

Otsuma Junior High School

Entrance Exam for Returnees 2024

Date: December 10, 2023

ENGLISH

(50 minutes)

1. DO NOT OPEN the test paper until instructed to do so by the teacher.
2. Write all answers on the answer sheet.

Application Number (受験番号)	
Name (English)	

Choose the best item to fill in each blank space.

- 1 Lionel Messi is one of the greatest football players in the world. The 2022 World Cup championship was his most remarkable () as a player.
A. illustration B. concentration
C. achievement D. movement

- 2 This open space is for pedestrians. Please make sure to park your () in one of the designated parking spaces.
A. vehicle B. trade
C. equipment D. operation

- 3 Margaret will spend a few years in New York. Her main () of moving there is to study Broadway musicals. She is very excited now.
A. process B. accident
C. purpose D. behavior

- 4 You'll have trouble finding a hotel in Tokyo at that time of the year. You should () a room in advance.
A. accustom B. reserve
C. attach D. propose

- 5 "I hear the rock concert of ABC Rainbow is going to be broadcast live today."
"Really? I love that group so much. I can't () it."
A. lose B. miss
C. announce D. afford

- 6 His speech had only a few words, but it () a message which impressed the audience. So, he was showered with praise.
A. conveyed B. postponed
C. predicted D. estimated

The following is a summary of your classmate's project on tap water.

Do you drink tap water? Or, do you prefer mineral water? Tap water in Japan is very safe and clean. Japan is one of only nine countries where you can drink safe tap water.



Why is tap water recommended?

Tap water is clean and safe.

Some people may think “tap water is not safe to drink,” but Japan has strict guidelines for tap water quality, and you won't have any health problems if you drink it. It is also said that tap water is actually safer than mineral water.

Tap water is tasty.

If you think tap water tastes bad, just try it, and you'll find that's a myth. In one study, where people were asked to compare the tastes of two kinds of water, little taste difference was reported between Tokyo's tap water and mineral water.

Tap water is cheap.

It's true that you must pay for your water supply. However, it's very cheap compared to buying bottled water, and you can save a lot of money by drinking tap water.

Tap water helps the environment.

Unlike bottled water, you don't have to dispose of containers every time you drink tap water, so you can save the environment by reducing litter. You can also buy your favorite canteen and take it with you anywhere.

Some reasons you still need to purchase mineral water

- If you have allergies or health problems related to any of the chemicals used in tap water, you should avoid it.
- In case of disasters, such as an earthquake, the tap water supply may stop for a long period. For those occasions, you should always stock mineral water.

- 1 Based on the summary, which statement is TRUE?
 - A. The author concludes that tap water is economical and eco-friendly.
 - B. The author believes the quality of tap water is not guaranteed.
 - C. The project implies that tap water includes as many nutrients as mineral water.
 - D. The author suggests that mineral water is not important on any occasion.

- 2 Which statement is a good supporting argument for the author's proposal?
 - A. The price of tap water per liter is only 0.1 yen, about 1,000 times cheaper than mineral water.
 - B. The older people become, the more satisfied they become with the taste of tap water.
 - C. Tap water can be stored for three days at room temperature and ten days in the fridge.
 - D. About 60% of parents in the 30 to 39 age group answered that they were worried about drinking tap water.

- 3 Which comment DOES NOT match the information in the project?
 - A. "We have experienced a lack of water in a major earthquake before, so it's wise to keep bottled water for emergencies."
 - B. "Since my son has medical concerns related to the chlorine in tap water, we need to buy mineral water."
 - C. "Many companies produce mineral water, so we can choose different brands and enjoy the variety."
 - D. "We have different sizes of water canteens available now. For instance, a 150ml mini bottle is ideal for brief activities."

Read the following passage and discussion, then answer the questions.

<Discussion Question>

Edward W. Stewart said, “Agriculture was the first occupation of man, and as it embraces the whole earth, it is the foundation of all other industries.” However, today’s agricultural industry is in danger as it is facing a severe shortage of workers. In this situation, smart agriculture (using IT and AI technology) appears to be a key to solving the problem and reviving agriculture. How can it help the industry?

<Homework>

- Individual Homework: Research the problem
- Group Discussion: Share your opinions with other members

