

# 英 語〔問 題〕

(100点・70分)

## 注 意 事 項

1. 試験開始の合図があるまで、この問題冊子の中を見たり、裏返したりしてはいけません。
2. この問題冊子は17ページあり、解答用紙は1枚（両面）です。  
試験中に問題冊子・解答用紙の印刷不鮮明、ページの落丁などに気付いた場合は、手を挙げて監督者に知らせなさい。
3. 試験開始後、ただちに解答用紙の所定記入欄に、氏名・受験番号・誕生日をそれぞれ正しく記入し、さらに受験番号・誕生日をその下のマーク欄にマークしなさい。
4. 受験番号・誕生日が正しくマークされていない場合は、採点できないことがあります。
5. 解答は、解答用紙の解答欄に各設問で指示された方法で記入しなさい。  
マーク方式は、例えば、

|    |
|----|
| 20 |
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と表示のある問いに対して①と解答する場合は、次の(例)のように解答番号20の解答欄の①にマークしなさい。

(例)

| 解答番号 | 解 答 欄             |
|------|-------------------|
| 20   | ● ② ③ ④ . . . . . |

6. 問題冊子の余白等は、下書きなどに適宜利用してよいが、各設問で指示された解答は、必ず解答用紙の解答欄に指示された方法で記入しなさい。
7. 試験終了後、提出は解答用紙のみとし、問題冊子は持ち帰りなさい。

## Part I 次の英文を読んで設問に答えなさい。

Bees are among the most important and hardworking creatures in the natural world, playing a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. These small, buzzing insects are best known for their role in pollination, a process that enables plants to reproduce and thrive. Without bees, many of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts we eat daily would become scarce, affecting not only the human food supply but the entire web of life. Beyond agriculture, bees promote biodiversity by helping wild plants reproduce, which, in turn, sustains countless other species. Exploring the roles of bees helps raise awareness and increase understanding of ecological and environmental issues that are crucial for human existence.

There are approximately 20,000 known species of bees in the world. These species are incredibly diverse, varying widely in size, color, behavior, and habitat. Some types live in their own colony with distinct social structure. Bees can generally be categorized into two main types: wild bees and honey bees. Wild bees live in nature without human intervention. Many don't form colonies and often live alone. Each female bee builds and supplies her own nest in the ground, trees, or small holes. In contrast, honey bees live in large, highly organized colonies called "hives," where one queen, thousands of worker bees and \*drones live together. Crops and hives are often set in close locations for honey production and farming. Both types of bees are important because they transfer pollen between flowers, which helps plants to grow and reproduce.

Bees are considered one of the most important pollinators for many flowering plants, including both crops and wild plants. They transfer pollen between flowers, enabling plant reproduction, leading to the production of seeds, nuts, vegetables, and fruits. This pollination process is essential for both wild plant ecosystems and agricultural crop production. The Western honey bee is considered the most common species of pollinator for crops worldwide. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, approximately three quarters of the world's flowers and

one third of food crops annually depends at least partly on pollination of many types including bees.

By pollinating a wide range of plants, bees support plant diversity, which in turn supports diverse animal communities. In 2023, research by Nakamura's team showed that wild bees play a crucial role in pollinating fruit trees across Japan, including apples, pears, and persimmons. These trees rely on the bees to produce fruits, in turn, supporting a variety of animals that feed on them. Many animals, including birds and small mammals, rely on these plants not only for nutrition but also for survival. Bees play a crucial role in ensuring the stability and productivity of these plant populations, ultimately benefiting the broader ecosystem.

Bees also have a significant economic impact, as their pollination adds billions of dollars to the global economy through increased crop yields. In a Canadian study on blueberry crops, it was shown that the pollination services provided by wild bees were worth thousands of dollars per hectare. If projected globally, the savings would amount to between three and five billion US dollars per year. Other research has found that farms located near bees' natural habitats produce significantly higher yields of crops and higher fruit quality. Additionally, commercial beekeeping supports industries including farming, cosmetics, and medicine.

Bees also serve as a living indicator or a means to assess the health of an ecosystem. The rapid and huge decline in the number of bees has been seen as the loss of its vitality. Japan is a country that has experienced mass disappearance of bees. Long-term studies in northern Japan have documented a 40 percent reduction in wild bee populations over the past 60 years. This decline is <sup>(6)</sup> attributed to urban expansion, habitat fragmentation, and reduced floral resources, which have adversely affected bee communities.

The decline of the bee population is not limited to Japan. A 2025 study published by the US forest service found that Western bumblebees in the US have experienced significant declines due to climate change, land development, and pesticide exposure. These factors disrupted their habitat and foraging patterns,

contributing to their decline. In Sichuan, China, bees had completely disappeared in the early 2000s due to the overuse of pesticides. Another example, from a 2024 study, reported an overall loss rate of 21.3% during the 2022 and 2023 beekeeping season in nine Sub-Saharan African countries. The known causes of these losses included theft, drought, bush fires, and pests.

