

2024 年度日本政府(文部科学省)奨学金留学生選考試験

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHŌ) SCHOLARSHIP 2024

学科試験 問題

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

(学部留学生 (理科系専攻))

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

英 語 (B)

ENGLISH (B)

注意 ☆試験時間は **60 分**。

PLEASE NOTE: THE TEST PERIOD IS **60 MINUTES**.

ENGLISH(B)

Nationality		No.	
Name	(Please print your full name, underlining your family name)		

Marks	
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I *Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.*

- 1 Most people we met at the conference were () of the ban on smoking in restaurants.
A in condition B in danger C in favor D in terms
- 2 These new ideas will () a substantial cut in the cost of distribution.
A bring about B catch on C drop by D figure out
- 3 My sister () emergency surgery after a terrible traffic accident two years ago.
A incorporated B overwhelmed C underwent D uplifted
- 4 There were () 100 students in the lecture hall.
A all the more B at most C moreover D mostly
- 5 The town () two excellent museums and a large concert hall.
A boasts B extracts C governs D places
- 6 Their plan has a number of merits for us, but it has one obvious ().
A advance B drawback C privilege D recommendation
- 7 The president decided to retire last year to () the younger generation.
A catch up with B get away with C make way for D put up with

- 8 Usually it takes more than two years to () using these tools.
A come to terms with B get the hang of
C keep up with D look up to
- 9 Some people think businesses should pay higher environmental taxes to () the damage caused by their products.
A access B hide C improve D offset
- 10 We all knew his brother was determined to become a lawyer, and at last his persistence ().
A broke in B came forward C paid off D took on

II *Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.*

- 1 You can't just buy two pencils—they only sell them () the dozen.
A at B by C of D to
- 2 () you're leaving so early? It's only five o'clock. Have dinner with us!
A How about B How come C Why D Why not
- 3 I () much more fluent in German now if I had started studying it three years ago.
A were B will be C would be D would have been
- 4 The degree () a news organization supports its reporters' roles is likely to affect their ability to perform their roles.
A of B that C to which D which
- 5 Just imagine what it would be like to drive if the Highway Code kept changing () you were on the road.
A at that time B in time C then D while

- 6 How can you fix something when you don't know what ()?
 A is repairing B is to repair
 C needs repairing D needs to repair
- 7 The issue is something that our section has struggled () two years now.
 A about with for B for about with
 C with about for D with for about
- 8 The ongoing survey () each subject's preference for competitive situations.
 A is used to measure B is used to measuring
 C used to measure D used to measuring
- 9 Cats' whiskers tell them if a certain space is () to fit through.
 A big enough for them B big for them enough
 C enough big for them D for them enough big
- 10 It's important to remember () supper at least four hours before bedtime.
 A to finish eating B finishing eating
 C to finish to eat D finishing to eat

III *In the following paragraphs, one of the underlined parts is grammatically incorrect. Choose the incorrect part.*

- 1 A One of the worst forms of plastic pollution may have met its match in the saliva of a humble worm. B Spanish researchers say that they've discovered chemicals in the wax worm's saliva that breaks down polyethylene, a tough and durable material. C The researchers say that one hour's exposure to the saliva degrades the plastic as much as years of weathering. D They hope the breakthrough will lead to new natural approaches to deal with plastic pollution.

- 2 A It smells like a lush pine forest in lunch room of a new upper secondary school in Helsinki, but there's no scented air freshener. B Instead, most of the five-storey building has been constructed out of wood. C The project is part of a growing trend in the Finnish building industry. D Developers are increasingly using wood in place of more mainstream materials like concrete and steel. It's linked to the country's ambitious efforts to become Europe's leading circular economy.
- 3 A Global warming is likely to have played a role in the devastating floods that hit Pakistan in 2022. B Researchers say that climate change may have increased the intensity of rainfall. C However, there were many uncertainties in the results, so the researchers were unable to quantify the scale of the impact. D Pakistan is located on the edge of the monsoon region where the rainfall pattern is extremely variable from year by year.
- 4 A The painted portrait still has a vital role to play in telling stories of human experience and created intimate connections between people. B "One of the most fascinating things about portraits is the human-to-human feeling that you get," said artist Penny Grist. C "You get a sense of someone's presence, someone's energy and spirit from a portrait," she said. D "You get a sense of how the whole work comes together to tell a story about that individual," she added.
- 5 A Imagine if you could put an ultra-thin, transparent solar sheet on your window to generate energy. Seen as the most promising next-generation solar cell, B this technology, called perovskite, is exactly what Enecoat Technologies trying to develop. C When ready, the Kyoto-based firm hopes its product will produce as much power as a regular solar panel of the same size. D "We are hoping to market them in three to four years," said the co-founder and chief executive of the company, Katō Naoya.
- 6 A In San Francisco a futuristic pilot study is taking place – B fully driverless robo-taxis are being allowed at night for paying members of the public. C The company, Cruise, says the cars will revolutionize transport. D But critics say that putting fully autonomous taxis for urban streets is premature and dangerous.

