

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

(専修学校留学生)

SPECIAL TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS

英 語

ENGLISH

注意 ☆試験時間は 60 分。

PLEASE NOTE: THE TEST PERIOD IS 60 MINUTES

English
(2025)

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

I Select the word or phrase that best completes each sentence from 1, 2, 3, or 4.

***Note that all the answers should be written on the answer sheet with numbers.**

1. () Karen need more help, there are plenty of good services available.
1. Did 2. Should 3. Had 4. If
2. Do you know how to turn water () wine?
1. for 2. by 3. in 4. into
3. The heavy rain prevented Sachiko () on time.
1. arrive 2. to arrive 3. for arrive 4. from arriving
4. Copernicus discovered that the Earth () round.
1. is 2. had been 3. has been 4. look
5. We () be too careful in the choice of our friends.
1. may not to 2. cannot 3. not ought 4. mustn't to
6. We do not necessarily grow wiser () we grow older.
1. that 2. than 3. as 4. which
7. All the many thousands of machines that make life easier for us must be kept well lubricated in order to run well and ().
1. not to wear out 2. no wearing out
3. not worn out 4. it won't wear out
8. () the building when the earthquake occurred.
1. Scarcely they left 2. Scarcely have they left
3. Hardly had they left 4. Hardly they had left
9. Just after putting away the dishes, ().
1. the doorbell Nisha rang loudly 2. Nisha heard the doorbell ring
3. the doorbell was ring by Nisha 4. Nisha heard the doorbell to ring

10. Ema represented her country ().
1. at 2020 Olympic Game 2. at Olympic game in 2020
3. at the 2020 Olympic Games 4. at the 2020 Olympic game
11. In spite of Izumi's apparent lack of qualifications as an architect, ().
1. he was surprising others 2. he did a good surprised job
3. he did a surprisingly good job 4. he was surprised with his good job
12. You will miss the bus ().
1. without you walk more quickly 2. if you don't walk more quickly
3. without your quick walk 4. if you had walked more slowly
13. In this society, we possess the tools to bring () to every corner of the world.
1. more accuracy 2. a great deal of the right actions
3. many fairness 4. a lot of positive changes
14. His services ().
1. have been too great to forget
2. have been too great to be forgotten
3. have been so great as to be forgotten it
4. have been so great that they cannot forget it
15. () being Sunday, I went for a walk in the forest.
1. It 2. As 3. On 4. When

II Select the word or phrase that best completes each sentence from 1, 2, 3, or 4.

***Note that all the answers should be written on the answer sheet with numbers.**

1. The story she told us about her experiences in Bolivia was () belief.
1. over 2. outside 3. beneath 4. beyond
2. "I like playing games."
"Yes, playing games is always ()."
1. a fun 2. fun 3. funs 4. funny
3. We sometimes find () with others when we should blame ourselves.
1. reproach 2. mistake 3. accuse 4. fault
4. You cannot have your own () in everything.
1. mind 2. decision 3. way 4. thinking
5. Carelessness on the part of driver can often be the biggest () of a car accident.
1. cause 2. effect 3. affect 4. reason
6. Will you pass me (), Kenji?
1. a salt 2. the salt 3. salts 4. dose of salts
7. When faced with adversity, it's crucial to () forward with determination.
1. step 2. move 3. act 4. change
8. Keiko has two brothers; one is in Kyoto and () is in Hokkaido.
1. other 2. the other 3. another 4. the another
9. I will do the job () the condition that I shall be paid well.
1. in 2. on 3. from 4. by
10. The research () underway for several years before any significant breakthroughs were made.
1. was 2. would be 3. has been 4. had been
11. She is the () person every child would like to have as a teacher.
1. same 2. very 3. true 4. just
12. We should () this project more resources.
1. allocate 2. duplicate 3. multiplex 4. consult
13. So many businesses are in such difficult () that their prices have come down.
1. straits 2. division 3. malady 4. assets
14. When you visit a foreign country, you need to () the local customs and traditions.
1. relieve 2. regret 3. regard 4. respect

15. () can be used to talk about something unpleasant in a more polite way.
1. Phonograms 2. Prophecies 3. Epiphanies 4. Euphemisms

IIIa Read the following passage. Choose the best word to fill in each blank. Answers which should be capitalized are written in lowercase.

