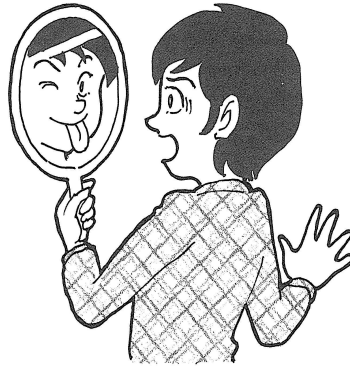


(A) 下の絵に描かれた状況を簡単に説明したうえで、それについてあなたが思ったことを述べよ。全体で60語～80語程度の英語で答えること。

(2015年 東大・前期 第二問A)



【A予備校・解答例1】

This picture shows a woman who is astonished because there is a different face in the mirror, and moreover, it is sticking its tongue out. If this kind of thing really happened, it would be quite horrifying. A person who experienced this would think it was the work of a ghost or a demon, and would employ an exorcist to remove the evil spirit. (64 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

When the boy looks into the mirror he is holding, he sees someone that looks exactly like him, but with a different facial expression. The boy in the mirror has one of his eyes closed and his tongue is sticking out. Obviously, the boy is shocked at this. I think he is so tired from working on his school project that he is seeing things. He needs to get some sleep right away. (73 words)

※後ろから二つ目のセンテンス that 以下の be seeing [imagining] things 「幻を見る」を知っている受験生は例外ではないのか。

【B予備校・解答例1】

The woman is shocked to see that the expression on the image in the mirror is different from that on her own face. The woman in the mirror is poking its tongue out at her and appears to be mocking her. I think that her mirror must be a magic mirror or that she is seeing things because she is so tired.

(62 words)

※ここでも be seeing things が使われている。それほど当たり前の表現なのだろうか。

【B予備校・解答例2】

The boy is holding a mirror and he looks very surprised. His reflection is making a silly face. It looks like his reflection is teasing him. He looks unhappy and confused about it. I think this scene is crazy. It seems like something that you might see in a cartoon. If this were to happen to me, I would be so surprised that I might drop the mirror and break it. (71 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

After John brushed his teeth, he picked up his sister's mirror and was shocked to see a different face in the mirror. He soon realized that it was a painting on the mirror. It must have been his sister, who is very good at drawing, and who is always playing jokes on him. I think his sister is trying to teach John that we all have two faces, our public face and our true face. (75 words)

※It must have been his sister の It が何を受けているのかと思った人は、It must have been his sister (that made a painting on the mirror) つまり強調構文のthat 以下の省略と考えれば良い。

今回はこのC 予備校の解答例が、最も筋の通ったストーリー性のあるユニークな内容になっている。ここまで書かれたら、出題者も脱帽するしかないだろう。イラストの人物を女性と取るか男性と取るかはもちろん採点には影響しないはずだが、A 予備校やB 予備校のように、解答例の一番目では、この人物を女性と見るほうが自然な気がする…。昨年の得点ゼロと考えられる解答との落差の大きさに驚かされる。

なお、B 予備校解答例2 の I think this scene is crazy. It seems like something that you might see in a cartoon. には、この出題に対する皮肉が込められているのでは、と考えるのは深読みすぎるだろうか。昨年に続き(B)がハイレベルであり、2013年までとは一線を画している。小学生レベルの想像力のテストも結構だが、同時に、論理的・抽象的思考力もテストしなければ、最難関大学の看板が色褪せてくる。受験生の負担になるのは事実だが、英語を書く力の重要性に目覚めて欲しい。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

The girl is astounded to see a strange facial expression in the mirror. The face is her own, but the expression is entirely different from her own. The face looks as if making a mockery of her. However, what the mirror reflects is one's own face, so the expression must be one's own. In this case, the mirror reflects the girl's face not visually but spiritually. The queer facial expression must be the reflection of her mental state. (78 words)

※as if (it is) making a mockery [mock] of her 副詞節中の「主語+be」の省略

(B) "Look before you leap" と "He who hesitates is lost" という、内容の相反することわざがある。どのように相反するか説明したうえで、あなたにとってどちらがよい助言と思われるか、理由とともに答えよ。全体で60～80語の英語で答えること。(2015年 東大・前期 第二問B)

