

平成18年度 熊本県立大学 一般前期入学試験問題 (90分)  
英語I・II・リーディング・ライティング (平成18年2月25日)

【1】リスニングテスト問題 (この問題は試験開始後30分たってから始めます。それまでに答案用紙の指示を読んでおいてください。) —省略—

【2】次の英文を読んで設問に答えなさい。

Any discussion of English conversation, like any English conversation, must begin with the weather. And in this spirit of observing tradition, I shall, like every other writer on Englishness, quote Dr. Johnson's famous comment that 'When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather', and point out that ① this observation is as accurate now as it was over two hundred years ago.

This, however, is the point at which most commentators either stop, or try and fail, to come up with a convincing explanation for the English passion for the weather. They fail because their assumption is mistaken: they believe that our conversations about the weather are conversations about the weather. In other words, they assume that we talk about the weather because we have a keen interest in the subject. ② Most of them then try to figure out what it is about the English weather that is so fascinating.

Bill Bryson, for example, concludes that the English weather is not at all fascinating, and that our strong interest in it is therefore a mystery: 'To an outsider, the most striking thing about the English weather is that there is not very much of it. All those phenomena that elsewhere give nature an edge of excitement, unpredictability and danger — tornadoes, monsoons, violent blizzards, hurricanes — are almost wholly unknown in the British Isles.'

My research has convinced me that Bryson is missing the point, which is that our conversations about the weather are not really about the weather at all: English weather-speak is a custom which evolved to help us overcome our natural shyness and actually talk to each other. Everyone knows, for example, that 'Nice day, isn't it?', 'Ooh, isn't it cold?', 'Still raining, eh?' and other variations on the theme are not requests for weather information: they are ritual greetings or conversation-starters.

(Adapted from Kate Fox, *Watching the English*)

1. 下線部 ① を , “this observation” の内容を明らかにしながら , 日本語に訳しなさい。
2. 下線部 ② を日本語に訳しなさい。
3. 筆者によれば , Bill Bryson はイギリスの気候についてどのように考えているのか , 本文に即して 45 字以内にまとめなさい。
4. 天候に関するイギリス人の会話について , 筆者自身の意見を本文に即して 60 字以内にまとめなさい。

**【3】 次の英文を読んで設問に答えなさい。**

In our everyday lives, we seldom think about how our way of living is remarkably different from our ancestors. Even the simplest of actions, such as getting a cold drink from the refrigerator, is something that was impossible for over 99.9% of human existence. ① Everyone knows that modern technology has made life much more convenient, but we usually take all of its benefits for granted. Because we grew up with telephones, computers, air conditioners and many other modern conveniences, we consider them to be basic necessities. However, most of the conveniences that we have become accustomed to would have seemed like magic to most of our ancestors.

This remarkable change in the way we live, which began a few generations ago, has meant that we have lost some of our understanding of how we should behave. For example, unlike a wild animal, we have no instinctive idea of what a healthy diet is. Moreover, because we no longer need to hunt or gather food, we also have much less need to be active. In the developed world, most of us eat too much sugar and fat, and fail to get enough exercise. As a result, decayed teeth, heart diseases and high blood sugar have become common problems, but these diseases are rare in the animal world except for pet dogs and cats. ② They were also unusual among our ancestors because these types of foods and behavior are not very common in the natural world. ③ Now, however, obtaining sweet or fatty foods is as simple as walking, or perhaps driving, a block or two to a convenience store.

Our enjoyment of sugar and fat reflects our instinctive attractions to high calorie foods. Long ago, starvation was always a real possibility so we developed an instinct to seek out food that was high in sugar and fat. Now, suddenly, starvation is no longer a threat in developed countries, but we still have the instinct to seek out sweet and fatty foods. This seems to tell us that ④ some of our behavior in the present can be explained by examining our distant past.