Bees do far more than pollinate plants—they play a vital role in the fabric of human life, influencing agriculture, global economy, and cultural traditions worldwide. Protecting and supporting bee population is essential not just for preserving biodiversity but also for maintaining agricultural productivity and food security. Adopting conservation measures, reducing pesticide use, and restoring natural habitats are crucial steps to protect these important pollinators. Bees remind us of the close connection between nature and society, as well as the urgent need to protect these remarkable creatures.

(7)

\*drones ブンブン飛び回る蜂

から  の質問の答えとして最も適切なものを選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

According to the passage, what would happen if bees were no longer available to pollinate?

- ① We would depend on more efficient pollinators to help feed the society.
- ② It could lead to a great change in our food taste.
- ③ Farmers would grow crops that do not need bees' pollination.
- ④ The crop production would significantly decrease and its cost would raise.

According to the passage, which of the following is NOT a characteristic of bee species?

- ① Different types can work together, depending on species or context.
- ② Some types of bees live in a colony while others do not.
- ③ Wild bees as well as honey bees sustain the growth of plants.
- ④ Bees vary widely in their physical or behavioral traits.

According to the passage, how much is the annual global rate of food crops dependent on pollinators like bees?

- ① about 30 percent
- ② about 40 percent
- ③ about 60 percent
- ④ about 75 percent

4

According to the passage, what is the economic impact of beekeeping?

- ① Beekeeping enables farmers to make quick and stable profits.
- ② Beekeepers expand their business in honey production.
- ③ Beekeeping supports jobs in farming, beauty and medical industries.
- ④ Beekeepers are getting organized globally to boost their production.

5

Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a cause of decrease in bee population?

- ① agricultural chemicals
- ② human activities
- ③ fatal diseases
- ④ harmful creatures

6

Which is the closest in meaning to the underlined words (6) ?

- ① caused by
- ② limited to
- ③ referred to
- ④ identified by

7

What does the underlined word (7) refer to?

- ① extra
- ② continuous
- ③ required
- ④ pressing

8

下の表は、この文章のメインポイントを段落ごとに順番に並べたものです。本文の流れに沿って、空欄に適する選択肢をひとつ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。ただし、同じ選択肢は一度しか使えません。

The role of bees in our ecosystem

8-1

8-2

Bees' pollination that ensures the diversity of plants and animals

Economic benefits of pollination by bees

Declines in the bee population in Japan

Cases of decline of the bee population in the world

8-3

- ① Human responsibility for protecting bees as vital pollinators
- ② Declining ecosystem services created by bees
- ③ Saving endangered bees and recovering their ecology
- ④ Scientific analysis of decreasing wild bee population
- ⑤ Types of bees and their living styles
- ⑥ Bees' great contribution to pollination
- ⑦ Pollinating plants that help the development of fruits and seeds
- ⑧ Far-reaching consequences for the loss of bees

9

最後の段落には下記の質問の答えがあります。その答えを日本語で要点を押さえて述べなさい。解答は解答欄に書きなさい。

9-1

According to the passage, why do we need to protect and support the bee population?

9-2

According to the passage, what steps should be taken to protect pollinators?

**Part II** 次の英文の空欄 **10** から **18** に入る最も適切な単語を選択肢から選び、その番号をマークしなさい。ただし、同じ選択肢は一度しか使えません。

You might wonder what drives adventurous people to participate in skydiving, given that it is often regarded as one of the most dangerous and **10** outdoor activities. Yet, all sports carry some risk, and skydiving is no exception. In fact, it is not the most dangerous activity. Experienced skydivers are aware that it is statistically safer than numerous **11** activities such as driving. Recent **12** indicate that a death rate for skydiving is less than 0.4 per 100,000 jumps in the United States, thanks to improvements in safety protocols, comprehensive training, and advanced equipment. Skydivers, who practice repeatedly and rely on advanced technology, **13** their extensive knowledge and complex skills to reduce risk and fully enjoy their total freedom in the sky. After reviewing skydivers' interviews and personal accounts shared by skydivers on their websites, you may find yourself more **14** to consider trying it if the chance arises. Skydivers share fascinating reasons that motivate them to **15** into the open sky: the thrill of extreme speed, weightlessness, **16** gravity, an experience never obtained by other adventures. Jumping from a plane, floating above **17** landscapes, and safe landing give them an intense feeling of liberation, confidence, pride, and accomplishment. As a growing global trend, skydiving allows people to **18** the human spirit in flight.

