

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

(研究留学生 (理科系専攻))

RESEARCH 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 write your full name, underlining your family name)		

Marks	
-------	--

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

- The decision to reduce the isolation period was based on data from a study by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, which was () from November 2021 to January 2022, when the BA.1 Omicron subvariant had started to spread.
(A) conducted (B) deducted (C) abducted (D) reduced
- Over the past few years, a number of well-known festive markets were forced to either scale back or cancel festivities all together () the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the vast majority are returning for 2022.
(A) because (B) according to (C) due to (D) with respect
- Costs for wind, solar and other clean energy sources have risen slower than those for fossil fuels, while the amount of investor money flowing into these sectors is () set to exceed funds moving into oil and gas this year, according to research firms.
(A) at first (B) after a while (C) for a long time (D) for the first time
- The investigation found that some smartphone apps could have processed data of children under the age of 13 without appropriate parental consent and failed to provide proper information to its users in () way.
(A) an obscure (B) an apparent (C) a vague (D) a transparent
- Users will also be restricted to one mobile device for authentication and banks will be required to set up () hotlines for customers to report financial scam incidents.
(A) controlled (B) dedicated (C) concealed (D) concentrated

6. Some 20 years ago, candy wrappers were some of the () brightly colored and cheery objects you could find, so delightful that little kids saved and traded them.
(A) few (B) little (C) lesser (D) rarely
7. On another note, the original proposal, put forth by the local tourism authority, is still being considered. Some extra will supposedly help fund the tourism () projects.
(A) misconstruction (B) deconstruction (C) reconstruction (D) obstruction
8. Some animal sanctuaries are facing demands for ransom money, after kidnappers () three of their baby chimpanzees.
(A) intimidated (B) abducted (C) received (D) deceived
9. The very first sailings through the Corinth Canal, one of the most significant infrastructural () the world had ever seen, took place in 1893, fulfilling a vision that had been at least 2,500 years in the making.
(A) fete (B) feast (C) fate (D) feats
10. Researchers who studied the consequences of intense kissing, the global use of the word “huh?” and how () bee stings hurt on different parts of the body were among the winners of this year’s Ig Nobel prizes for comical scientific achievements.
(A) wrongly (B) badly (C) incorrectly (D) completely

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

1. More than one billion pounds of pumpkins are grown in the U.S. every year, and after they () for Halloween decorations, pies, and jack-o’-lanterns, millions of them—large, mini, orange, white, heirloom—will end up in a landfill.
(A) were using (B) will use (C) have been used (D) had used
2. While browsing a ¥100-store can be overwhelming, we recommend () with the kitchen and cooking zone. You’ll find a plethora of useful items that you can use every day.
(A) start (B) starts (C) starting (D) started

3. The Office for Students published its new tests of “low quality” subjects that could see large fines or deregistration imposed on universities where fewer than 60% of graduates in a university’s subject area find work, set up their own business or () to further study after finishing their course, with allowances made for those with caring responsibilities or travelling.
(A) go on (B) go (C) go off (D) go out
4. () a healthy diet and lifestyle can lower a woman’s risk of developing type 2 diabetes during pregnancy, even if she has a history of gestational diabetes in her family, local researchers have found.
(A) Adopted (B) Adopting (C) Have been adopted (D) Adopt
5. The New Yorker has described ramen as “a vehicle for creativity, nostalgia, and profound gastronomic pleasure – so () than just a bowl of soup”, and there are ramen shops everywhere from Santiago to Sofia to Soweto.
(A) much more (B) most (C) more better (D) far more
6. Made () hundreds of colourful trinkets that Sebastian picked up from markets all over the world during his travels pre-pandemic, it signifies the love and joy.
(A) out of (B) with (C) from (D) in
7. () your preference is a butter-soft fillet steak, flavour-packed sirloin or thriftier cut like bavette, rump or onglet, quick-cooking and constant attention should be paid when cooking your beef.
(A) That (B) When (C) Will be releasing (D) Whether
8. A cheesesteak — always one word — consists () a long, crusty roll filled with thinly sliced, freshly sautéed ribeye beef and melted cheese. The art of cheesesteak preparation lies in the balance of flavors, textures and what is often referred to as the drip factor.
(A) as (B) for (C) in (D) of
9. Digital literacy used to mean being able to send an email or type using a word-processing program. It was a skill largely required of knowledge workers – people who might use specific software at work, and need to be fluent in how to use it () .
(A) accordance (B) accordingly (C) according (D) accordant

