGREE

I agree. Mathematics is the foundation of all thought, and languages are essential for communication. If both are learned solidly as a child, more geniuses may appear in the future. As for music and arts, they don’t have to be taught at school. If people like music or arts, they will sing songs, play musical instruments, or draw pictures at home of their own accord. Moreover, mathematics and languages are necessary to pass entrance exams or get other qualifications. Music and arts are not, except for those who want to major in them, and there are few students who do. (100 words)

【A予備校・解答例1】

DISAGREE

I disagree. Not all children are interested in becoming scientists with a worldwide reputation. Of course, I’m not saying we shouldn’t teach math or languages to kids, but I think it’s also important to cultivate their aesthetic sensibilities when they are little. In addition, I believe children should be taught a wide range of subjects at school so they can reach their full potentials. Even with a very poor ability in math and languages, a child may have a brilliant talent for music and arts. School should be a place where children are helped to broaden, not limit, their horizons. (100 words)

**【B予備校・解答例1】**

(agree)

Although all these subjects play a vital role in a child's education, it is math and languages which stand out as being the most important. First, the study of math and languages encourages logical reasoning and helps children to develop the ability to think critically and solve problems. These skills are essential to their success not only in school, but also in life. Second, whatever subject a child is interested in, a limited knowledge of math and languages will likely hamper their learning as even a basic understanding of these subjects is required in most disciplines. Admittedly, children may get a lot of enjoyment from studying music and arts, but math and languages can enrich their lives so much more. (120 words)

**【B予備校・解答例2】**

(disagree)

Math and languages are certainly prioritized in the Japanese curriculum, but we cannot say that music and art are less important in a child's education. One of the most obvious benefits of studying music and art is that it allows students to express themselves freely and encourages creativity. It is said that such experience also helps students to be more innovative and confident in other areas of study. Another important role of these subjects is their ability to expand students' attention spans. This can result, for example, from students having to concentrate for long periods of time when practicing a new piece of music or learning a new technique in art class. As these examples show, the importance of these non-academic subjects must not be overlooked.

(126 words)

**【C予備校・解答例】**

I agree that music and arts are less important to a child's education than math and languages. First of all, math and languages can help children develop their logical thinking skills, which are necessary to get good grades at school. Music and arts can never fulfill this role, so it's better for children to learn math and languages. Also, math and languages have practical value. Math can help us manage our household finances, make smart shopping decisions and so on. Languages can help us communicate with people from other countries. On the other hand, we hardly ever apply musical or artistic skills in our daily lives. (106 words)