***Note that all answers should be written on the answer sheet with numbers.**

[A] Zen has helped to stimulate the artistic impulses of the Japanese people and to color their works with ideas characteristic of Zen is due to the following facts: the Zen monasteries were almost exclusively the [B] of learning and art, at least [C] the Kamakura and the Muromachi eras; the Zen monks had constant opportunities to come in [D] with foreign cultures; the monks [E] were artists, scholars, and mystics; they were even encouraged by the political powers of the time to [F] in commercial enterprises [G] bring foreign objects of art and industry to Japan; the aristocrats and the [H] influential classes of Japan [I] patrons of Zen institutions and were willing to submit themselves to the discipline of Zen. Zen thus worked not only directly on the religious life of the Japanese but also most strongly [J] their general culture.

Adapted from: *Zen and Japanese Culture* by Daisetz Suzuki

1. politically	2. during	3. is	4. themselves	5. on
6. these	7. that	8. what	9. engage	10. partner
11. repositories	12. to	13. but	14. were	15. contact

IIIb Read the following passage. Choose the best word to fill in each blank. Answers which should be capitalized are written in lowercase.

***Note that all answers should be written on the answer sheet with numbers.**

During university, students often juggle between studies and part-time [A]. These jobs provide them with an opportunity not only to earn some [B], but also to gain practical experience. Some students choose to work at the campus [C], while others might prefer tutoring younger students in subjects they excel [D]. It's also common to find students working in [E] shops, serving coffee or sandwiches to their peers. There are also those who take on [F] positions under professors, diving deep into academic inquiries. For those with a knack for writing, content [G] for blogs or university publications can be an attractive option. By the time they graduate, many students have a rich tapestry of work [H], which not only adds to their resume but also gives them a clearer idea of their career [I]. It's crucial, however, for them to remember that while jobs are beneficial, their primary [J] during these years is to study and excel academically.

1. in	2. experiences	3. food	4. to	5. research
6. creation	7. overtime	8. path	9. jobs	10. focus
11. studies	12. money	13. sometimes	14. start	15. cafeteria

IV Read the following passage. Choose the best answer for each question.

***Note that all answers should be written on the answer sheet with numbers.**

Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, is often associated with its cold climate and expansive wilderness. For those who have visited or lived there, it is undeniably a “snow country.” The generous snowfall not only blankets the land in pristine white every winter but also profoundly influences the lifestyles and culture of its inhabitants. While weather patterns undoubtedly play a role in shaping local customs, they do not dictate cultural development in an absolute manner. Instead, they set the stage, and the creativity and adaptation of the people fill in the narrative.

In the case of Hokkaido, enveloped by snowy mountains and icy seas, the sheer beauty and challenge presented by these [A] snowy landscapes, icy paths, and frosted forests have fostered a **resilient** and harmonious culture. Activities inspired by the snowy environment range from festivals, art, infrastructure design, to food and drink specialties. In terms of food, seafood like crab and salmon, dairy products, and hotpot dishes are tied intimately to the cold climate of the region. The snow, with its cold bite, also nurtures a popular tradition of warm onsen (hot springs) visits. The combination of icy outdoors and the warmth of the indoors has created a unique Hokkaido experience, with the quintessential kotatsu (heated table) and nabe (hotpot) meals acting as perfect representations.

Q1. The missing word in [A] is:

1. few
2. tall
3. scattered
4. vast

Q2. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to **resilient**?

1. fragile
2. robust
3. delicate
4. pessimistic

Q3. What is the main reason the author gives for calling Hokkaido a “snow country?”

1. It’s a popular skiing destination.
2. It receives significant snowfall every winter.
3. It’s the birthplace of the snowman.
4. The snow influences the lifestyle and culture of the region.

Q4. The author makes all the following statements about Hokkaido EXCEPT:

1. The mountains and seas of Hokkaido are covered in snow.
2. The snow has led to the creation of snow festivals and art.
3. Dairy products in Hokkaido are popular because of its vast grasslands.
4. Onsen visits are popular to offset the cold of the snow.

Q5. Which of the following best represents the author's ideas in this passage?

