

2025 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 (MEXT) SCHOLARSHIP 2025

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.

(2025)

ENGLISH(B)

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

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

- 1 The doctor told me that I definitely need to () fatty food.
A catch up with B come down with C cut down on D look out for
- 2 Since he has no intention of cooperating with us, it would be extremely difficult to () the problem by talking to him.
A bring out B make up C open up D sort out
- 3 My sister thinks she can () driving her father's car without permission, but I know she is wrong.
A get away with B hold on to C keep up with D take part in
- 4 It seemed difficult at first, but by the time he was 29, James had () of the clothing business.
A become capable B learned the ropes
C made amends D taken account
- 5 Due to unavoidable circumstances, they had to move to a new place and start everything ().
A from scratch B in between
C over the ages D under the weather

- 6 I felt relieved when I heard that the preparations were well () for a special week in August.
A certain B forward C ready D underway
- 7 Although my children went through lots of suffering last year, at least they were lucky to be () the horrible disease.
A immune to B imperative to
C incomplete without D incongruous with
- 8 In this county, the tradition of performing that dance at the beginning of the year has long been () through generations.
A brought on B dropped down C played on D passed down
- 9 Most of the employees at the company did not choose to work overtime just to () their boss's expectation.
A get along with B live up to
C make up for D root for
- 10 The symptoms that may appear during a stroke depend on which area of the brain was () blood.
A broken out of B deprived of C failed with D taken over by

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

- 1 We'll try to () someone to put these things away.
A get B have C keep D make
- 2 The captain of the ship ordered that every crew member () to shore immediately.
A swam B swim C swims D would swim
- 3 "Oh, well. () the slight change in wording, I still find that snippet of dialogue significant."
A despite B in spite C nevertheless D though

- 4 I would appreciate () you could follow my blog.
 A if that B it C it if D it that
- 5 I remember, when I was a kid, my mom leading me () from one step to the next.
 A by a hand B by my hand C on my hands D on the hands
- 6 That's still an expensive toy for an individual, but () the reach of a group of people willing to share the machine.
 A at B on C well within D with
- 7 () want to leave early may do so.
 A Everyone who B These people
 C Those who D Whomever
- 8 In this meeting, I am going to show you how to () of the discount options available to you.
 A make advantage B make the most
 C take most D take the advantage
- 9 Timothy is () our new class.
 A as tall as other boy in B not so much taller as
 C taller than any other boy in D the tallest boy off
- 10 () your current support, my project would fail.
 A As it were B Had it not been for
 C If it not for D Were it not for

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

- 1 A Performance-based pay is meant to incentivize CEOs to make a business as productive as possible, maximizing value for shareholders. B However, not everyone thinks that talent at the top is what drives profitability. C The Economic Policy Institute is critical of these theory. D It argues that luck is a stronger determinant of business success than the CEO's acumen.
- 2 A Since the start of the industrial revolution, there have been threats that new machines – from mechanized looms to microchips – would usurp human jobs. B For the most part, the humans have prevailed. C Now, say some experts, with AI ubiquity on the horizon, the threat's being realized: D the robots really is coming for some jobs.
- 3 A Some school cafeterias have started to use a traffic light system to guide how often schools should provide children with certain types of food. B The standards state that 'red' foods like cupcakes or pizza should only offered twice a term, while C 'amber' options like fruit juice should be limited. D It is recommended that 'green' foods such as fruit, vegetables and yoghurt make up the majority of options.
- 4 Have you ever seen an ad online and thought, A "Wow, this deal is to good to be true"? B The offer for that jacket, those amazing shoes or tickets to an upcoming concert could very well be a scam. C Scams are everywhere. D And in this digital age, it is hard to avoid them. So how do we protect ourselves?
- 5 A Deep in the jungles of Borneo in Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, are small pockets of peppercorn farm. B The bright green pepper vines that nestle on steep hills are vibrant against the deep green of the jungle. C Cultivated mostly by Indigenous communities such as the Iban, D these small, family-run farms grow some of the best peppers in the world.