- 7 A A US astronaut has become the first Native American woman in space following a NASA launch on Wednesday. B Marine Colonel Nicole Mann, 45, is one of four astronauts who blast off from Florida at midday bound for the International Space Station (ISS). C The SpaceX Falcon rocket put them on a path to catch the orbiting outpost in about 29 hours' time. D Colonel Mann said that she hoped the mission would inspire future generations of Native Americans.
- 8 A Hidden in an attic in Chester, a tiny computer constantly downloads local weather data from the Internet and uses it to save a homeowner money. B The gadget, no more than a handful of circuit boards and wiring in a small plastic case, is connected to a gas boiler. C When its warm outside, it turns the boiler flow temperature down as less energy is needed to heat the building. D This is known as weather compensation.
- 9 A Electrical muscle stimulation (EMS) has long been used by doctors to help improve the mobility of people with a number of health conditions. B But does EMS actually work in the fitness sphere? C Does it really improve the efficiency of your workout and give your bigger muscles for less effort? D And more importantly, is it always safe?
- 10 A If you want to firm up your body, head to the gym. B If you want to exercise your brain, listen to music. C There are few things that stimulate the brain the way music. D Research has shown that listening to music can reduce anxiety, blood pressure, and pain as well as improve sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory.

IV *Choose the most suitable word or string of words from the list to fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage below.*

Negotiating is not easy. And it can be (1) difficult when the two sides in a negotiation come from different cultures. One difficulty (2) negotiating with someone from another culture is language. If you don't speak the same language as the person you are negotiating with, you will have to use interpreters, (3), people who speak both languages. This (4) the negotiation process longer and more difficult.

To avoid misunderstanding, you need to make (5) that your interpreter is communicating your ideas clearly. But even negotiators who speak the same language may have problems understanding (6). (7), English speakers from different cultures may speak different kinds of English. They may use different vocabulary and have different ways of speaking.

Another difficulty in (8) negotiations is body language. For example, it is important to make eye contact in the United States, Canada, and most countries in Europe. It shows that you are confident and trustworthy. (9), in other countries, such as Japan and Morocco, making too much eye contact can be rude. Other kinds of body language, such as physical contact, can also send different messages in different cultures. To avoid misunderstanding, try to learn about the other person's culture before your negotiation. And don't get upset if the other person does something that is (10) in your culture. Remember that people communicate differently.

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|----|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | A always | B especially | C gradually | D hardly |
| 2 | A how | B that | C when | D which |
| 3 | A also known to | B that is | C to witness | D who are |
| 4 | A can make | B may cause | C ought to be | D shall take |
| 5 | A believe | B do | C good | D sure |
| 6 | A each other | B ourselves | C the others | D themselves |
| 7 | A As a result | B By comparison | C For instance | D On one hand |
| 8 | A cross-cultural | B intrapersonal | C metaverse | D monolingual |
| 9 | A Besides | B However | C Likewise | D On top of that |
| 10 | A considered rude | B regarded amicably | | |
| | C taken lightly | D viewed with surprise | | |

V Part I : Read the following passage and select the best answer to each question listed below it.

English has borrowed words from Japanese for many years. The first known use of the word “samurai” in English was in 1727, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Words that were borrowed from Japanese before the twentieth century tended to refer to concepts inherent to Japanese history and culture, such as daimyo

(1727), sake (1682), and ukiyo-e (1879). Tsunami (1896) is an exception, because the word now refers to any sea wave caused by submarine earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other disturbances, affecting any country, and not just Japan.