選択肢

- |            |              |            |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| ① apply    | ② celebrate  | ③ defying  |
| ④ inclined | ⑤ leap       | ⑥ reckless |
| ⑦ routine  | ⑧ statistics | ⑨ stunning |

**Part III** 次の表とそれに続く英文と図表を読んで、 19 から 22 の  
質問の答えとして最も適切なものを選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

Gender equality is one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is measured by various indicators that assess whether countries ensure equal rights and empower women and girls across different aspects of life. These indicators include access to healthcare and education, employment opportunities, and participation in leadership roles, such as positions in government or other public sectors.

Table 1 presents the scores of three East Asian countries—Japan, China, and South Korea—in 2024. These scores reflect how effectively their legal systems promote, support, and monitor gender equality in public life. Figure 1 shows the percentage of parliamentary seats held by women in the single or lower houses of these countries. Compare Japan's situation with that of China and South Korea.

| Country     | Points on a scale from 0 to 100 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| JAPAN       | 60                              |
| CHINA       | 80                              |
| SOUTH KOREA | 90                              |

Table 1. Points on a 0-100 scale indicating the degree to which legal systems facilitated, supported, and kept track of gender equality in public life in 2024 in Japan, China, and South Korea.

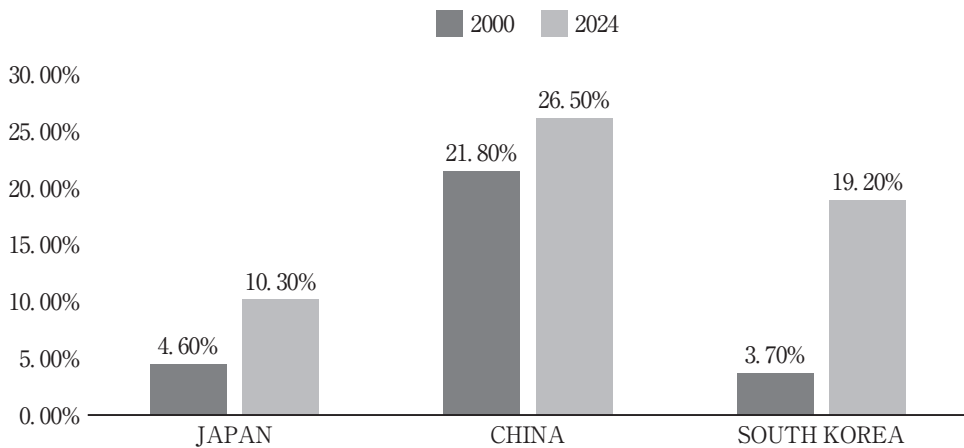


Figure 1. The proportions of seats held by women in single or lower houses of parliament in Japan, China, and South Korea in 2000 and 2024.

Although some progress has been made in terms of gender equality, particularly regarding women's representation in parliament, the overall percentages remain relatively low. Women in East Asian countries are active in both social and political spheres, yet they continue to be underrepresented in political decision-making roles. To improve this situation, especially in Japan, it is important to ensure that women receive sufficient support and have equal opportunities to take on leadership positions in political, economic, and social fields.

Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/>

19

What is mainly discussed in the article?

- ① Demands to create an organization for better communities
- ② Gender related issues and their origins in the current society
- ③ More superior power of women over men
- ④ Recent developments in achieving gender balance

20

Which of the following is true based on the article?

- ① Higher employment rates are strongly related to the quality of medical care and education.
- ② Japan has fewer gender-related opportunities compared to other East Asian countries.
- ③ The total number of offers for government or public positions indicates equal opportunities.
- ④ There are statistics on whether the legal systems of East Asian countries promote gender equality.

21

Which is the right interpretation of Figure 1?

- ① Japan recorded only about ten percent of women taking important positions in private companies.
- ② Representation of women in the legislative bodies has improved since 2000.
- ③ South Korea has successfully promoted the recruitment of recent graduates for 24 years.
- ④ The female population in China was higher in 2000 and continued to increase afterwards.

22

Which of the following shows the author's position?

- ① A good practice for gender discrimination should be expanded, especially in Japan.
- ② The recent trend is more than satisfactory, as the situation has improved in many sectors.
- ③ There must be sufficient institutional and social support for women in key areas of public life.
- ④ Women have started to represent themselves sufficiently in at least political debates.

**Part IV** 次の 23 から 26 の会話の空欄に入る最も適切な表現を選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

23

Miho : I really think choosing a career based on personal satisfaction is the most important thing. You'll be happier and more motivated if you genuinely love what you do.

Miki : Yeah, I get that, but salary's still a big deal. You've got to be able to support yourself and think about the future, maybe a family. Financial stability is what you really need.