- 6 A I came to teaching at the mature age of 36, after having worked 18 years in other industries. B It is the only job that me have ever loved. C I love entering the classroom and being present in the moment with my students, pivoting my lesson plan to capture their attention. D I love the moments when I see them sparkle as they learn something, and the way that I see a concept anew through their eyes.
- 7 A Digital nomads are many different types of workers. B Some are freelancers or independent contractors; some are entrepreneurs building their own businesses; and others work in full-time remote positions for companies located around the world. C Some are salaried, while others rely on ad hoc income. D Larger, say experts, many of these workers are white-collar and well-educated.
- 8 A Much like the fashion industry, food consumption follows trends. B But agricultural economics expert Dr. Wendy Umberger is worried that farmers chasing those trends are feeding into an oversupply of some products and a shorten of others. C She said growers reacting to a forever changing market with short-lived trends was proving unsustainable to food security as a whole. D “Farmers are constantly on this treadmill of having to think about what others are doing and innovate,” Dr. Umberger said.
- 9 A Music can make us feel happy and sad. B It can compel us to move in time with it or sing along to a melody. C It taps into some integral sense of musicality that binds us together. D But do the same thing happen in the minds of animals? Can a monkey feel moved by Mozart? Will a bird bop to a beat?
- 10 A It’s a common misconception that being both a student and an athlete is hard, if not impossible. B However, participating in sports can actually have a positive impact on school. C Sports force you to organize your time so that you can both go to practice or finish your homework. The key is finding a balance. D If you can learn to organize your time then you can succeed at both.

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

Human beings use language every day to think and communicate with (1). (2) small children use language. Children naturally acquire the language(s) (3) in the community around them: it could be Japanese, Uyghur, Telugu, Swazi, Basque, or, (4) the hearing impaired, Japanese Sign Language (JSL), for instance.

While language (5) sounds (or signs as in JSL), words, and sentences, it is not simply a random sequence of sounds, words, or signs. For example, a native speaker of Japanese instinctively knows that a sequence of sounds /straik/ (as in the English word “strike”) is not a possible word in Japanese.

Language is a more systematic, rule-governed mechanism. Sounds pattern in certain regular ways in forming words, and words combine to form sentences in a consistent manner (6).

Now you may wonder (7) small children acquire their first language. Some people have thought that children learn it by imitating what their parents and other people around them say. That is, children were (8) to learn their first language gradually, by listening to what their parents and others say to them and by imitating it. However, this assumption has been questioned for various reasons. For instance, children have the ability to create sentences that they have never heard before. If they learned their first language simply by imitating their parents and others, how could they create sentences that are completely (9) to them? The fact that children are (10) of constantly creating new sentences immediately casts serious doubt on the assumption that children learn their first language by imitation.

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|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | A other | B one another | C ourselves | D the other |
| 2 | A Even | B For | C However | D Only |
| 3 | A speakers | B speaking | C spoke | D spoken |
| 4 | A by way of | B in the case of | C in the event of | D regardless of |
| 5 | A consists of | | B exists on | |
| | C is composed by | | D makes up | |
| 6 | A as well | B namely | C on occasion | D so much |
| 7 | A how | B what | C when | D which |
| 8 | A known | B looking forward | C thought | D willing |

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 9 | A difficult | B habitual | C novel | D strange |
| 10 | A able | B aware | C capable | D qualified |

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

My partner Steve has a dog named Cassie. Cassie and her master have much in common. One similarity is their attitude toward food. When dinnertime rolls around, they both become obsessed by hunger pangs. Cassie's solution is to stand by her food dish as suppertime approaches. That's not a bad idea. After all, that's where food arrives pretty much every night, and when she gets noticed, she gets fed. The problem with her solution is that if someone is not in the kitchen to see her standing by her dish, she's out of luck until someone remembers it's her mealtime.

Cassie's master is marginally smarter than his dog. Rather than going to the location of the food, he goes to the source of the food. When he sees dinnertime in his future, he hangs around his partner (me) because I am responsible for preparing dinner in the family. Eventually, to get him off my back, I start getting dinner together. This solution works whether or not someone is in the kitchen. It works whenever I am available. His solution is admittedly not perfect. It doesn't work if I am out of town or if his dependent behavior annoys me.

Cassie has established a firm connection in her own mind between eating and the location of her food dish, a link that guides her behavior. But the dog's master has done something more sophisticated: He has figured out what causes food to be available (me), and his strategy targets this cause. His dog targets the effect (the dish where her food is delivered) and as a result sometimes goes hungry. Targeting causes rather than effects is a pretty effective strategy for solving a number of problems. If you're suffering from the symptoms of a disease, it's better to cure the disease (the cause) than the symptoms (the effects). And if you don't want an entire community to go hungry, you can make more of a difference by creating conditions that allow people to feed themselves than by simply giving people food.

