

2008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 JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO) SCHOLARSHIPS 2008

学科試験 問題

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

(高等専門学校留学生)

COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS

英 語

ENGLISH

注意 ☆試験時間は60分。

PLEASE NOTE : THE TEST PERIOD IS 60 MINUTES.

ENGLISH

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

I Select the word 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. I am () a stranger here.

1. quite 2. any 3. very 4. most

2. He is man of his word. He is ().

1. eloquent 2. square 3. trustworthy 4. talkative

3. He was highly () as a doctor.

1. looked 2. thought of 3. observed 4. considered

4. Mr. Hirosaki is something of a late (). At 83 his work of half a century was finally recognized worldwide.

1. runner 2. bloomer 3. challenger 4. painter

5. Tom does not feel at all well. I think he must have eaten something that () with him.

1. disturbed 2. harmed 3. poisoned 4. disagreed

6. You can leave a message at my hotel letting me know which day would best () you.

1. like 2. suit 3. avail 4. accomplish

7. Are you for or () the plan?

1. against 2. to 3. toward 4. with

8. Let's talk about the matter () coffee.

1. at 2. by 3. with 4. over

9. I'd like to give you a small () of our gratitude on behalf of all the members of our department.

1. batch 2. mark 3. token 4. memory

10. There is scarcely () water in the jug.

1. a little 2. no 3. some 4. any

11. A: That was a very nice dinner. Thank you for inviting me.

B: You're welcome. I enjoyed your ().

1. collaboration 2. assistance
3. company 4. acquaintance

12. The typhoon () great damage to the crops.

1. did 2. kept 3. made 4. suffered

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. () to say, for many people health is above wealth.

1. It no needs 2. Going without
3. Needless 4. Dispensable

2. I'm sorry to hear you had such trouble. I () you my telephone number.

1. had better give 2. should have given
3. ought to give 4. would have given

3. I think it's a good idea to () our fast food division and set it up as a new company.

1. churn out 2. bail out 3. spin off 4. take off

III Complete these sentences, putting the 6 words or phrases selected from those in brackets in the correct order. Note that no word is capitalized though it should be if it appears at the beginning of the sentence.

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

EXAMPLE : It doesn't (1. or not 2. if 3. whether 4. about me
5. come 6. to me 7. matter 8. you will).

Answer: 7 → 6 → 3 → 8 → 5 → 1

(* 2 and 4 are not used.)

1. Some parents (1. reading 2. their 3. children's 4. to 5. object
6. of 7. by 8. don't) comic books.
2. A: Hello. May I speak to Ms. Matsunobu?
B: I'm sorry, as (1. know 2. far 3. don't 4. as 5. I 6. such
7. long 8. we) have anyone by that name.
3. There are still (1. of 2. working 3. number 4. on 5. many
6. people 7. a 8. the) Sundays in Japan.
4. There are some occasions in which you (1. better 2. leave 3. to
4. had 5. the 6. not 7. unspoken 8. truth).
5. At this intersection a terrible traffic accident happened (1. to
2. remembered 3. that 4. be 5. for 6. caused 7. was 8. by)
years to come by the locals.
6. Our boss is very imaginative, and (1. up 2. a 3. along 4. comes
5. upon 6. often 7. with 8. great) idea.
7. I was at (1. do 2. and 3. what 4. loss 5. when 6. at
7. to 8. a).

8. She couldn't attend the (1. meeting 2. flu 3. of 4. on 5. for
6. late 7. account 8. the).

IV Read the following passage and select a sentence from 1., 2., 3., or 4. that best completes each sentence.

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

Wingstar Motors has developed the world's first airbag system for a production motorcycle. In a head-on collision, the deployed airbag absorbs some of the forward energy of the rider, thus reducing the velocity at which the rider may be thrown from the motorcycle. In an analysis of data Wingstar Motors gathered from 1990 on motorcycle accidents, the company found that the biggest cause of fatalities and injuries was head-on collision. After completing basic research, in 1996 Wingstar Motors incorporated a prototype airbag system, including a sensor system, into test models of their 1,500-cc touring bike. Head-on collision tests demonstrated the efficacy of the system in reducing the speed at which a rider is thrown from the bike.

The way a motorcycle behaves after a collision differs greatly according to the exact nature of the collision, with variants including speed and angle of impact. Wingstar Motors designed a motorcycle crash test dummy and sought to determine the injuries likely to be sustained by riders in a variety of collisions, not just those covered by ISO 13232, an international evaluation standard for motorcycle rider protective equipment. Wingstar Motors has presented the results from all of its research, starting from the early period of development in 1990, at international conferences on technology, where they have been highly praised.

The motorcycle airbag system comprises three main parts; the airbag module, which contains the airbag itself and the inflator that provides the gas for airbag deployment; the crash sensors, which monitor acceleration changes caused by a collision; and the airbag Electrical Control Unit (ECU), which performs the calculations

to determine when a collision has occurred.