10. Known () *Diyarbakir* locals as *belluh*, *mercimek kofte* is a vegetarian delight. Made from red lentils, fine bulgur, salt, finely chopped onion, scallions, tomato and *aci biber salca* (hot red pepper paste) and crushed cilantro, they come in handy bite-sized servings.
- (A) as (B) to (C) for (D) on

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

1. (A) Did Aaron Judge hit a home run last night? (B) With his prodigious home run power, Judge of the New York Yankees is on the verge of a historic season. (C) He likely will not catch Barry Bonds' any-time record of 73 home runs in 2001, but several other important milestones could be attainable. (D) Judge has become just the sixth player in baseball history to hit 60 or more home runs in a season (joining Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, Roger Maris and Babe Ruth).
2. (A) Despite being a relatively small city, Switzerland's political center has a beer culture (B) strong enough to wash away the most stressful of work weeks. (C) Bern is home to almost 200 breweries and microbreweries, many of them within stumbling distance (D) (especially around the cities hippest district, Breitenrain) and some even found in basements, garages and laundry rooms.
3. (A) Perry writes, "Structured procrastination requires a certain amount of self-deception, (B) since one is, in effect, constantly perpetrating a pyramid scheme on oneself... (C) And virtually all procrastinators also have excellent skills at self-deception – (D) so what could be most noble than using one character flaw to offset the effects of another?"
4. (A) Canterbury serves up the ideal day trip from the capital (B) – the high-speed train from St Pancras takes less than an hour to get here – (C) and rewards those who come with superb food, great nightlife and, of course, a long history visible in its incredible architecture. (D) The cathedral is the big draw, the seat of the Anglican church, not to mention one of England's finest building.

5. (A) If you can't resist the lure of Dubrovnik, a few things can make your visit easier. (B) While staying at a short-term rental or small hotel inside the city walls may seem like the ultimate in romance (and it is), (C) this often involves schlepping your bags up hundreds of stone stairs. (D) Meanwhile, those with rental cars will discover that the most convenient parking runs to around US\$100 per day.

6. (A) Salten's novel, *Bambi, a Life in the Woods*, is completely different he said. (B) "It is a book about survive in your own home." (C) From the moment he is born, Bambi is under constant threat from hunters who invade the forest and attack indiscriminately. (D) "They kill whatever animal they want."

7. (A) That "show" brought the season for an energizing and joyful end, (B) but in Singapore, the house reprised its spring 2021 collection as a reminder of all the exciting new pieces launching in stores right now. (C) Consider it the ultimate reemergence wardrobe: micro-miniskirts paired with oversized trenches, sparkling suits and sneakers, and graphic T-shirt dresses. (D) We got a glimpse of how you might style them IRL at the Singapore show, where attendees turned out in their brand-new tees and accessories.

8. (A) The annual *Oktoberfest*, the world's largest beer festival, kicked off on Saturday for the first time since 2019, (B) marking the end of a two-year hiatus as result of the coronavirus pandemic. (C) Thousands sporting "*Lederhosen*", or leather trousers - a typical mainstay of Bavarian culture – (D) flocked to the event that usually attracts around 6 million visitors to Munich a year, including tourist from around the world.

9. (A) The government on Monday will begin allow pharmacies (B) and big-box stores to sell hearing aids without prescriptions, (C) a move that is expected to shake up an industry that has long been dominated by a handful of manufacturers under a model of care (D) that critics said raised costs and stifled innovation.

10. (A) According to the National Ocean Service of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), typhoons and hurricanes are the same thing – tropical cyclones. (B) "A tropical cyclone is a generic term used by meteorologists to describe a rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms (C) those originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has closed, low-level circulation," NOAA said on its website. (D) The only difference between them is where they occur.