Maybe we're being too hard on Cassie. Historically, the field of psychology spent decades following the lead of the great Russian physiologist Ivan Pavlov, whose famous experiments in the late nineteenth century were interpreted as showing that animals could learn to associate any arbitrary stimuli, like the ringing of a bell and food. Pavlov

found that dogs salivated before food entered their mouths (so do we). He thus measured whether they expected food by measuring the production of their salivary glands (roughly, how much the dogs drooled). He would feed his dogs regularly after he rang a bell. Later, he found that the dogs would salivate merely at the sound of the bell, with no food required. He claimed the dogs had developed an association between the sound and food so that the sound elicited a response similar to that of food. The bell was intended to be an arbitrary stimulus—it could have been anything as long as the dogs could perceive it. The food was not so arbitrary. Pavlov chose it because it was something that the dogs wanted. But he assumed that food had no prior association in the dogs' memories to bells. That connection was arbitrary. The community of scientists believed him: He won the Nobel Prize for this work in 1904, and Pavlov's associationist theories served as a cornerstone of the behaviorist tradition that ruled psychology through the first half of the twentieth century.

In the 1950s, a psychologist named John Garcia began poking holes in the claim that any arbitrary association could be learned. In one of Garcia's studies, rats were presented with trials of different kinds of paired stimuli. The rats either first experienced a noisy, flashing light or an unusual sweet taste in their water. Later they were either given an electric shock or a stomachache (via a compound added to their water). The rats easily learned to associate the noisy, flashing light with the electric shock and the sweetened water with an impending stomachache. But they were unable to learn the other associations, between the noisy, flashing light and the stomachache or between the sweetened water and the electric shock.

The kinds of mechanisms that cause flashing lights are the same as the mechanisms that cause electric shocks. Relatedly, drinking water with an additive—even a sweet additive—is a potential cause of stomachache. Both of these pairings make causal sense. The opposite pairings don't. It's hard to see how sweetened water could cause an electric shock or how a flashing light could cause a stomachache. The rats were able to learn the associations that made causal sense, but they failed to learn the ones that were arbitrary. Garcia's study suggests that rats are predisposed to learn causally meaningful relations, not arbitrary links. Even rats engage in a kind of simple causal reasoning, figuring out the likely causes of their distress.

If rats are causal thinkers and don't rely only on simple associations, the same is presumably true of dogs. Pavlovian associations don't occur between arbitrary pairs of stimuli, they happen only when the association has some possibility of making causal sense. So we apologize for defaming Cassie's cognitive abilities. We have great respect for dogs and their ability to think causally. We have even greater respect for human

causal cognition.

- 1 According to the article, Cassie's master seems cleverer than Cassie because _____.
 - A her master can recognize what causes food to be available.
 - B her master easily gets food by standing by his food dish at dinner time.
 - C her master is able to realize his solution to get food is not perfect.
 - D her master is usually responsible for preparing dinner in the family.

- 2 According to the article, _____ is helpful to solve the problem.
 - A to build a good connection between our habits and behaviors
 - B to ease the symptoms of a disease
 - C to focus on causes rather than effects
 - D to make more of a difference by creating conditions

- 3 According to the article, the physiologist Ivan Pavlov argued that _____.
 - A the behaviorist tradition occurred in the first half of the twentieth century.
 - B the dogs built a relation between the sound of the bell and food.
 - C the dogs could measure the production of their salivary glands by themselves.
 - D there was a prior association between a stimulus and a bell.

- 4 According to the article, an example of a non-arbitrary association shown in Garcia's experiment is that _____.
 - A a noisy, flashing light causes a stomachache.
 - B an electric shock causes a stomachache.
 - C flashing lights cause electric shocks.
 - D sweetened water causes electric shocks.

5 According to the article, _____

- A Garcia's experiment suggested that rats were born with the ability to learn arbitrary relations.
- B It is unquestionable that the associations found by Ivan Pavlov occur between arbitrary pairs of stimuli.
- C John Garcia supported and developed the revolutionary idea proposed by Ivan Pavlov.
- D Pavlovian associations happen only when the link has the potential of making causal sense.

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

Before there was electricity or the Internet or screens illuminated by thousands of liquid crystals rotating polarized pulses of photons, humans mostly lived by the daily comings and goings of the yellow burning ball of gas in the sky. Like every other organism that walks, flies, swims, scurries, sways, or photosynthesizes on Earth, people evolved circadian rhythms tuned to this solar circuit.