(A)のコメントで、(B)がハイレベルと書いたが、この年度はむしろ逆のようだ。(B)はかなり書き易い。一般論で済ませられるからだ。具体的な情景描写を求められる(A)のほうが書きにくい。したがって、(B)で確実に得点する必要があると思われる。

【A予備校・解答例1】

These two proverbs contradict each other because while the first proverb tells you that making a quick decision is not a good idea, the second proverb tells you that you will fail if you don't act quickly. For me, the first proverb is much better advice. I often get careless and make wrong choices because I try to finish things very quickly. I should consider things more carefully before making a final decision. (73 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

The difference between these proverbs is that the first emphasizes the importance of thinking carefully before you do something, and the second says thinking carefully before you do something will get you nowhere. To me, the second proverb is better advice. However carefully you think, you'll never know whether what you do will bring about good results. So, you should just try something without thinking, and if you don't succeed, you should just try something different. (76 words)

※最後のセンテンス So の後のカンマは不要なはず。

【B予備校・解答例1】

The first saying recommends taking time to be cautious before you do something. The second saying recommends not taking time to be cautious because you may lose an opportunity. In short, these sayings contradict in their advice concerning the value of taking time to fully assess a situation. For me, the first saying is the best advice because I often act before I think and sometimes make mistakes. If I considered situations more carefully, I might make fewer mistakes. (79 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

These sayings contradict in their advice concerning the value of taking time to fully assess a situation. I think the second saying is the best advice. I often miss opportunities because I think too much. For example, at the cake shop I couldn't decide if I wanted strawberry or chocolate cake. While I was deciding, another customer bought both of them. Because I hesitated, I couldn't have any cake. (69 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

"Look before you leap" is an old proverb that means we should stop to think before taking some action rather than doing something and regretting it later. On the other hand, "He who hesitates is lost" seems to contradict the former proverb by saying that if you stop to think or hesitate, you will lose an important chance. I prefer the latter way of thinking. We only live once and need to take risks if we want to succeed. (79 words)

※(A)では絶賛したC予備校だが、この予備校の危うい癖がまた出たようだ。「あなたにとってどちらがよい助言と思われるか、理由とともに答えよ」という設問後半部の理由に当たる箇所は最後のセンテンスだけである。これは減点の材料にはならないと断言出来るのだろうか。設問をきちんと読んでいないだけではないのか。文字通り "Look before you leap" である。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

The former proverb advises you that you should think well and carefully before doing something so as not to fail. By [In] contrast, the latter tells you that you should not lose an opportunity of doing something even if there is a risk of failure. The latter seems better advice to me because life is a process of making [life is a succession of] various choices or decisions. We should not hesitate to take a risk unless the risk is fatal. (74-75 words)

※...an opportunity of [for] doing something=an opportunity to do something

(A) 下の画像について、あなたが思うことを述べよ。全体で60～80語の英語で答えること。(2016年 東大 第二問A)



この年度の(A)は実にユニークな出題である。一橋の問題との類似性には、偶然とはいえ、驚きを禁じ得ない。当面、(A)がイラストや写真を用いた設問に固定されるのかどうか何とも言えないが、その可能性があることは否定できないだろう。

内容的には想像力のテストであることは間違いないが、内容の優劣の判定はたいへん難しい。一応の筋が通ってれば、最後に物をいうのは英語の表現力であることに変わりはない。とはいえ、時間との勝負である以上、アイディアが浮かばないと苦戦を免れないだろう。

【A予備校・解答例1】

This picture tells us something important about perspective. In the real world, for example, you cannot pick up a cat with two fingers, but when the cat is placed at a distance from your fingers, the cat looks smaller than it really is, and it looks like you can pick it up. So things look totally different from what they really are when you see them from a different perspective. (70 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

I think this picture is one of those trick photos that you often see on social net work sites like Instagram. People use various techniques to create pictures that are impossible in the real world. This one, in my opinion, is quite boring because it uses the simplest technique. You place your hand close to the camera so that it appears huge, and in a position that makes it look as if the hand is holding something far away. (78 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

The cat shown in this picture is not a real cat, but rather, a miniature cat doll which is part of a dolls' house collection. The man has placed the cat on a rug in the dolls' house but he is not satisfied with the position of the cat and so is just about to pick it up and move it to another position in the house. (67 words)

※第二文は but の前後が完全な文なので、but の前にカンマを打つべきである。

【B 予備校・解答例 2】

This is all about perspective. The person taking the picture is holding the camera far away from the cat while his hand is very close. By doing this he is able to make the cat look very small while his hand looks very big. This is a trick that is often used by photographers to create an illusion, for example, photographs of people holding up the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It makes for some very interesting pictures. (77words)

※It makes for some very interesting pictures.