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

Pet-friendly apartments in Japan are a rare and expensive find, especially for cat and dog owners, as our furry friends (1) most likely leave some marks on wallpaper, floors and any furniture that comes with the apartment.

However, Kobe residents can now live (2) with their favorite feline in these studio apartments, equipped (3) plenty of cat-friendly amenities. First, the usual human features: a combination living- and bedroom, a bathroom with shower, a balcony and a small kitchenette. (4) apartment can accommodate up to two people and three cats. The two-storey apartment building is called the ‘Wakohre Viano Tarumi Shirogayama Cat’s House’ and is a joint project between property developer Wada Kohsan and fashion/lifestyle online shop Felissimo’s Nekobu (5) caters to cat lovers. The 12 apartments in the building are outfitted with a variety of climbing play areas for cats. There’s a shelf-like staircase for them to jump and climb up on, as well as two walkways – one made from a transparent acrylic material and the other from wood – that (6) to the loft area of the room. Cats love high places, so these look like “*purrfect*” features every furball will enjoy. Even the flooring material is (7) than usual to prevent scratches and paw marks. The screen door between the room and the balcony boasts an extra strong material that’s tear-resistant. The main room (8) from the kitchenette and bathroom area by a door that’s fitted with a convenient and lockable cat flap. You also don’t need to worry about your kitty running out the front door, as this movable glass partition separates the entranceway from the rest of the apartment. All apartments on the ground floor have a submerged storage area in the bathroom, perfect for (9) cat litter or supplies. These cat-friendly abodes are quite reasonably priced, too, especially when compared to Tokyo. Monthly (10) starts at 60,000 JPY. That’s not all – tenants will receive a Felissimo online shop coupon worth 2,500 JPY every month. It’s an unusual arrangement, but if you really love cats and Kobe, this might just be the place for you.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. (A) will | (B) can | (C) should | (D) must |
| 2. (A) comfortably | (B) comfortable | (C) comfort | (D) comfortableness |
| 3. (A) by | (B) with | (C) of | (D) on |
| 4. (A) Each | (B) All | (C) Any | (D) Most |

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 5. (A) where | (B) whose | (C) which | (D) whom |
| 6. (A) led | (B) leading | (C) are leading | (D) lead |
| 7. (A) soft more | (B) softer | (C) softest | (D) soft |
| 8. (A) is separating | (B) separated | (C) has separated | (D) is separated |
| 9. (A) stores | (B) store | (C) to store | (D) storing |
| 10. (A) rent | (B) fare | (C) fee | (D) cost |

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

Every evening our eyes tell us that the sun sets, while we know that, in fact, the Earth is turning us away from it. Astronomy taught us centuries ago that common sense is not a reliable guide to reality. Today it is neuroscience that is forcing us to readjust our intuitions. People naturally believe in the Ghost in the Machine: that we have bodies made of matter and spirits made of an ethereal something. Yes, people acknowledge that the brain is involved in mental life. But they still think of it as a pocket PC for the soul, managing information at the behest of a ghostly user.

Modern neuroscience has shown that there is no user. “The soul” is, in fact, the information-processing activity of the brain. New imaging techniques have tied every thought and emotion to neural activity. And any change to the brain -- from strokes, drugs, electricity or surgery -- will literally change your mind. But this understanding hasn’t penetrated the conventional wisdom. We tell people to “use their brains,” we speculate about brain transplants (which really should be called body transplants) and we express astonishment that meditation, education and psychotherapy can actually change the brain. How else could they work?

This resistance is not surprising. In “Descartes’ Baby” psychologist Paul Bloom argues that a mindbody distinction is built into the very way we think. Children easily accept stories in which a person changes from a frog to a prince, or leaves the body to go where the wild things are. And though kids know the brain is useful for thinking, they deny that it makes them feel sad or love their siblings.

The disconnect between our common sense and our best science is not an academic curiosity. Neuroscience is putting us in unfamiliar predicaments, and if we continue to think of ourselves as shadowy users of our brains we will be needlessly befuddled. The Prozac revolution provides an example. With antidepressant and anti-anxiety drugs so common, critics wonder whether we're losing the ability to overcome problems through force of will. Many an uncomprehending spouse has asked,

“Why don’t you just snap out of it?” But depressed people don’t have lazy souls. The parts of their brains that could “snap out of it” are not working properly. To depressed people it is objectively obvious that their prospects are hopeless. Tweaking the brain with drugs may sometimes be the best way to jump-start the machinery that we call the will.

