

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

(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.		Marks	
Name	(Please write your full name, underlining your family name)				

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

- We respond to notices of alleged copyright () if they comply with the law, and such notices should be reported using our Copyright Policy.
(A) infringement (B) arrangement (C) adjustment (D) acknowledgement
- Mohammad Annan, 20, and Lujain Al Mansoori, 21, use artificially grown vegetable cells and UV light to print a () of an edible carrot – something that has not been done with vegetables yet.
(A) subtype (B) stereotype (C) prototype (D) ideotype
- Debuting in 2007, the band rose to the top of musical prominence, performing on stages from live house venues and summer festivals to the () Nippon Budokan.
(A) appeared (B) renowned (C) pronounced (D) noticed
- At least 961 birds died in one night in Chicago after crashing into the windows of the McCormick Place Lakeside Center () the height of the fall migration.
(A) in (B) during (C) while (D) for
- This tiny café () the back streets of Higashi-Ginza exudes Japanese simplicity at its best, fit with Japanese-styled plaster walls, *sho-sugiban* (charred cedar) details and a coffered ceiling, plus a single bonsai poised behind the barista.
(A) tucked down (B) tucked (C) tucked into (D) tucked beneath
- The Shibuya Sky () deck has become one of the hottest attractions in Tokyo since it opened on the rooftop of Shibuya Scramble Square.
(A) observer (B) observatory (C) observant (D) observation
- The portrait, *Femme à la Montre*, will be on display in London for the first time for five days from Saturday, before it () for auction by Sotheby's next month.
(A) goes on (B) goes out (C) goes toward (D) goes up

8. Supermarkets have good and bad phases, depending () on the buying team, but also on the constraints under which they're operating.
(A) only not (B) not only (C) not also (D) also not
9. Environmental sustainability is a () issue of the 21st century, and higher education can play a leadership role in addressing global climate change.
(A) defining (B) refining (C) deferring (D) describing
10. If you're worried about your child's () or wellbeing and you think they need extra support, speak to their GP, health visitor, teacher or nursery worker first.
(A) disappointment (B) development (C) equipment (D) implement

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

1. There are more than 2,100 types of edible insects in the world, and they () varying flavors, such as nutty, citrusy, cheesy and coconutty, says Yoon.
(A) came in (B) have come in (C) come in (D) are coming in
2. Notably, the Amazon is not one singular stretch of water, () rather part of a greater "river system" spanning much of northern South America.
(A) for (B) and (C) but (D) so
3. Because I'm a cookbook author, I'm expected () the operations for my family, but the feast itself is a team effort.
(A) from overseeing (B) overseeing
(C) for overseeing (D) to oversee
4. Before the 1970s, the most common types of leukaemia were essentially () a single disease, and now we know that there are multiple different types.
(A) considered as (B) considered (C) considering (D) considering as
5. Acetate is often used as an alternative () conventional plastic and is a popular material choice in eyewear and jewelry.
(A) of (B) from (C) to (D) with
6. The Kadokawa Musashino Museum stirred particular interest among art and design lovers () its opening as it was designed by famed Japanese architect Kengo Kuma.
(A) inside of (B) behind of (C) side of (D) ahead of
7. The shop () athletic wear, shoes and merchandise inspired by basketball culture.
(A) is stocked with (B) has stocked with (C) is stocking with (D) had stocked with

8. The researchers had to give explicit instructions for each assignment, whereas real-world tasks may be more ().
 (A) high-ended (B) dead-ended (C) open-ended (D) low-ended
9. Journeys from London to Manchester that use the new HS2 line as far as Birmingham could run () than existing services, and with less capacity, rail experts have warned.
 (A) slowest (B) slower (C) more slow (D) slowly
10. The data also showed that performance inequality between workers decreased, meaning workers () received a lower grade in the first task benefitted more from using ChatGPT for the second task.
 (A) who (B) which (C) whose (D) whom

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

1. (A) With soaring limestone islands, white sandy bays and colorful shacks, (B) Thailand is one of the world's quintessential paradise destination. (C) It's the stuff of vacation fantasy. (D) But while few places are better for a sun-drenched break, there's so much more to this country than kicking back with a cocktail.
2. (A) Nothing about RRR is small: the size of the crowd scenes, the scale of the battles, the sadistic villainy of the British, the three-hour running time. (B) It was the most expensive Indian movie ever made (an estimated \$72m) and it shows. (C) The story is set in the 1920s, during the British Raj, and parallels the journeys of two men who is opposed politically, (D) yet similar in their unbreakable determination and superheroic athleticism.
3. (A) I can kill foxes but I can't kill wolves. (B) Not in real life, obviously – in real life I send emails eight hours a day – but in *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, where every animal is an arrow away from becoming a fortifying meal. (C) Shoot a wolf and you'll reward with a thick red slab of raw prime meat, (D) but I can't do it, I just can't do it, even though they often attack me in packs.
4. (A) The report said the climate crisis exacerbated existing inequalities. (B) In east and southern Africa, for example, tropical cyclones have damaged health facilities, disrupting access to maternal health services and helping spread waterborne diseases such as cholera. (C) Hurricanes and droughts increase the risks of gender-based violence and child marriage, it added, (D) as families under stress are less able to support daughters and seek to marry with them off.