≡It helps (to) create some very interesting pictures.

【C 予備校・解答例】

I think this is a picture showing something we often see these days on social media. It is a photographic trick using perspective to give the impression that something is much larger than it is in relation to another object. In this case the person taking the photograph is giving the impression that either the cat that we see is awfully tiny, or else that the fingers we see belong to a giant! (73 words)

※最後のセンテンスは either A or B が構文的に成り立っていない。

...the person taking the photograph is giving the impression that either the cat that we see is awfully tiny, or else that the fingers (that) we see belong to a giant! この that は不要。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

This picture reflects no real situation. This illusion suggests that a small cat sleeping defenseless is at the mercy of huge/large/massive fingers just about to pick up and get rid of the cat. From another viewpoint, however, their positions can change easily/readily. It is highly likely for a helpless human being to be under the threat of huge/large/monstrous claws/nails of a cat. The point is what in reality can be the huge/large/overwhelming fingers or claws/nails. (75 words)

* (be) about to V = (be) on the point of -ing

(B) 次の文章を読んで、そこから導かれる結論を題三段落として書きなさい。全体で50～70語の英語で答えること。(2016年 東大 第二問B)

In order to study animal intelligence, scientists offered animals a long stick to get food outside their reach. It was discovered that primates such as chimpanzees used the stick, but elephants didn't. An elephant can hold a stick with its trunk, but doesn't use it to get food. Thus it was concluded that elephants are not as smart as chimpanzees.

However, Kandula, a young elephant in the National Zoo in Washington, has recently challenged that belief. The elephant was given not just sticks but a big square box and some other objects, while some fruit was placed just out of reach above him. He ignored the sticks but, after a while, began kicking the box with his foot, until it was right underneath the fruit. He then stood on the box with his front legs, which enabled him to reach the food with his trunk.

注 trunk ゾウの鼻

東京大学としては初めての出題形式である。文字通り、英語を読む力と書く力を試す良問である。英文は平易であり、形式も「自由英作文」の枠内に納まるとはいえ、戸惑った受験生が多かったと思われる。東京大学がようやく、早稲田文・文化構想の英文要約を超える問題に辿り着いたようだ。多少の変更はあっても、この形式が一年限りということはないと思われるが、はたして。

【A予備校・解答例1】

What Kandula did shows that an elephant can not only make use of a tool to get what he wants, but he can also choose from several options which one is the most suitable to help him achieve his goal. When he was given several tools, he considered the options given to him and understood the box would help him get the fruit, but not the other tools. (68 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

From these examples, we can see that we have to be careful when studying animal intelligence. We tend to think we have reached a conclusion once the desired results have been obtained. However, animal behaviors are not that simple, and animals do not always behave as we expect them to. So we need to always reexamine the results from different angles. (61 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 1】

From this example it is very clear that elephants are smart. It could be that they do not recognize sticks as a tool while using a box is natural to them. Whether this proves that elephants are as smart as chimps is hard to say. Further testing would be needed in order to confirm this. (55 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 2】

These findings show that elephants, like primates, are indeed capable of using tools to get food. Although the tool Kandula used was different to that used by the chimpanzees, the result was still the same. Both species used a tool, be it a stick or a box, to get food. These findings challenge previously held beliefs about elephants' problem solving skills and intelligence levels. (64 words)

※ be it a stick or a box (文語体) = whether (it is) a stick or a box

【C 予備校・解答例】

The real conclusion could be that our understanding of animal intelligence is wrong. The scientists realized that just like humans, animals also possess different levels and types of intelligence. The elephant knows it has a trunk and uses that to reach out and grab things, so rather than use a stick, it 'thought' of a way to get closer to the food and then use its trunk. (67 words)

※新傾向の問題であるが、大手予備校解答例の内容のレベルの高さに驚かされる。なぜ例年このレベルの解答を提示してこなかったのか不思議である。この種の問題は、少なくとも英語の教師にとっては、解きやすいように思われる。
したがって以下に掲載する解答は、あくまでも解答例の一つである。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