Miho : Absolutely, but if you really dislike your job, no amount of money will truly make you happy. ( ).

Miki : I totally understand. But what if you find a job you adore, but it barely pays the bills? Then what?

Miho : That's where you need to find a balance. Look for a career that you enjoy but that also offers decent compensation.

Miki : You're right. Achieving a perfect balance is the key.

- ① You'd spend most of your life feeling miserable
- ② You'd build a life filled with pure enjoyment
- ③ You'd find deep dissatisfaction in your financial plan
- ④ You'd appreciate each day with great pleasure

Ken : I need to book a flight and hotel for the conference in Chicago next month. Do you have any recommendations for travel websites or airlines?

Ryo : Sure, Ken. I usually use Expe or Trav for booking flights and hotels. They often have good deals, and you can compare prices from different providers.

Ken : That's helpful. I'm also looking for a hotel that's close to the conference center. Do you know of any good options in that area?

Ryo : Yes, the Hills Chicago is right across the street from the conference center. It's a bit pricey, but it's very convenient. Another option is the Pal Hotel, which is a few blocks away and usually more affordable.

Ken : I'll check those out. Also, I need to rent a car for a day to visit some clients outside the city. Do you have any recommendations for car rental companies?

Ryo : For car rentals, I recommend Hezzer or Entty. They have reliable cars and good customer service. (        ), since it is often hard to find an available car.

- ① Consider purchasing their premium insurance
- ② Download their mobile app for faster check-in
- ③ Just make sure to book as early as possible
- ④ Check if they offer discounts for frequent renters

Jeff : I love the green spaces on our campus. They provide a place to relax, unwind, and connect with nature, which I really need in a high-pressure environment with all the assignments and exams. Don't you agree?

Mari : That's so true. I do think green spaces benefit us, but the university has limited the space to rest while expanding academic facilities on campus.

Jeff : I see your point. I wonder how seriously the university takes the situation. Reducing natural spaces can negatively impact students' mental health, academic performance, and overall quality of life.

Mari : You're right. We all need to learn about the impact. (        ).

Jeff : Exactly. Green spaces contribute to a healthier and more active campus atmosphere.

Mari : The university should carefully consider both academic facilities as well as green spaces when planning future campus expansions.

- ① I guess green spaces are an essential part of campus design
- ② There is no open discussion about the campus improvement plan
- ③ I hope the university will reconsider the plan for new library
- ④ We need to pay more attention to increasingly unhealthy students on campus

Kent : Ayumi, I can't imagine studying without my laptop and tablet. Everything is online now, from textbooks to research papers. It's convenient.

Ayumi : I agree that technology has made learning more accessible. However, I'm worried that relying too much on electronic devices might hinder our critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Kent : How so? We can access vast amounts of information instantly, which allows us to explore topics in greater depth and find diverse perspectives.

Ayumi : But are we truly processing and understanding that information, or are we just skimming and copying? Plus, constant notifications can make it hard to focus.

Kent : (        ). We can use apps to block distractions and focus on learning.

Ayumi : That's a good idea. We need to learn how to use technology as a tool to enhance our learning.

- ① I believe our access to technology has been greatly changed
- ② I think it's about using technology in a responsible way
- ③ We need to maximize the time for using technology
- ④ We should learn about historical background of technological advancement

**Part V** 次の各英文を読み，その内容を理解した上でカッコ内の語句をすべて使って，27 および 28 の下線部を正しく並べ換えなさい。ただし，他の語句を加えてはいけません。解答は作成した部分のみを解答欄に記入すること。

27

While watching the weather news on TV, I was somewhat frustrated with the reporters emphasizing the negative effects of 'bad' weather on our everyday lives. They seemed to link rain with inconvenience, anxiety, unhappiness or dullness. They could be right when saying that our safe and comfortable life can be threatened or damaged if intense rain lasts for a week or longer. However, I believe we should have a more balanced view of rainy days and seasons. Having lived in a wet part of the country, I appreciate the cozy sound and smell of rain, which makes me feel safe and relaxed while engaging in indoor activities. Every rainfall also reminds me of the simple fact that (the gift / needs / water / blessed with / all life on / of / Earth / to be).

28

Experiencing jet lag after a long travel to an exotic destination often diminishes the excitement of the trip, leaving me a miserable outcome. It sometimes puts me in a challenging physical and mental state, which I have not managed to overcome until now. Like many other travelers, I face challenges with insufficient sleep at night, excessive fatigue during the day, diminished desire to sleep when necessary, decreased appetite, and ongoing headaches that may last for two or three days. Although I have acquired some techniques from medical professionals to manage and reduce the impact, I have realized that (has not / resolve / following / the annoying / enough to / been / problem / their recommendations).