Yours, like that of most other organisms, is controlled by waves of proteins encoded in just a handful of master clock genes. Every day, as if tracing the rise and fall of the sun, concentrations of special timekeeping protein complexes surge and ebb inside nearly every cell in your body, in a sinusoidal curve that repeats itself every 24 hours. These proteins predictably bind and release your DNA, flipping thousands of genes on and off in synchronized choreography. They dictate more than just your sleep patterns. Fluctuations in most of your critical body functions, including blood pressure, body temperature, metabolism, and even your moods and behaviors all run on a meticulous 24-hour schedule.

But lots of things can throw your clock out of whack—consuming calories at all hours of the day, binge-watching videos on a blue-tinged screen at 3 a.m., even just getting older. When this happens, lots of other things start to go wrong, from depression and other mood disorders to metabolic malfunctions. This is why one of the newest ideas in the emerging field of circadian medicine is to create drugs that actually amplify the cadence of our internal timers. The scientists leading this charge think such “clock-enhancing molecules” could help astronauts in the future stay on Earth-time even as

they're up in orbit or en route to Mars. Closer to home, these drugs could one day be used to combat the obesity epidemic, stave off incurable diseases like Alzheimer's, and even slow aging itself.

Up until the mid-2000s, circadian rhythm science had been mostly viewed as a kind of cute, niche little corner of biology. But advances in gene sequencing technologies led scientists to realize that the clock controlled more than 10,000 genes in nearly every cell in the human body. Even more recently, they discovered that clock was malleable. "Almost all the important functions in your body have a temporal component that we can tweak through the power of circadian manipulation," says biochemist Jake Chen. He's spent the last ten years hunting for compounds with circadian-boosting properties and testing the hypothesis that they can make people live happier, healthier, longer lives. If he's right, curing or preventing some of society's most common and costly diseases might come down to chemically resetting our clocks. "The time has come for the biomedical research community to recognize that biological timing is a bona fide therapeutic target."

That work is just getting going. But it has other researchers in the field excited about the long-term prospects of circadian medicine. "Having drugs that reinforce and reset our clocks would be useful for combating the negative health effects of shift work, jet lag, and getting off the Earth," says biologist Carrie Partch. On the International Space Station, astronauts have a 90-minute day, an unnatural environment that NASA's recent Twin Study showed can alter both circadian rhythms and your DNA.

Back on Earth, scientists still don't know whether the clock weakens because we get older, or if aging is itself a symptom of a diminishing circadian rhythm. And if it's the latter, then invigorating our clocks could theoretically put more sand in the hourglass. "If a molecule can make that clock stronger so that our bodies can fight off all those changes, then 70 really would be the new 50," Partch says. "That's the promise of enhancing circadian rhythms." Modern technology may have liberated the human species from millennia of obligate diurnality, but our bodies evolved to respond to the sun, not to screens.

So, until science delivers some magic clock-boosting pill, maybe just, you know, go outside more often.

- 1 Based on the information provided, which of the following would be LEAST likely to disrupt healthy human circadian rhythms?
 - A Eating food each hour for several days
 - B Living like our ancient ancestors
 - C Reaching fifty years of age or older
 - D Watching videos late at night

- 2 According to the article, the field of circadian medicine may eventually lead us to which of the following developments?
 - A Countering the problem of obesity
 - B Giving rise to incurable diseases
 - C Obstructing space exploration
 - D Provoking emotional disorders

- 3 Based on the text, which of the following is FALSE?
 - A Body temperature and blood pressure in human beings are dictated by circadian rhythms.
 - B Circadian rhythms are controlled by proteins encoded in a small number of human genes.
 - C Human beings evolved circadian rhythms tuned to the daily comings and goings of the sun.
 - D Our diminishing circadian rhythm cycles have been identified as the cause of aging in humans.

- 4 Based on the text, what does biologist Carrie Partch imply about circadian medicine?
 - A Circadian medicine will sustain the negative health impacts associated with modern lifestyles.
 - B People could one day be as healthy in their seventies as they are today in their fifties.
 - C Scientific studies propose to reveal the connections between critical body functions in humans.
 - D The research of biochemist Jake Chen and others may impede our circadian rhythms.

- 5 In the final sentence, why does the author suggest that people should go outside more often?
- A To improve our understanding of circadian rhythms and the human body while being out of the home.
 - B To persuade people to undertake specific activities inside their house or office.
 - C To stimulate and regulate healthy body rhythms by being active outdoors during daylight hours.
 - D To urge us to participate in certain activities or hobbies that typically take place late at night.