The word “anime” is an interesting case. Its first known use in English was in 1985. It is not a native Japanese word. It is a shortened form of *animēshon*, itself a loanword from English “animation.” However, anime and animation are not the same. Rather, the former refers to a style of animation originating in Japan that is often characterized by stark colorful graphics depicting vibrant characters in action-filled plots often with fantastic or futuristic themes.

Early anime television series and films were intended primarily for the Japanese market and, as such, employed many cultural references unique to Japan. To give an example, the large eyes of anime characters are commonly perceived in Japan as multifaceted “windows to the soul.” Much of the genre is aimed at children, but more and more anime television series and films are marked by adult themes and subject matter.

According to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, modern anime began in 1956 and found lasting success in 1961 with the establishment of Mushi Productions by Tezuka Osamu (1928–1989), a leading figure in modern *manga*, another loanword from Japanese, which refers to the dense, novelistic Japanese comic book style that contributed greatly to the aesthetic of anime.

Anime films such as *Princess Mononoke* (1997) directed by Miyazaki Hayao (1941–) are the modern equivalent of the epic folk adventures once filmed by Japanese masters such as Mizoguchi Kenji (1898–1956) and Kurosawa Akira (1910–1998). At the turn of the twenty-first century, anime began to attain wide international popularity with the *Pokémon* television series and films such as Miyazaki’s *Spirited Away* (2001), winner of the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival and an Academy Award for best animated feature film.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the anime film *Demon Slayer: The Mugen Train* (2020) became the highest-grossing film of 2020, the first time a non-Hollywood production film topped the annual box office, and has proven again that anime, although originating in Japan, is now appreciated by people with different cultures and backgrounds all over the world.

If you go to video-sharing websites, such as YouTube, you will easily find videos of people reacting to episodes of anime series in English, German, Spanish, and other languages. They use Japanese words like *shōnen* (literally “boy,” referring to a genre of anime and manga aimed primarily at a young male audience) and *isekai* (literally

“different world,” referring to a genre of portal fantasy and science fiction anime, manga and “light novels”) as if they were part of the vocabulary of their native languages.

- 1 According to the article, words borrowed from Japanese _____
 - A are large in number and are defined in English dictionaries.
 - B are now usually from Japanese animation and comic books.
 - C before the twentieth century mostly referred to things Japanese.
 - D refer exclusively to Japanese history and culture.

- 2 According to the article, the word “anime” _____
 - A and its related word “animation” have somewhat different meanings.
 - B is not a loanword from Japanese because it comes from the English word “animation.”
 - C refers to a style of animation popular only in Japan.
 - D was first used in English in the late nineteenth century.

- 3 According to the article, early anime works _____
 - A had characters with large eyes because they were vibrant characters.
 - B used many Japanese cultural references to please readers.
 - C were created for adults more so than for children.
 - D were not intended to reach a wide international audience.

- 4 Tezuka Osamu was mentioned in the article because _____
 - A he created the dense, novelistic Japanese comic book style.
 - B he started modern anime in 1956.
 - C he was as great as Miyazaki Hayao.
 - D his production company was successful and he was an important manga artist.

- 5 According to the article, the wide international appeal of anime today is shown by the fact that _____
- A an anime film became the highest-grossing film of 2020.
 - B Miyazaki Hayao's anime films were comparable to epic films made by such masters as Mizoguchi and Kurosawa.
 - C Miyazaki Hayao's *Pokémon* series were very popular.
 - D words like *shōnen* and *isekai* are easily understood by speakers of languages other than Japanese.

V *Part II: Read the following passage and select the best answer to each question listed below it.*

Topic choice has two sides: what to talk about and what not to talk about, and these are always culture-sensitive. The issues go well beyond the 'famous five' topics: politics, money (especially personal income), religion, race, and sex. Some examples:

- In a conversation where some of the people are meeting for the first time, or don't know each other well, a common ice-breaking question is to enquire about each other's family. *Do you have children?, How old are they?, What do they do?* These would be embarrassing or even painful questions in China, which introduced a one-child policy in 1979 to limit population growth.
- In the UK, if John arrives at Mike's house, and his wife is not there, it is perfectly proper to ask how she is; but this would be considered a hugely improper question in the Muslim world.
- Enquiring about what one's parents or grandparents did in the war may be well received in the UK and Russia, but not usually in Germany or Japan. The contrast was a source of humour (in the UK, at any rate) in the TV sitcom *Fawlty Towers* (Episode 6), when Basil Fawlty (portrayed by John Cleese) has a group of German guests in his hotel and goes about telling people, 'Don't mention the war'.