5. (A) More than a dozen heads of state of African countries are due to attend the first African Climate Summit (B) as the continent seeks to assert a stronger voice on a global existential problem those it contributes the least to. (C) Kenyan President William Ruto’s government and the African Union launched the meeting on Monday in Nairobi. (D) determined to wield more global influence and bring in far more financing and support.
6. (A) The cards were part of a collaboration between the museum and Pokémon Company International (B) to celebrate the museum’s 50th anniversary and recognize the link between van Gogh and Japanese art and culture. (C) The museum also displayed paintings of Pokémon, including Pikachu and Snorlax. (D) which was dispersed among van Gogh’s self portraits and famous sunflowers.
7. (A) Teachers and school administrators still struggle with separate the more authentic wheat from the automated chaff. (B) Some institutions are investing in AI detection tools, but these are proving spotty at best. (C) In recent tests, popular AI text detectors wrongly flagged articles by non-native English speakers, and some suggested that AI wrote the US constitution. (D) In July OpenAI quietly pulled AI Classifier, its experimental AI detection tool, citing “its low rate of accuracy”.
8. (A) Many animals in circuses are kept in environments that are considered too small and unable to meet their needs. (B) They spend a lot of they’re time confined to “beast wagons” or chained up in trucks. (C) A 2006 report on animal welfare in circuses in England and Wales found that accommodation provided for the animals was variable in quality, with little thought given to enrichment and species-specific needs. (D) Circuses have been exposed for using cruel methods to train and subdue animals.
9. (A) Overpopulation of livestock and the effects of climate change mean grass on the steppe, which animals eat to survive, is becoming thinner year to year. (B) The nomads who have herded animals on horseback for centuries are finding it harder to keep their animals, the main source of their livelihoods, fed properly. (C) With their livelihoods at risk, some are being forced to the capital, into Ulaanbaatar’s “Ger districts”. (D) Approximately 60 percent of Ulaanbaatar’s population is crowded into these areas.
10. (A) One of Singapore’s most-loved institutions has been given a timely boost, with the country’s hawker culture being added to the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. (B) The award took place at a virtual ceremony on 16 December and it sees the culture join the likes of yoga in India and the tango in Argentina. (C) Hawker culture refers to the community of vendors who cook and sell meals in the 114 hawker centres across the city-state. (D) The verdict could not have come at a better time for the vendors, provided invaluable protection after a precarious year.

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

It's a point in 2022's favour that, rather than violent insurrection or the misery of lockdown, most English-speaking people (1) the internet are currently preoccupied with a harmless word game. Harmless at the time of writing, I should say – it's (2) that some kind of backlash is inevitable. I'm sure any day now Wordle will be revealed as a Bad Thing and I don't want to speculate how; I am merely here to observe that it is a) a lot of fun b) (3) interesting, and I'd like to explain why. I (4) even be able to make you a bit better at it.

If you don't already know, Wordle is a browser-based puzzle that gives you six goes at guessing a five-letter word. If your guess includes a letter that's correct but in the wrong place, it turns yellow (more like ochre – now there's a good starting word for you). If it includes a letter that's correct *and* in the right place, it turns green, allowing you to build on your guesses (5) you hit the jackpot. It's helpful to understand what Wordle is mainly testing, and I think there are a couple of things: first, your knowledge of the (6) of individual letters in the English language – that is, how common they are (think of the value of letters in scrabble – “q” is 10 because it's harder to find words that use it, whereas “e” is 1). So it would be unwise, for example, to use “hyrax” as your first guess. More interestingly, though, it probes your (7) for how letters can be combined. Very often you find yourself thinking: I've got an “o” an “r” and a “t”. Do many English words end in “o”? Is “t” a good bet to start the word with? Should it be followed by “r”, or should there be a vowel in between them? OK, so (8) will have a sense of how to answer these questions already, (9) we use words every day and have a gut feeling for which sequences are possible where, and which aren't allowed at all (“ng”, for example, is pretty common in English, but never at the beginning of a word, and “lng” never appears (10)).