This experiment seems to have disproved a broadly accepted notion of elephants' intelligence not being so high as that of primates. However, it does not explain why the elephant used a box, not a stick. In order to figure out this question, specialists in animal behavior should conduct repeated experiments with at least not a few elephants, both young and old, male and female. (64 words)

*of elephants' intelligence not being so high as that of primates

=that elephants' intelligence is not so high as that of primates

*conduct/do/make/carry out experiments

(A) あなたがいま試験を受けているキャンパスに関して、気づいたことを一つ選び、それについて60～80語の英語で説明しなさい。(2017年 東大 第二問A)

明らかに2016年より易化している。ということは、昨年は歯が立たなかった受験生が少なくなかったものと思われる。(B)も含めて出題傾向が年ごとに変わるのは、受験生の予想を裏切るためだとするならば、頭を柔軟にしておくこと、そして基本～標準レベルの英語の表現力を確実に身につけておくことが求められる。ケアレスミスをしなれば、満点も狙えるはずである。

【A予備校・解答例1】

One thing I noticed is the unique mix of traditional and modern architecture. Some buildings are old and traditional. They were probably built in the Meiji period, and look similar to buildings found in many European cities. But there are also modern buildings, which must have been built in the twenty-first century. This mixture really makes me feel the long history of academic pursuit that continues to the present day. (70 words)

【A予備校・解答例2】

One thing that surprised me was the actual size of the Red Gate. As many people know, it is one of the symbols of the University of Tokyo. The phrase "to go through the Red Gate" is sometimes used to mean "to enter the University of Tokyo." Such being the case, I thought the gate was much larger than it actually is. I realized that what we imagine about an object is strongly influenced by information we have about it. (80 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

One thing I noticed about the campus was how quiet it was. This campus is in the middle of a big city, but you can hardly hear any sounds from outside the campus. It is surrounded by big roads, but you cannot hear the cars and trucks that are on the roads. It seems like an ideal place to relax and study. (62 words)

【B予備校・解答例2】

I was surprised to see so many old buildings on this campus. Some of these buildings are certainly very beautiful and many of them are probably of historical importance, but I wonder if they are structurally safe. We get many earthquakes here in Japan and it would be a terrible thing if these buildings were to be destroyed in a major earthquake. (62 words)

【C予備校・解答例1】

The first thing I noticed when I arrived at the 'Todai' campus was the large trees, which must be quite old. It is still winter now and most of the trees have no leaves, but I could imagine what it will be like in spring when the trees are all green and casting shade over large areas. The trees made me realize that many generations of students must have walked under them on their way to or from class. (79 words)

【C予備校・解答例2】

The first thing that struck me when I visited the campus of the University of Tokyo, was the number of old buildings still standing and all of the large trees. I have always had the impression of a university being a special place made for deep study. And that does not necessarily mean having the latest and newest equipment or technology. Sometimes being close to nature and appreciating and caring for old things can lead to important discoveries. (78 words)

※大手予備校の解答例にあるように、キャンパスに古い建物と新しい建物が混在していること、都心とは思えないほど広く、樹木が豊富で閑静なこと、歴史の重みを感じさせること(本郷校舎の場合)、などが標準的な感想ではないかと思われる。何も書けなかったという人は例外だろう。

※参考のために、少し発想を変えた解答を例示したい。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

As I stepped on to the campus this morning, I got the impression that it was different from what it was two months ago, when I came to look over it beforehand. That does not mean that the campus had changed physically. It was steady footsteps and tense facial expressions of many students that created a quite different atmosphere. I found this and was greatly inspired to do my best. (70 words)

(B) 以下は手紙とそれに対する返事である。返事の空所に入る文章を、あなたが Jun だと仮定して60～80語の英語で書きなさい。(2017年 東大 第二問B)

Dear Jun,

You will not remember me. I am your grandfather and I left the country when you were only three years old. But — though I have only a few weeks to live — I have made a success of my life, and you will inherit all my vast wealth if you convince me that you will use it well. Tell me what you would use my money for, and why. I am looking forward to your reply.