Then there is the question of what one is expected to talk about in the opening of a conversation. In many English-speaking countries, the weather is the safest option, as Dr Johnson asserted. Most places are happy to talk about common problems, such as finding a place to park, or the pain of getting through airport security. Most places

welcome a chat about the local food and drink. Most homeowners are pleased to receive admiration about their house or furnishings. But expectations do vary.

Asking what one does for a living, with the answer followed up by further questions or comments, is perfectly normal in, say, Britain or the USA, but is an uncomfortable topic in several European countries, such as Italy and Germany.

Americans are happy to be asked about the colleges they went to and the societies they belonged to; British people would find it distinctly unusual to be asked, upon first meeting, about their school or university. Sport does quite well cross-culturally as a conversation opener as long as there's been no local trauma (such as a recent football defeat). But some topics have both safe and dangerous areas. It is safe, for example, to discuss the cost of property in a locality, or car prices, but not to enquire about how much someone paid for their house or car.

If we're unused to having conversations with people from other cultures, the introduction of an unexpected topic can be quite a shock. Having had many such conversations with students and colleagues from all over the world, I was nonetheless taken aback when a Middle Eastern visitor to my home, having admired a pair of curtains in the living room, commented that they must be very expensive and asked us how much they cost. It was no more than a phatic question, but it left us uncertain about how to reply. Enquiring about it later, I was assured that in some countries it was considered polite to enquire about the cost of furnishings. But old cultural habits die hard; and when I found myself visiting one of those countries some time later, I was never able to bring myself to do so. And in the absence of my question, I recall that in one home the host made up for my pragmatic inadequacy by telling me anyway!

Cultural clashes illustrate one of the things that can go wrong in a conversation. At least in all these instances the speakers have the potential ability to put things right. That has been the assumption behind what I have written here. But what happens when this ability isn't there?

- 1 What does the author say about a common ice-breaking question?
 - A Asking about children is a good ice-breaking question if you are in China, but not in the UK.
 - B In Muslim countries, if two men are not on good terms with each other, they should not talk about their wives.
 - C People should make a strong impact through asking questions, particularly in situations where they do not know each other well.
 - D Questions about what one's grandparents did in the war are usually not embarrassing in the UK.

- 2 According to the article, what is TRUE about the topic at the beginning of a conversation?
 - A If you praise a house you visit, the owner of the house will be pleased in most cases.
 - B In most places people are willing to go through the pain of getting through airport security.
 - C The author says the weather is the safest option in many of the English-speaking countries, although Dr Johnson thought differently.
 - D There are many people who enjoy eating the local food, but they don't usually enjoy talking about it.

- 3 According to the article, what is FALSE about the first topic of a conversation among people from different cultures?
 - A Asking about one's job will not cause embarrassment in Britain and the USA, but it should be avoided in those countries all the same.
 - B British people may not be happy if Americans ask about the college or school they went to when they don't know each other well.
 - C If you start a conversation by asking about the other person's job in Germany, they will probably feel awkward about that.
 - D Sport is usually a good cross-cultural topic to start a conversation, although there are some exceptional cases.

- 4 According to the article, what is TRUE about “safe and dangerous” topic areas?
- A Car prices in certain areas can be a common topic for people to discuss and you can safely ask how much someone paid for their car.
 - B It involves a significant risk for people from different countries to talk about prices of houses in a locality.
 - C You should ask how much someone paid for their house after you told them how much you paid for your own house.
 - D You should keep in mind that it’s not always safe to ask how much someone paid for their car.
- 5 What does the author say about his experiences about different cultures in Middle Eastern countries?
- A If you are not used to talking to people with different cultural backgrounds, introducing an unexpected topic would be a good ice-breaker.
 - B On one occasion in a Middle Eastern country the host told the author the cost of furnishings in his house after being asked about that repeatedly.
 - C The author felt perplexed when a Middle Eastern visitor to his home admired a pair of curtains in his house and asked about their cost.
 - D The author was not able to ask an appropriate question when he visited a Middle Eastern country because such habits had died out in his country.