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. (A) for | (B) in | (C) to | (D) at |
| 2. (A) polite enough | (B) enough popular | (C) enough polite | (D) popular enough |
| 3. (A) linguistic | (B) linguistically | (C) linguistics | (D) linguist |
| 4. (A) may | (B) need | (C) must | (D) shall |
| 5. (A) until | (B) while | (C) when | (D) after |
| 6. (A) fluency | (B) accuracy | (C) frequency | (D) adequacy |
| 7. (A) precinct | (B) extinct | (C) distinct | (D) instinct |
| 8. (A) most us | (B) most of us | (C) we most | (D) most we |
| 9. (A) although | (B) because of | (C) because | (D) in spite of |
| 10. (A) somewhere | (B) anywhere | (C) everywhere | (D) elsewhere |

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

“The sounds uttered by birds offer in several respects the nearest analogy to language,” Charles Darwin wrote in “The Descent of Man” (1871), while contemplating how humans learned to speak. Language, he speculated, might have had its origins in singing, which “might have given rise to words expressive of various complex emotions.”

Now researchers from MIT, along with a scholar from the University of Tokyo, say that Darwin was on the right path. The balance of evidence, they believe, suggests that human language is a grafting of two communication forms found elsewhere in the animal kingdom: first, the elaborate

songs of birds, and second, the more utilitarian, information-bearing types of expression seen in a diversity of other animals.

“It’s this adventitious combination that triggered human language,” says Shigeru Miyagawa, a professor of linguistics in MIT’s Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, and co-author of a new paper published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology*.

The idea builds upon Miyagawa’s conclusion, detailed in his previous work, that there are two “layers” in all human languages: an “expression” layer, which involves the changeable organization of sentences, and a “lexical” layer, which relates to the core content of a sentence. His conclusion is based on earlier work by linguists including Noam Chomsky, Kenneth Hale and Samuel Jay Keyser. Based on an analysis of animal communication, and using Miyagawa’s framework, the authors say that birdsong closely resembles the expression layer of human sentences — whereas the communicative waggles of bees, or the short, audible messages of primates, are more like the lexical layer. At some point, between 50,000 and 80,000 years ago, humans may have merged these two types of expression into a uniquely sophisticated form of language.

“There were these two pre-existing systems,” Miyagawa says, “like apples and oranges that just happened to be put together.”

These kinds of adaptations of existing structures are common in natural history, notes Robert Berwick, a co-author of the paper, who is a professor of computational linguistics in MIT’s Laboratory for Information and Decision Systems, in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

“When something new evolves, it is often built out of old parts,” Berwick says. “We see this over and over again in evolution. Old structures can change just a little bit, and acquire radically new functions.”

To consider the difference between the expression layer and the lexical layer, take a simple sentence: “Todd saw a condor.” We can easily create variations of this, such as, “When did Todd see a condor?” This rearranging of elements takes place in the expression layer and allows us to add complexity and ask questions. But the lexical layer remains the same, since it involves the same core elements: the subject, “Todd,” the verb, “to see,” and the object, “condor.”

Birdsong lacks a lexical structure. Instead, birds sing learned melodies with what Berwick calls a “holistic” structure; the entire song has one meaning, whether about mating, territory or other things. The Bengalese finch, as the authors note, can loop back to parts of previous melodies, allowing for greater variation and communication of more things; a nightingale may be able to recite from 100 to 200 different melodies.

Humans, according to Miyagawa, Berwick and Okanoya, fruitfully combined these systems. We can communicate essential information, like bees or primates — but like birds, we also have a melodic capacity and an ability to recombine parts of our uttered language. For this reason, our finite vocabularies can generate a seemingly infinite string of words. Indeed, the researchers suggest that humans first had the ability to sing, as Darwin conjectured, and then managed to integrate specific lexical elements into those songs.

“It’s not a very long step to say that what got joined together was the ability to construct these complex patterns, like a song, but with words,” Berwick says.

As they note in the paper, some of the “striking parallels” between language acquisition in birds and humans include the phase of life when each is best at picking up languages, and the part of the brain used for language. Another similarity, Berwick notes, relates to an insight of celebrated MIT professor emeritus of linguistics Morris Halle, who, as Berwick puts it, observed that “all human

languages have a finite number of stress patterns, a certain number of beat patterns. Well, in birdsong, there is also this limited number of beat patterns.”

1. According to the passage, what do researchers from MIT and the University of Tokyo believe about the origins of human language?
 - (A) Birdsong developed straight into human language.
 - (B) Human language evolved solely from the utilitarian expressions seen in animals.
 - (C) Human language evolved from integrating lexical elements into melodies.
 - (D) Human language development was triggered by the complex emotions expressed by birds.
2. According to the passage, what was combined adventitiously?
 - (A) Communicative waggles of bees and audible messages.
 - (B) Animal communication and human language.
 - (C) The elaborate songs of birds and information-bearing types of expression seen in a diversity of other animals.
 - (D) Apples and oranges.
3. According to the passage, what is the “expression layer” of human language?
 - (A) The layer consisting of fixed sentence structures.
 - (B) The layer that adds complexity by restructuring the elements in the sentence.
 - (C) The layer consisting of basic vocabulary and words.
 - (D) The layer that adds complexity by including non-verbal communication cues.
4. According to the passage, what does Robert Berwick emphasize about evolution of new structures in natural history?
 - (A) New structures normally emerge from new functions.
 - (B) Evolutionary changes rarely involve old parts.
 - (C) Old structures are radically different from new structures.
 - (D) Small changes in old structures can lead to new functions.
5. Who wrote the new paper published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* together with Shigeru Miyagawa?
 - (A) Charles Darwin.
 - (B) Noam Chomsky, Kenneth Hale and Samuel Jay Keyser.
 - (C) Robert Berwick and Okanoya.
 - (D) Morris Halle.