Your grandfather,
Marley

Dear Grandfather Marley,

Your grandchild,
Jun

昨年の(B)の新形式は、受験生の総合的な英語力を試す良問であったが、それを一年でやめた理由は定かでない。やはり受験生の「傾向と対策」を裏切るためなのか。それとも(A)と同様、書けない受験生が多かったのか。本年度は手紙文という形をとっているが、そのために特に口語的表現を求めているわけでもない。自由英作文としては相当に平易な部類に属する。語数を別とすれば、今年度の一橋大学の問題と類似している。今年もまた、偶然の一致に驚きを禁じ得ない。

「そこそこ」辻褄が合っていれば何を書いてもよいとなると、満点が続出するようにも思われるが、実際は「書けない」受験生が多数派を占めるのだろうか。早稲田政経のテーマ「同性婚」とはレベルが違いすぎる。早稲田が受験生に過大な要求をしているにしても、逆に東大は過小な要求をしているのではないだろうか。問題は採点基準である。

【A予備校・解答例1】

I hope you like my plan for your money. With it, I would build a nursing home where old people would be provided with good care even if they didn't have much money. Japan is aging rapidly, and there are an increasing number of poor old people who live alone. I'd like to make the nursing home a place where old people can relax and enjoy themselves. (67 words)

※make the nursing home a place where ... の make は build の言い換えではなく、make the nursing home into a place ... の意味で使っているようです。(この項補足)

【A 予備校・解答例 2】

If you left me your wealth, I would use the money not to buy things, but experiences. I would first travel around the world. I want to do something to make this world a better place, but in order to decide what exactly to do, I first need to see the world with my own eyes. After doing that, and having decided what career to pursue, I would use the money to earn the college degree I would need. (79 words)

※I would use the money not to buy things, but experiences.

=I would use the money not to buy things, but to buy experiences. であり、ふつうに読むと travel around the world, see the world with my own eyes が “experiences” の具体例と読めてしまう。相当な時間と同時に相当なお金も使わなければ、世界中を旅行して見聞を広めることは不可能だからだ。しかし実際には、祖父の遺産は、その後で学費に当てるという。事前に(あるいは行く先々で、働いて)世界旅行の費用を稼ぐほうが、学資を稼ぐよりも大変ではないだろうか。したがってその両方に祖父の遺産を使うほうが自然だと思われる。この内容でも、英語表現としては特に誤りはないので、減点はされないのだろうか。ただし米有名私立大学の法外な学費を特に意識しているのであれば、話はまた別である。(この項、補足)

【B 予備校・解答例 1】

Thank you for thinking of me. I have always wanted to become a lawyer and provide legal assistance for those in financial need, but unfortunately I don't have enough money to do so. Therefore, if I inherited your fortune, I would use the money to pay for my studies and to set up a legal aid office after I became a lawyer. If you gave me this opportunity, your money would be used to change the lives of many people. (80words)

【B 予備校・解答例 2】

Thank you for your letter. I am studying about developing countries at university. I have learned that in some countries there are areas without schools. Children need education to have more chances to succeed. If I inherited your fortune, I would use it to build a school in a developing country. By building this school I would be able to give some children the education they need. (67words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

I was sad to hear you are sick and we may never be able to see you again. My wife and son would have enjoyed hearing of your adventures. I am rich too, so I do not need any more money. However, if you leave it to me, I will use it to build schools in many poor countries around the world. I cannot think of anything more important than education to solve the problems of ignorance and poverty. (79 words)

※My wife and son would have enjoyed hearing of your adventures. はかなり唐突な感じがする。こういうことは、内容として問われないのだろうか。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I am very sorry to hear your sad news. At the same time, I am grateful for your kind offer. As you know, Japan is among wealthy countries in the world, but it has repeatedly suffered natural disasters, especially earthquakes. They have deprived many people of their lives and houses, and there are no effective ways to prevent them. So I would use your money to set up a fund for supporting the sufferers and the reconstruction of disaster(-affected) areas. (80 words)

※一応、手紙の返事の体裁をとったが、祖父の遺産の用途はごく常識的なものである。想像力を働かせれば、用途はいくらでも考えられるだろう。

(A) 次の、シェイクスピアの戯曲『ジュリアス・シーザー』からの引用を読み、二人の対話の内容について思うことを40～60語の英語で述べよ。

(2018年 東大 第二問)

引用

CASSIUS Tell me, good Brutus, can you see your face?

BRUTUS No, Cassius; for the eye sees not itself,
But by reflection, by some other things.

.....