1. Weather patterns, while influential, do not solely dictate cultural evolution; human adaptation plays a pivotal role.
2. Snow is the primary reason Hokkaido is famous worldwide.
3. The food in Hokkaido is superior due to its colder climate.
4. Hokkaido's development is primarily due to its geographical location, isolated from the rest of Japan.

V Read the following passage. Choose the best answer for each question.

***Note that all answers should be written on the answer sheet with numbers.**

When it comes to leadership, true leaders understand the importance of empathy. To **lead** effectively, one must be able to walk in the shoes of those they lead [1]. Understanding the aspirations, challenges, and concerns of team members enables a leader to make decisions for the collective good. This approach not only improves morale but also creates a sense of community within the team.

However, empathetic leadership isn't about pleasing everyone or shying away from difficult decisions. Rather, it's about understanding the perspectives and emotions of [2] others to provide direction and clarity. Authentic leaders realize that empathy isn't a sign of weakness but a demonstration of strength. They recognize that every individual has unique experiences, and when leaders tap into those experiences, they unlock [3] valuable insights from those on their team. Every budding leader should ask, "Why do I wish to lead?" It's not enough to simply desire a position of power. It's not [A] to simply express a wish to make decisions. What drives you to inspire and guide others [4]? What is the essence that compels you to stand at the front and lead, even when faced with adversity?

Q1. According to the article, what is essential for effective leadership?

1. Leaders must always make popular decisions.
2. Leaders should be able to understand the feelings and perspectives of their team.
3. Leaders need to ensure they have the highest position in a team.
4. Leaders must frequently rotate team members to keep things fresh.

Q2. The following phrase could be put in the article. Where would it best fit?

or understand their daily struggles

1. [1]
2. [2]
3. [3]
4. [4]

Q3. Which word from the list below means the SAME as "**lead**"?

1. direct
2. dictate
3. discuss
4. deliberate

Q4. The missing word in [A] is:

1. others
2. following
3. compelling
4. team

Q5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the article?

1. Empathy in leadership fosters community.
2. Authentic leaders understand individual experiences of their team.
3. Leading with empathy is a sign of weakness.
4. True leadership requires understanding the team's aspirations.

VI Read the passage, then read the following sentences 1 to 10. Write T if the sentence is True, and F if it is False.

***Note that all the answers should be written on the answer sheet with the letter “T” or “F” only.**

Pasta, often talked of as Italy’s culinary gift to the world, is an emblematic dish of Italian cuisine. Yet, the origins of pasta are as twisted as the fusilli you might find on your plate. While we often associate pasta with Italy, its historical roots stretch further east.

Legend has it that Marco Polo introduced pasta to Italy in the late 13th century after his travels in China, where he encountered noodle-like dishes. However, archaeological findings suggest that ancient civilizations in Italy were already producing pasta-like foods well before Marco Polo’s time.

One such civilization, the Etruscans, created pasta by grinding several grains and water and then cooking the mix to produce a staple dish. This early pasta was usually flat, like what we recognize as lasagna today. In ancient Rome, a similar dish called laganum was popular. It wasn’t until the Arab invasions of the 8th century that durum wheat, the primary ingredient for modern-day pasta, was introduced to Sicily. The Arabs brought a dried noodle product with them, which had the advantage of being long-lasting, an essential trait for their lengthy voyages.

With the establishment of pasta factories in the 13th and 14th centuries in Italy, especially in the regions of Gragnano and Naples, pasta began its journey to becoming the national dish. As time went on, various innovations, including different shapes and sauces, were introduced, giving us the rich variety of pasta dishes we relish today.

Q1. Pasta is solely an Italian invention.

Q2. There are stories that Marco Polo brought pasta to Italy from China.

Q3. The Etruscans and Romans had no knowledge of pasta-like dishes before Marco Polo.

Q4. The history of pasta can be traced back to ancient civilizations.

Q5. The primary ingredient of modern-day pasta was introduced to Italy by Arabs.

Q6. Durum wheat was already a staple in Italy before the 8th century.

Q7. Early forms of pasta were always long and stringy like spaghetti.

Q8. Pasta became popular in Italy only after the establishment of pasta factories.

Q9. The variety in pasta shapes and sauces has been consistent throughout its history.

Q10. Pasta was popular on long sea voyages due to its long shelf life.