Following a head-on collision, the four crash sensors mounted on the front fork measure the change in acceleration caused by the impact and convey this data to the ECU, which instantaneously determines whether or not it is necessary to inflate the airbag. If airbag deployment is necessary, the ECU sends an electrical signal to the airbag module, which releases and inflates the airbag. The airbag is deployed within an extremely short amount of time after the crash sensors detect an acceleration change.

The new model of motorcycle that first came with the airbag system fitted as a standard feature was released in the United States in the middle of 2006.

1. Wingstar Motors's newest airbag system

1. is mainly to reduce the possibility of the rider being thrown in a collision.
2. is wearable, wrapping the rider to protect them from injury in a collision.
3. is effective also in side-on and rear-end collisions.
4. is designed and based upon the ISO 13232 standard.

2. In the development of airbag system the company learned that

1. the bigger the motorcycle the likelier the rider would be injured in a collision.
2. the impact detected on the test dummy differed greatly from the impact on a real body.
3. in most accidents riders were injured or died in head-on collisions.
4. the force of the crash would provide enough power to inflate the airbag.

3. The motorcycle airbag system

1. was first sold as an option.
2. was first attached to a motorcycle in 2006.
3. was not released until late 2006.
4. has been enthusiastically received and has sold well.

4. The part that is NOT included in the motorcycle airbag system is

1. an air pump
2. an accelerator
3. an impact sensor
4. a collision calculating unit

V Read the passage and answer the following questions.

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

You may have heard of jokes regarding the reactions to jokes depending on one's country.

A friend of mine who has worked in various countries as an interpreter says that a French man starts laughing when a joke is only half told because he or she already knows the pun, while an American does not laugh because he or she has already heard most jokes. A German laughs the day after because he or she analyzed the joke logically overnight.

Then what about Japanese? He says a Japanese person only smiles as he or she does not understand the joke but follows what others do. [A]

I have another story on jokes and the Japanese. Steve Waller, senior director of technology at Global Chemical Inc. , took a big risk recently in a presentation in Tokyo on the new technology in etching micro miniature electronic circuits on a silicon wafer. He began his speech with a joke.

"I'm always asked two questions in Japan," Waller says to the audience. "First, what does your department do, and second, do you like sushi? The answer to the

first one is the most difficult to answer and the answer to the second is absolutely yes.” Many laugh, and the somber mood the 36-year-old Waller had sensed before beginning his speech seems to have lightened up.

But he hits a snag about halfway through his speech when he asks the audience some questions. It’s a technique he has used successfully in the U.S. in order to get to know the audience. It fails in Japan. [B]

“Nobody raised their hands,” he says. “It really surprised me at first. Now, when I see that happening, I’ll change the tone of my voice to get them to respond. But I don’t always succeed.”

Waller did what most American professional speech trainers advise against by joking with a Japanese business audience. But he is an accomplished speaker and managed to carry it off.

Humor often doesn’t translate into another language, experts say, and cultural references that are often used in jokes are usually lost on the listeners. Instead, foreign speakers in Japan are advised to be spontaneous, speak from the heart or tell a personal story that is relevant to the speech. [C]

Kristina Gibbs, president of a Tokyo-based market-research firm, tells the story of her business partner as an example.

“He was an excellent teller of jokes and stories,” she says. “He translated two jokes into Japanese with the help of Japanese friends. He practiced to the point where he told them flawlessly. But when he gave the jokes, the Japanese audience didn’t understand anything. It was doubtful whether they even knew it was a joke or not.”

The typical Japanese speech doesn’t begin with a joke as it might in the U.S. Instead, a Japanese speech is usually begun with an apology, such as “I’m not the expert,” “I’m not good enough to be here,” “The other guy is not here,” or “I’m so young and unworthy.”

[D] This practice is diametrically opposed to U.S. business culture, in which executives cannot advance unless they are very good speakers.

1. What is this passage mainly about?

1. How to succeed in making a speech in Japan.
2. The failures that the American experts has suffered in presentations in Japan.
3. The cultural differences in making speeches between Japan and the U.S.
4. The cultural conflicts on jokes between Japan and the western countries.

2. Why does the author express Mr. Waller's action in Tokyo as "a big risk"?

1. Because it was a technique that many American speech trainers suggest is best avoided.
2. Because he was poor at translating and would confuse the audience.
3. Because he was revealing a company secret to his competitors.
4. Because it was the same result as many of his friends had experienced.

3. The following sentence can be added to the passage.

"This is not a culture accustomed to our style of speech making," Waller says.

Which part [A], [B], [C], or [D] would it best fit in the passage?

1. [A]
2. [B]
3. [C]
4. [D]

4. What surprised Mr. Waller when he gave a presentation in Tokyo?
 1. That no one in the Japanese audience responded to his questions.
 2. That he was given thunderous applause for his jokes.
 3. That the hall soaked up the oppressive atmosphere after his jokes.
 4. That some of the audience asked some questions, interrupting his presentation.