CASSIUS I, your glass,
Will modestly discover to yourself
That of yourself which you yet know not of.

引用の和訳

キャシアス どうだ、ブルータス、きみは自分の顔が見えるか？

ブルータス いや、キャシアス、見えない。目は、反射によってしか、
つまり他のものを通してしか自分自身を見ることができない
から。

(中略)

キャシアス 私が、きみの鏡として、
きみ自身もまだ知らないきみの姿を、
あるがままにきみに見せてやろう。

※2015年の(A)のように「下の絵に描かれた状況を簡単に説明したうえで、それについてあなたが思ったことを述べよ」という指定がついているわけではない。引用は極端な前略・中略・後略であり、あえて二人の対話に触れる必要はないように思われる。

ブルータス、キャシアス(そしてシーザー、アントニー)という登場人物についての「史実(?)」をまったく知らない東大合格者がいるのかどうかかわからないが、仮に知らなくても、引用文の内容を自分なりに読み取るだけの国語力があれば、40～60語の英語を書くことは十分可能である。

※2018年度も思い切り出題傾向を変えてきたが、特に難化したわけではない。今後、どのような形式で出題されようとも、確実に得点できる力をつけるために、問題演習を重ねることが望まれる。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例1】

As is stated in the dialogue between Cassius and Brutus, one cannot see one's image by oneself. However, Cassius is mistaken when he thinks he can be the mirror that reflects the real picture of Brutus. Moreover, he wrongly assumes that he knows what Brutus believes better than Brutus does and can show it as it is. (57 words)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例 2】

One can see one's image just through something else, such as mirrors, but this does not mean we can know who another person is or can see him as he is. If possible, only in limited situations and a limited degree, can we make another realize his inner aspects. One knows himself at least better than others understand him. (59 words)

*If (it is) possible, we can make another realize his inner aspects only in limited situations and a limited degree,

【A 予備校・解答例 1】

This conversation implies that it is extremely hard to judge oneself. People have a natural tendency to assume that they are right, so it's hard for them to judge objectively whether their thoughts and actions are really good or not. Thus, listening to others' opinions about your ideas and behavior is very important. (53 words)

【A 予備校・解答例 2】

I think what Cassius says to Brutus is a bit dangerous. It may be more difficult to understand yourself than to understand others, since it's hard to judge oneself objectively. However, Cassius, who says "I, your glass," sounds as if he knows everything about Brutus, which I think is impossible even for his best friend. (55 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 1】

It's hard to have a truly clear vision of ourselves. When looking at ourselves, we aren't objective and only see ourselves as we want to be seen. To have a clearer view of ourselves, we have to try to look at the way others see us and to do this we must listen to other people's opinions and criticisms of ourselves. (60 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 2】

It is important to consider ourselves carefully because we are not able to objectively see ourselves. As Brutus said, we must look at our reflections through another thing such as a mirror. The friends we choose can teach us about ourselves since they act like a mirror. What reflection do I want? What kind of friends should I choose? (59 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

This conversation between two fictional characters makes me realize the importance of living in society and as social beings. We need each other more than we think and one important function is that we act as mirrors, or the glass in this conversation, and reflect each other, making it possible for us to see ourselves through interacting with others. (59 words)

※two fictional characters とはどういうことか。This fictional conversation ならば別。

(A) 新たに祝日を設けるとしたら、あなたはどのような祝日を提案したいか。その祝日の意義は何か。また、なぜそのような祝日が望ましいと考えるのか。60～80語の英語で説明しなさい。なお、この場合の祝日は、国民のための祝日でもよいし、国内外の特定の地域、もしくは全世界で祝うようなものでもかまわない。

(2019年 東大 第二問)

※2018年の「文学趣味」から一転して、普通の自由英作文に戻った。標準レベルの想像力と語彙力・表現力があれば60～80語の英語を書くのは、むしろ平易なように思われる。(B)の下線部英訳も平易であり、英作文は全体として易化したと言ってよい。2018年の得点が低かったことを反映しているのだろう。

ユニークなテーマではあるが、気になるのは設問の文章である。どのような祝日を提案したいか。その祝日の意義は何か。なぜそのような祝日が望ましいと考えるのか。この三点について書くことを求められているが、「その祝日の意義」と「その祝日が望ましいと考える理由」はほとんど同じことではないのか。この二点を明示的に分けないと減点されるのだろうか。やはり解答例の提示が切に望まれる。さもないければ、採点基準の「忖度」はこれからも続くことになるだろう。