Prozac shouldn’t be dispensed like mints, of course, but the reason is not that it undermines the will. The reason is that emotional pain, like physical pain, is not always pathological. Anxiety is an impetus to avoid invisible threats, and most of us would never meet a deadline without it. Low mood may help us recalibrate our prospects after a damaging loss. But just as surgeons don’t force patients to endure agony to improve their characters, people shouldn’t be forced to endure anxiety or depression beyond what’s needed to prompt self-examination.

To many, the scariest prospect is medication that can make us better than well by enhancing mood, memory and attention. Such drugs, they say, will undermine striving and sacrifice; they are a kind of cheating, like giving the soul a corked bat. But anything that improves our functioning -- from practice and education to a good night’s sleep and a double espresso -- changes the brain. As long as people are not coerced, it’s unclear why we should tolerate every method of brain enrichment but one.

In Galileo’s time, the counter-intuitive discovery that the Earth moved around the sun was laden with moral danger. Now it seems obvious that the motion of rock and gas in space has nothing to do with right and wrong. Yet to many people, the discovery that the soul is the activity of the brain is just as fraught, with pernicious implications for everything from criminal responsibility to our image of ourselves as a species. Turning back the clock on the ultimate form of self-knowledge is neither possible nor desirable. We can live with the new challenges from brain science. But it will require setting aside childlike intuitions and traditional dogmas, and thinking afresh about what makes people better off and worse off.

1. According to the passage, _____

- (A) astronomy has shown us that the sun revolves around the earth.
- (B) neuroscience readjusts our bodies and spirit.
- (C) most people know that the brain is responsible for our mental life.
- (D) there are Ghosts that manage information.

2. According to the passage, neuroscience reveals that _____
- (A) information-processing activities distort our thoughts and emotions.
 - (B) every thought and emotion is tied to our neural activities.
 - (C) changes to our brain don't change our neural activities.
 - (D) meditation cannot change our brain.
3. According to the passage, the Prozac revolution reveals _____
- (A) that the brain is useful for thinking, but does not make us feel sad or love others.
 - (B) a disconnection between our common sense and findings of science.
 - (C) there are shadowy users of our brains, who control our souls.
 - (D) drugs can help people overcome problems by making changes in the brain.
4. In the passage, the author claims that _____
- (A) emotional pain is not always pathological, unlike physical pain.
 - (B) anxiety can help us meet deadlines.
 - (C) surgeons should advise us to endure agony.
 - (D) taking drugs that enhance mood, memory, and attention should be regarded as cheating.
5. The main idea put forward by the text is that _____
- (A) counter-intuitive discoveries are full of moral danger.
 - (B) the motion of rock and gas in space has nothing to do with right or wrong.
 - (C) we need to put aside childlike intuition and accept that the soul is the activity of the brain.
 - (D) brain activity may be the reason we commit crimes.

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

Learning Spanish changed my life. It taught me more about English, it gave me friendships and connections and respect I never could have otherwise received. Just as learning Portuguese, Pirahã and smatterings of other Amazonian languages continued to transform me during my entire life.

Now, after spending most of my adult life in higher education, researching languages, cultures and cognition, I have become more convinced than ever that nothing teaches us about the world and how

to think more effectively better than learning new languages. That is why I advocate for fluency in foreign languages. But for this to happen, language-learning needs to make a comeback as a requirement of both primary and secondary education in the United States. Learning another language benefits each learner in at least three ways – pragmatically, neurologically and culturally.

Pragmatically, consider the benefits of language-learning for the businessperson working alongside speakers of other languages. Although it might be tempting to use English as a lingua franca in new business situations, the investment of learning the language of your colleagues and customers tells them: ‘I respect you.’ It can transform colleagues and customers into friends. Think about it – you appreciate the effort of someone who has learned to speak your language. Their communication in the language of your home helps you to relate better to them, to see them as less ‘other’. In fact, some people feel threatened just hearing a foreign language. Languages have power. Why not partake in that power instead of fearing it?

