

平成30年度
島根県立大学
一般入試(前期日程)個別学力検査

試験問題(英語)

【試験時間 90分】

注意事項

1. 開始の合図があるまで、この問題冊子を開いてはいけません。
2. 問題は1ページから7ページまであります。開始の合図があった後、問題冊子を確認し、印刷不鮮明の箇所などがあった場合は、直ちに申し出てください。
3. 解答用紙は3枚あり、問題冊子とは別になっています。また、解答は横書きで記入してください。
4. 受験番号、氏名は3枚の解答用紙の所定の欄すべてに記入してください。
5. 問題冊子の余白は、下書きに利用してもかまいません。
6. 辞書は使用できません。
7. 試験時間中の退出はできません。
8. 試験終了後、問題冊子は持ち帰ってください。

第 1 問 次の英文を読んで、設問に答えなさい。

Neatly dressed delivery men, polite and punctual, are everywhere in Japan. So it was shocking to see one of them kicking and throwing his packages outside a block of Tokyo apartments after apparently finding no one at home. Captured on a camera phone last December, this violent incident spread quickly on the Internet, forcing one of Japan's biggest delivery companies to say sorry to its customers. Many Japanese will have felt sympathy, though, for (1) the video's exhausted star.

In a survey in 2015 by the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training^[1], some workers blamed their own lack of ability for why they put in so many extra hours. Others dutifully replied that overtime was necessary to achieve satisfactory results. But the two most common responses were simple economics: lack of staff and extreme changes in demand.

Both of these forces are affecting Japan's labor market. The number of people of working age (15-64 years old) has fallen by about 3.8 million since December 2012, when Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister, returned to power. But the number of people actually working has increased by 2.2 million. Almost everybody seeking a job has one: unemployment fell to just 2.8% in February, the lowest rate since 1994. The decreasing population is occurring at the same time as an increase in labor demand.

(2) This combination should cause prices to greatly increase. Scarce^[2] workers should be demanding higher wages, forcing firms to charge their customers higher prices. But pay and prices haven't changed much. In their negotiations with employers, Japan's labor unions have shown none of the anger that the delivery man showed his packages. Although base pay (excluding bonuses and overtime) has stopped falling in the past two years, it increased by only 0.2% in 2016. That has left inflation well below the 2% target pursued by the Bank of Japan (BOJ).

Japan's wages remain flat partly because strong demand has resulted in an increase in the supply of labor rather than its price. Japan now hosts more than 1 million foreign workers, up from 680,000 in late 2012. More importantly, the number of women and elderly men in work has increased by

more than 2 million over that period. Some of (3) these extra hands have been pushed into work by financial anxieties. But others are pulled by financial opportunity. Akira, who guides traffic with an illuminated baton outside a Burger King in Tokyo, is one of the latter. Aged 73, he prefers to stay physically active by earning money from a job rather than paying money to a gym. With the extra money, he can afford to take his wife on bus trips to hot springs in Nikko and Kusatsu.

The rising number of part-time workers in Japan has also slowed down average pay gains. The total payment for all employees combined increased by 2.3% last year, the fastest rate this century.

Market forces^[3] do not affect large parts of Japan's workforce. The pay of full-time workers in big firms does not change, even when there are fewer workers available, according to a study published by the BOJ. People with life-time employment do not fear losing their jobs during hard times and cannot expect pay rises in good. But (4) these workers do demand higher pay to make up for past inflation. So, if part-time workers' pay rises enough to lift consumer prices a little, that will eventually result in higher salaries for full-time employees, which will cause consumer prices to increase further.

To attract and keep workers, some firms are offering (5) () other than pay. They are allowing employees to settle in one place, rather than forcing them to move from one branch to another at short notice. The government is also encouraging people to stop working at 3:00 p.m. on the last Friday of each month, called "Premium Friday." Many unions are also asking for shorter workweeks. Last month Rengo, Japan's leading labor union, reached (6) a deal with the country's largest business group to limit overtime to less than 100 hours a month in "busy" periods, and 45 hours at other times. The limit may become law later this year.

Obstacles to a shorter workweek remain. An online survey suggested that fewer than 4% of Tokyo workers left work early on the first "Premium Friday" at the end of February. Legal overtime limits will also be hard to enforce. Any new law might, however, send a signal that the old ways will no longer work, says Toko Shirakawa, a journalist who sat on a government council to propose changes to general working conditions. Some delivery

companies have reached the same conclusion. One of the famous delivery companies in Japan said last month that it is cutting overtime and raising basic charges for the first time in 27 years. It is also setting up thousands of lockers at places like train stations where delivery men can leave packages if no one is at home. (7) That should spare employees the trouble of making repeat visits, and save their packages from a good kicking.