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

I would like to propose "No Smartphone Day" as a national holiday. Now most people, from infants to the elderly, use smartphones every day and for a long time. However, what they watch on a small flat display is not the real world because real things are three-dimensional, with specific size and weight. We should observe the world around us with our senses once a year. Moreover, if free from smartphones, maybe we could return to books or newspapers. (79 words)

※A予備校の解答例と重なる部分もあるが、スマホに特化している点が異なる。

【A予備校・解答例】

If I were to create a holiday, it would be "Offline Day". The purpose of this day would be to stay completely offline for one day. Today, people are too obsessed with the virtual world of the internet. As a result, they've forgotten the value of the people and things around them. Spending this holiday away from technology, talking with family and friends or enjoying nature, would help people realize how precious the real world is. (76 words)

【B予備校・解答例1】

I would like to see an International Vegetarian Day. Recently, I have heard a lot about how eating meat contributes to climate change. If we have a day when everyone is encouraged to only eat plant-based foods, people can learn about how their dietary choices affect the health of the planet. Families could be encouraged to learn new recipes, and vegetarian community festivals could be held. Hopefully, this holiday would inspire people to consume a little less meat. (78 words)

【B 予備校・解答例 2】

I would like to propose the establishment of "Help Your Neighbor Day". Many people in our local communities need help, such as people with financial or physical problems. On this day, people could participate in activities designed to help those in need, such as doing yard work, running errands or distributing donations of food or clothing. This would not only help people, but also allow us to get to know our neighbors better and would make community ties stronger. (79 words)

【C 予備校・解答例】

I would like to create a public holiday called "Help Someone Day" and on that day everyone would have to go out and do something for someone else, especially strangers, rather than people they know. This would bring more people together while making all of us more aware of the needs and problems of others. Perhaps by taking such a small step, it could be a start to making the world a better place. (74 words)

(A) 私たちは言葉を操っているのか。それとも、言葉に操られているのか。あなたの意見を60～80語の英語で延べよ。(2020年 東大 第二問)

【阿佐谷英語塾・解答例】

Language is the most fundamental of human creations, for it has made us humans. Without language, human beings would be simply one of the animals. However, we have generated and developed it. So we could say we are in control of language. At the same time, human creations, especially language, once created, start to shape or change our way of thinking, feeling, and living. Therefore, we might say we are in the control of language. (75 words)

[A予備校・解答例1]

We control language. Unlike other animals, we humans use language to communicate with each other. When we want to tell someone what is in our minds, we choose and then say or write suitable words to convey our meaning. If they don't seem to understand us, we use other words we think are better. In this way we use language for our own purpose. (64 words)

*If they don't seem ... の they は何を指しているのか。

[A予備校・解答例2]

We usually think we are using words to express our ideas and feelings, but actually we are being controlled by them. In other words, our ideas and feelings are formed by the words we use. We start to think or feel in a certain way because we know the words that describe our thoughts. If we don't know them, we can't think or feel that way. (66 words)

[B予備校・解答例1]

I believe that we do control the language which is used in our society. Each individual culture is made up of different values and they influence and shape the language people in those cultures use in everyday life. Also, over time as the values of societies change, language also changes. It is cultures and people who constitute them that shape language and not the other way around. (67 words)

[B予備校・解答例2]

In order for me to think something, my brain needs to build the thought with words. I cannot think a thought that I don't have words for. Someone with a very limited vocabulary is therefore limited in terms of what they can think. Therefore, in my opinion language controls us more than we control language, because our personalities are determined by our thoughts, and our thoughts are words. (68 words)

[C予備校・解答例1]

I think that words and language control and dominate our thoughts and feelings. Even a single word can hurt us or make us feel happy. I often think or feel bad things about certain people, but unless I put those thoughts or feelings into words, the other person will never know what I was thinking or be affected by it. Language has great power and control over all of us and we should be careful of the words we choose. (80 words)

[C予備校・解答例2]

I do not think that language dominates or controls us. I believe we have a feeling or desire first and simply use language to express that feeling or desire. There are many different languages in the world, but our feelings and desires are quite universal, which means that certain fundamental things must precede language. If that is true, it means that language is simply one of our tools, not something that rules over us. (74 words)