No matter what you do for a living, language-learning brings practical advantages. Whether you work in a restaurant or are a scholar or a tourist or just a stay-at-home Joe, fluency in other languages is a gift that will keep on giving for the rest of your life. You will understand the world better – imagine being able to watch soccer in Spanish or Italian as well as in English! That alone is a pretty good return. But as we are going to learn directly, beyond the practical benefits, language will expand your knowledge and your very intelligence. If you learn the language in your 20s, you’ll reap benefits for 50 to 60 years, *ceteris paribus* (all things being equal, for those who didn’t study Latin). Say it takes you two years of hard work and constant practice to learn a language. To maintain it will require, let’s say, about one hour a week of conversation or foreign-language television. Yet it will benefit you for the rest of your life. If it takes two years to learn another language, and you have the benefit of that language for the rest of an average lifespan, that is roughly a 900 per cent return on investment. Not bad at all.

Beyond the pragmatic benefits to learning languages are humanistic, cultural benefits. It is precisely because not all languages are the same that learning them can expand our understanding of the world. Every language has evolved in a specific geocultural niche, and thus has different ways of talking and codifying the world. But this is precisely why learning them is so beneficial. Take, for example:

John borrowed \$10,000 from the bank of Mom and Dad to pay down his college loan.

The Pirahã language of the Amazon has no words for numbers or for borrow, dollars, bank, mom, dad, college or loan. So this sentence cannot be translated into Pirahã (it could be if their culture were to change and they learned about the modern economy). On the other hand, consider a common Pirahã phrase:

Piibooxio xigahapaati.

This phrase means ‘go upriver’ in Pirahã. Innocuous enough, until you realise that Pirahãs use this phrase instead of the less precise ‘turn left’ or ‘turn right’ (which depends on where the speaker and hearer are facing) – this is uttered from deep within the jungle or at the river’s edge – all Pirahãs carry a mental map of tens of thousands of acres of jungle in their heads, and thus know where all points of reference are, whether a river or a specific region of the jungle. They use absolute directions, not relative directions as, say, the average American does when he says ‘turn left’ (vs the absolute direction, ‘turn north’). So to use Pirahã phrases intelligibly requires learning about their local geography.

Neurologically, learning another language actually makes us smarter. There is evidence that learning new languages causes growth in our cerebral grey matter, with more synaptic connections formed in our brains. I have often thought of the brain as very similar to a muscle, in that exercise strengthens it. And this is a growing consensus among many researchers. There is even some evidence that language-learning can postpone the onset of Alzheimer’s.

1. Which of the following statements is NOT mentioned in the passage?
 - (A) The author established friendships and connections through language learning.
 - (B) The author is convinced we gain awareness of the world through language learning.
 - (C) The author gained respect from others through language learning.
 - (D) The author landed a position in higher education through language learning.

2. According to the passage, if a business person knows a foreign language _____
- (A) their customers will feel threatened.
 - (B) they can use English in new business situations.
 - (C) they can become friends with customers and colleagues who speak that language.
 - (D) they can say the words 'I respect you' to their customers in their language.
3. Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the text?
- (A) Being able to watch soccer in a different language is a cultural benefit of learning foreign languages.
 - (B) Learning a foreign language takes a few years, but you will reap the benefits for a much longer time.
 - (C) If you learn a foreign language, you will be able to converse with others for one hour a week.
 - (D) Expanding our understanding of the world is a humanistic benefit.
4. Which of the following statements is FALSE according to the text?
- (A) Pirahã does not have words for numbers.
 - (B) To use Pirahã, knowledge about local geography is necessary.
 - (C) Pirahã speakers always carry a geographical map of tens of thousands of acres of jungle.
 - (D) Pirahã speakers use absolute directions like 'go upriver', rather than relative directions like 'turn right'.
5. The main idea the author is trying to convey is that _____
- (A) there are many benefits to learning a foreign language.
 - (B) only smart people can speak foreign languages fluently.
 - (C) learning a language helps us understand our friends better.
 - (D) primary and secondary education in the US should focus on language more than on science.