5. According to the author, which is the most suitable expression to use at the beginning of a speech given to a Japanese audience?
 1. "I'm sorry, I no longer want to answer the same question. . . of course I like sushi!"
 2. "I don't think myself adequate for today's speech, but I will appreciate it if you listen to me till the end."
 3. "I am sorry to hear that you don't understand our jokes, but I will try anyway".
 4. "I heard Japanese comedians are kind enough to tell the audience when they should laugh, so I will do the same".

VI Read the passage, then read the following sentences 1 to 10 and 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.

1. Proxemics

At parties where many foreigners gather, it so happens from time to time that you stand too close to a person who as a result backs off, or you get surprised as someone comes very close to you. To speak a foreign language itself needs an extra effort, but what is unexpectedly quite difficult is to keep an appropriate distance from a person with a different cultural background when you talk to that person.

In addition to language issues, maintaining an appropriate distance and space

from the person you are talking to is a very important factor in making communication a success. In cross-cultural communication, the study of how space can be used effectively is called proxemics.

The word “proxemics” derives from proximity which means a degree of distance in space. In addition to language, how far (or close) you stand from the person you are talking to has a far greater influence on communication than you might imagine.

When somebody comes near you to a degree different from your tolerance of space, what would be your reaction? For example, suppose you are standing in line in front of a shop and somebody comes and stands right behind you. “What an impolite person he is to stand so close to me!” Saying this to yourself may be your immediate reaction. Very few people would objectively analyze the situation and say to themselves, “The person standing behind me must be a foreigner. And in his country it must be customary to stand close to others.” Even if we know in our mind that there is a great variety of cultures and habits and that people’s actions are dictated by their cultural backgrounds, our emotions override rationality when something unexpected happens to us. Our reactions take place quite subconsciously, as they are deeply rooted in our values and frames of judgment.

2. Body Bubble and Crowded Trains

Everybody has a space around him that one does not want anybody to enter. This space covers the body like a bubble, and this is why it is called a body bubble. Your body bubble expands and contracts like a real bubble and depending on the person you are dealing with, this “impenetrable territory” changes. Between people in an intimate relationship like sweethearts, bubbles are not likely to be necessary. An exception to this may be crowded trains. You may end up standing very close to a person you do not even know for an hour or so. In this case, there is not enough physical space to cover yourself with a body bubble. Crowded trains may be unique to Japan, but a similar example may be found in elevators in Europe and the United States. In a crowded elevator, you have no choice but to stand close to

others to a degree that exceeds your tolerance.

In such occasions, how do you react?

Looking down, avoiding eye contact as much as you can, closing your mouth, feeling tense in the shoulders. . . these are all common reactions for people standing in a crowded elevator. On Japanese trains, in addition to these types of reactions, quite a few people doze while standing or listen to music with their headsets on. Having to commute to the office or school everyday while your body bubble is considerably deflated must be extremely stressful so this reaction can be interpreted as a type of self-defense.

When you are subject to extreme proximity everyday, to compensate for the bursting of your physical bubble, you tend to create a mental barrier so that you can behave as if nobody is near you. If non-Japanese researchers look at the Japanese habit of being physically close to each other, they would draw mistaken conclusions because though this is indeed a close proximity, it is involuntary. Moreover, in old Japanese architecture, sliding doors and paper screens are widely used. These partitions are very subtle, which may suggest that privacy has a different connotation in Japan than in Europe and the United States.

In Japanese companies, large office rooms are often used where you sit next to each other, and it is often the case that a boss scolds his subordinate in a loud voice in front of other people. In many hospitals, doctors' rooms are partitioned with a curtain and people in the waiting room can overhear conversations between the doctor and his patient. Based on these observations, as in the case of crowded trains, Japanese may have a different mindset in which they can keep a mental distance while being close to each other physically. It is a different dimension whereby you hear something but you pretend not to, and there is somebody near you but you pretend that person is not there.

Whatever the case may be, it is clear that this body bubble and the aforementioned proxemics constitute an integral part of nonverbal communication.

1. It is difficult to know the appropriate distance to keep when we talk to someone who is from a different culture.
2. The distance one stands from another person greatly influences the nature of the communication when the two talk.
3. Proxemics is a study of how we can approximate the size of one's body bubble to that of another person.
4. The size of one's body bubble is influenced by the nature of the relationship with the person being talked to.
5. Everyone has a bubble around the body but it is invisible because it easily evaporates when another person approaches you.
6. People try to keep their body bubble while listening to music in a crowded train.
7. In Japan you cannot expect people to respect your privacy.
8. Supervisors in Japanese companies often scold a worker in front of other co-workers.
9. A small space like an elevator is suited to a person who wants to keep him or herself away from the people around them.
10. Even when we realize the person encroaching upon our body bubble comes from another country, our instinctive reaction is to be upset.