(Adapted from Paul Stapleton, *New Perspectives*)

1. 下線部 ① と ③ を日本語に訳しなさい。
2. 下線部 ② が指す内容を具体的に表す部分を、本文中の英語から抜き出しなさい。
3. 下線部 ④ を本文に即して具体的に日本語で説明しなさい。

**【4】 次の英文を読んで設問に答えなさい。**

There is general agreement about the main purposes for which universities exist, but there are many differences of emphasis. Most people probably agree that universities should be concerned with the pursuit of knowledge of its own sake and with the training of the mind, but ① there are some who emphasize the importance of preserving the culture of the past, others who claim that the culture of the present day is chiefly scientific and that this should be a university's main focus. There is room for difference of opinion about some of these matters, but there would be wide-spread agreement with the view that the fundamental characteristic of a university is the combination of research with teaching. Research is simply the pursuit of knowledge accompanied by ② the realization that knowledge is not only something to be acquired but something to which the students himself can make a contribution. Among the aims of a university education must be included the acquisition of knowledge, but of far greater importance are the development of intellectual curiosity and the realization that the acquisition of knowledge is enjoyable, since the development of ③ these qualities is a guarantee that the acquisition of knowledge will continue after the student has left the university. The student has to develop his powers of assessing the value of evidence in order to decide for himself whether his discoveries have any value. He has to be objective and impartial in order to make sure that his conclusions will be such as any other intelligent and honest scholar will confirm when confronted with the same facts. ④ The ability to assess the relative importance of things is one of the most valuable qualities to be gained from the pursuit of knowledge, and it extends to the moral as well as to the intellectual field. Hence universities are concerned with the formation of character, although many university teachers who are deeply concerned with moral problems both for themselves and their students would not openly admit their concern in case students think they are too strict and old-fashioned.

(Adapted from G. L. Brook, *The Modern University*)

1. 下線部 ① と ④ を日本語に訳しなさい。
2. 下線部 ② の表す内容を日本語で具体的に述べなさい。
3. 下線部 ③ が指す内容を本文に即して日本語で述べなさい。

【5】次の文章の下線部①と②を英語に訳しなさい。

外国を旅行したり，住んだりすると，「人間，みな同じ」との感想を持つ。と同時に人間が場所場所でいかに違っているか，との思いも抱くものだ。

① イギリス人と付き合ってみてもたしかに「人間みな同じ」に思えてくる。彼らが悲しみや喜びに反応するさまは，日本人とまったく同じだし，相手の立場を考慮点でも日本人に似ている。島国に生まれ育ったから同じ島国の日本人に似て，内弁慶のところがある。② 恥ずかしがりやで，すぐには友人にはなれないが，いったん友人になれば驚くほど互いに心の琴線に触れ合うことができる。

(黒岩 徹『イギリス式人生』より)

## 解答例

## 【1】(リスニング解答省略)

【2】1. この天候で会話が始まるという意見は今でも 200 年以上前と同じくらい的確だ

2. それで彼らのほとんどは、イギリスの天候の何がそんなに魅惑的なのか解明しようとする。

3. 厳しい現象のないイギリスの天気は全く魅惑的でなく、イギリス人の天気への強い関心はなぞだ。(44 字)

4. イギリス人の天気に関する会話は天候の情報を得るためではなく、生来の気恥ずかしさに打ち勝ち、会話を始めるための挨拶だ。(60 字)

【3】1. ① 現代の科学技術が生活をはるかに便利にしてきたことはだれにもわかっていながら、ふつうは、その恩恵を当然だと見なす。

③ しかしながら、今や、甘い食品や高脂肪の食品を手に入れることは、1, 2 ブロック先のコンビニエンスストアまで歩いて、もしくは運転していくことと同じくらい単純なことだ。

2. decayed teeth, heart diseases and high blood sugar

3. 甘いものと高脂肪のものを求めるという現在の人間の振る舞いは、遠い昔に、飢餓が常に起こりえた本能に基づいていることを考えれば理解できるということ。

【4】1. ① 過去の文化の保存が重要だと強調する人々もいれば、現代文化は主に科学に関するもので、大学はこれに主に焦点を合わせるべきだと主張する人々もいる。

④ 物事の相対的な重要度を評価する能力は、知識の探求から得られる、最も価値ある特性の 1 つであり、それは、知的分野と同様に道徳的分野へも広がる。

2. 知識は手に入れるべき何かであるだけでなく、学生自身が貢献できる対象でもあるという認識。

3. 知的好奇心の発達と、知識の獲得は楽しいものだという認識。

【5】① When you associate with English people, you begin to think that “people are all the same.” The ways in which they react to sadness and happiness are just the same as the Japanese people. And the way they consider the feelings of other people is also similar to the Japanese.

② They are shy and it is not easy to become friends with them, but once you do become friends, you can understand each other surprisingly well.