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

University students are more at risk of depression and anxiety than their peers who go straight into work, according to a study, suggesting mental health may deteriorate due to the financial strain of higher education.

The research is the first to find evidence of slightly higher levels of depression and anxiety among students, and challenges earlier work suggesting that the mental health of students is the same as or better than their peers.

The first author of the study, Dr Tayla McCloud, a researcher in the psychiatry department at University College London (UCL), said the fact that the link between university and poor mental health had not been established in earlier studies could mean that it is due to “increased financial pressures and worries about achieving high results in the wider economic and social context”.

As well as grappling with rising costs due to inflation, university students this year are facing unprecedented rent rises averaging at 8% and far outstripping the average maintenance loan in many cities.

McCloud said she would have ordinarily expected university students to have better mental health as they tend to be from more privileged backgrounds, making the results “particularly concerning” and requiring more research to pinpoint the risks facing students.

The lead author, Dr Gemma Lewis, associate professor at UCL’s school of psychiatry, said poorer mental health at university could have repercussions in later life.

She said: “The first couple of years of higher education are a crucial time for development, so if we could improve the mental health of young people during this time it could have long-term benefits for their health and wellbeing, as well as for their educational achievement and longer term success.” The research paper, published in the *Lancet Public Health* and commissioned by the Department for Education, states that by the age of 25 the difference in mental health had disappeared between graduates and non-graduates.

The analysis suggested that if the potential mental health risks of attending higher education were eliminated, the incidence of depression and anxiety could be reduced by 6% among people aged 18-19.

The researchers used data from the Longitudinal Studies of Young People in England, which includes 4,832 young people born in 1989-90, who were aged 18-19 in 2007-9, and 6,128 participants born in 1998-99, aged 18-19 in 2016-18. In both studies, just over half attended higher education. Participants completed surveys about their mental health to investigate symptoms of depression, anxiety and social dysfunction at multiple points over the years.

The researchers found a small difference in symptoms of depression and anxiety at age 18-19 between students and non-students, even controlling for factors including socioeconomic status, parents’ education and alcohol use.

Their findings were echoed in research from King’s College London that found reported mental health problems among university students had almost tripled between 2016-17 and 2022-23, rising from 6% to 16%, and were especially prevalent among female and non-binary students.

A significant part of this increase occurred in the last 12 months, coinciding with the cost of living crisis.

The research found that among students considering dropping out of university, the proportion citing financial distress rose from 3.5% to 8% between 2022 and 2023.

The research also found a small gradual increase in the rate of mental health difficulties as students undertook more paid work during term time.

1. Based on the text, which statement is TRUE?

- (A) University students have lower levels of depression and anxiety due to their academic engagement.
- (B) University students are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, due to financial stress and academic pressure.
- (C) University students and working peers have similar mental health levels.
- (D) University students face fewer mental health problems as they know how to handle stress.

2. Which of the following financial challenges is NOT MENTIONED in the text?
- (A) Rising costs due to inflation.
 - (B) Unexpected rent increase in many cities.
 - (C) Increased tuition fees at many universities.
 - (D) Insufficient maintenance loans.
3. Based on the text, which of the following is TRUE?
- (A) The mental health difference between graduates and non-graduates stays significant after the age of 25.
 - (B) No research so far has proven any difference in the mental situation of graduates and non-graduates.
 - (C) The mental health difference between graduates and non-graduates increases with age.
 - (D) The mental health difference between graduates and non-graduates is neutralized by the age of 25.
4. Based on the text, which of the following is TRUE about the number of reported mental health problems among university students according to research from King's College London?
- (A) It has stayed the same.
 - (B) It has risen from 3.5% to 8%.
 - (C) It has almost tripled.
 - (D) It has dropped from 16% to 6%.
5. Which of the following things is NOT mentioned in the text?
- (A) The rising cost of living and its effect on university students' mental health.
 - (B) A comparison of the risk of experiencing mental health problems between graduates and non-graduates.
 - (C) The relation between students' mental health and the rate of dropping out.
 - (D) The relation between university students' part-time work and mental health difficulties.