(出典：©The Economist Newspaper Limited, London. *Wanted: Stroppier employees, Japan's workers are hugely in demand but strangely undemanding.* April 8th, 2017. 但し、設問のため部分的に書き換えた。)

[注 1] the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training: 労働政策研究・研修機構

[注 2] scarce: 不足している

[注 3] market forces: 市場の力

問 1 下線部 (1) は何を表していますか。本文に即して日本語で答えなさい。

問 2 下線部 (2) は具体的に何を表していますか。本文に即して日本語で答えなさい。

問 3 下線部 (3) は具体的に何を表していますか。日本語で答えなさい。

問 4 下線部 (4) の特徴を本文に即して 2 つ日本語で説明しなさい。

問 5 下線部 (5) の空欄に入る最も適切な語を下の選択肢 (a) ~ (d) の中から選び、記号で答えなさい。

(a) prices (b) hours (c) results (d) benefits

問 6 下線部 (6) の内容を本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。

問 7 下線部 (7) の内容を日本語で説明しなさい。

第 2 問 Read the text. Then answer the questions in English.

What comes to mind when we think about time? Why is time so precious, and why do we seek ways to make the most of it?

Let us go back to 4,000 BC in ancient China where the first clocks were invented. To demonstrate the idea of time to temple students, Chinese priests^[1] used to hang a rope from the temple ceiling with knots representing the hours. They would light it with a flame from the bottom so that it burnt steadily, showing the passage of time. Many temples burnt down in those days. The priests were obviously not too happy about that until someone invented a clock made of water buckets. It worked by punching holes in a large bucket full of water, with markings representing the hours, to allow water to flow at a constant rate. The temple students would then measure time by how fast the bucket drained. It was much better than burning ropes for sure, but more importantly, it taught the students that once time was gone, it could never be recovered.

Of course, with the advancement of technology, no one uses water clocks anymore. But the fact that time is so limited remains ever true. Time is our most precious possession because, as with the burning rope or water clock, once it is used it cannot be replaced. No matter how much we hate to admit it, it will eventually run out. While you can always work more hours to earn more money, you cannot do anything to gain more time. Unlike money that can be saved in a bank, or gold that can be hidden in a treasure box, time cannot be saved. We have no choice but to spend every moment of it, and every moment that is spent is a moment that is gone forever.

Given that time is more precious than money, it seems strange that many of us are more willing to spend our time making more money, but are unwilling to spend more money enjoying our time. We look for the best buys and think twice before spending our money wisely, but often fail to do the same with time. Wasting a couple of hours is not as bad as losing a couple of hundred dollars, even though in reality, time is far more valuable than money. We all have the tendency to spend time as if it costs us nothing and it gets worse when you consider that time has an extra “opportunity cost” attached to it. You can divide your money and spend it on various things,

like clothes, a new car, or a fancy dinner, but you can only spend your time on one thing at a time. When you spend time on a certain activity, you effectively give up the opportunity to spend it on other things for the activity you chose. Any benefit that might have been gained, had you chosen to do any of those other things, would be lost forever.

Time is also priceless because it is truly a miracle that we are here. Think about it. There was only one chance in all of the history of this universe that you would have been able to exist, and there you are, you made it. If for any reason your father and mother, or any of your grandparents, did not meet at exactly the right time, and at exactly the right place, you would not be here. If any of your ancestors, having experienced wars, diseases, and all kinds of disasters, did not manage to survive, you would not be here. You won the lottery of life, only you do not know that you won, and the prize value in the time given to you is kept hidden. You spend from that credit line without knowing the remaining balance. You realize that whatever you spend cannot be replaced and that the lottery of life can only be won once, never twice.

(Adapted from Jean Paul A. Zogby, *The Power of Time Perception*, Time Lighthouse Publishing, 2017.)

[1] priest: a person who works in a church or temple, teaching people about god or how to live a good life.

Questions

1. Choose the best title for this text. Write the letter on your answer sheet.
 - a. How can we make a clock?
 - b. How can we make more time?
 - c. How do we use time well?
 - d. How do we think about time?
2. Why did the priests make clocks? Answer in English.

Questions 3 – 8 are on the next page.

3. What major problem did the first clock design have? Answer in English.
4. According to the author, what is the main reason time is more valuable than money? Answer in English.
5. Explain “opportunity cost” in English.
6. According to the author, why is it a miracle that we are here?
Answer in English.
7. Which sentences agree with the text? Write ○ if the sentence agrees with the text, and × if the sentence does not agree with the text. If all your answers are ○, or all your answers are ×, no points will be awarded.
 - a. The first clocks were invented 4000 years ago.
 - b. The first clocks were invented in China.
 - c. Some ancient clocks were dangerous.
 - d. Water clocks are often used nowadays.
 - e. Spending time has no cost.
 - f. Many people are happy to use their time to earn money.
 - g. Many people think wasting time is not as bad as wasting money.
 - h. You can divide your money.
 - i. You can divide your time.
 - j. No one knows how much time he or she has.
8. How do you try to use your time well? Answer in English in about 30 words.

第 3 問

The number of foreign tourists visiting Japan increases every year. However, most of them do not visit rural areas. What changes would make the countryside more appealing and accessible? Write about 100 words in English.