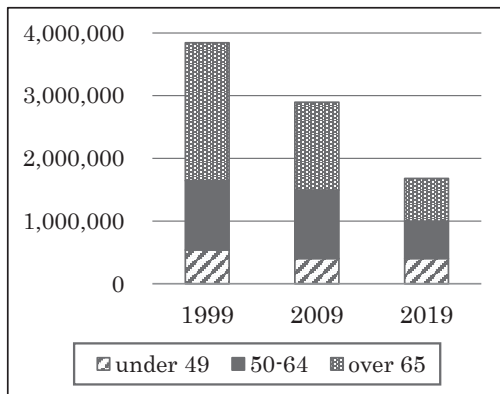
<Group Discussion>

- Natsu: Let us explain the problem of the aging workforce in Japan’s agricultural industry. Vivian and I researched about the current situation concerning that issue.
- Vivian: Yes. First of all, the number of people working in agriculture has been dramatically decreasing, from 3.89 million in 1999 to 1.68 million in 2019. Surprisingly, within 20 years, it has shrunk 43%!
- Koji: The average age of farmers has increased, too, from 61.1 in 1999 to 67.0 in 2019. For over 20 years, farmers 65 years old and over have been the biggest part of the workforce, and now they represent more than two thirds of all farmers.
- Sanae: Well, to be honest, my image of agriculture is not so positive. It’s hard, dirty, and dangerous. We call it 3K in Japanese, “*Kitsui, Kitanaï, Kiken.*” However, through my research, I learned today’s agriculture is very trendy, involving a lot of advanced technologies.
- Natsu: I agree. And such smart agriculture is an important key to this issue, because it helps (1), cuts out some costs, and improves productivity.
- Sanae: That’s right. IT, AI, big data and advanced robotics – these are all helpful and effective aids in modern agriculture.
- Vivian: Probably the most popular example of smart agriculture is weather stations that include various smart farming sensors. Located across fields, they collect various

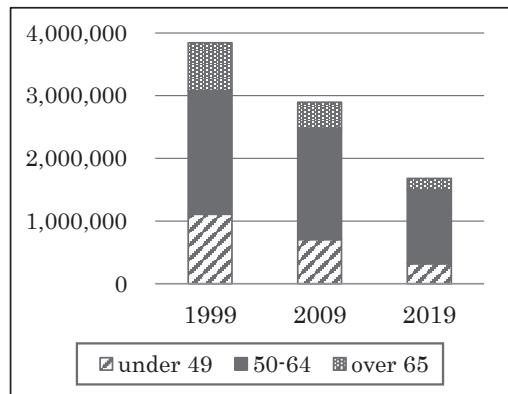
- data from the environment. They can read climate conditions and take necessary actions to improve production.
- Natsu: It's helpful because no matter what technological innovations happen, growing food will always be dependent on the weather where it is grown.
- Koji: Look at this photo. What do you think this is? This is *kakashi*. Yes, it's named *kakashi*, but it's different from traditional ones. This *e-kakashi* doesn't keep birds away, but (2), this tool checks light, heat, humidity, water, soil conditions, CO₂ and a lot more, and tells farmers remotely. We don't need to stay and watch the farms for 24 hours a day. All we need is to check a smartphone and press buttons.
- Sanae: Auto-pilot tractors are becoming popular. Farmers do not need to drive them, but can leave them working, even in the rain or at night. (3), if a farmer owns more than one tractor, he can harvest twice or three times as much crop at one time.
- Natsu: Drones are also innovating agriculture in several ways. They sprinkle pesticides from the air. This not only saves farmers from hard work but also helps minimize pesticide use. AI can calculate precise amounts and sprinkle it efficiently.
- Vivian: They can also check the size, color and conditions of food products and tell farmers problems that happen.
- Sanae: Take the Netherlands as a successful example. The Netherlands is a small country, and its land and environment are not very ideal for agriculture. The country started smart agriculture development in the 1980s to compete with cheaper products from countries like Spain and Portugal. Now, 80% of Dutch farmers use smart farming methods. In 2018, they exported agricultural products worth \$109 billion. They have become the second-largest exporter worldwide, just behind the United States.
- Vivian: They export smart agriculture technology along with agricultural products. Japan, with its experience in technology production, can adopt this business model as well.
- Koji: It's important to mention that the Dutch government has actively supported and invested in the agricultural revolution for the whole country.
- Natsu: Well, in many ways, the Netherlands serves as a good model for Japan.
- Sanae: As we all know, Japan is blessed with water, sun, and land. Hopefully, Japanese agriculture will prosper with smart agriculture.

- 4 Choose an appropriate phrase to fill in the blank (1).
- A. make up for the lack of workers
 - B. grow vegetables that are strong against environmental changes
 - C. reduce the amount of expensive products
 - D. influence more farmers to give up their farms
- 5 Choose an appropriate combination of words/phrases to fill in blanks (2) and (3).
- A. (2) additionally : (3) After all
 - B. (2) instead : (3) Furthermore
 - C. (2) in other words : (3) Similarly
 - D. (2) in the same manner : (3) On the contrary
- 6 Choose the right graph referred to in the discussion.

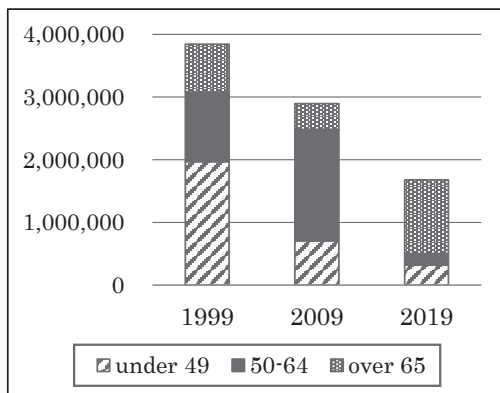
A.



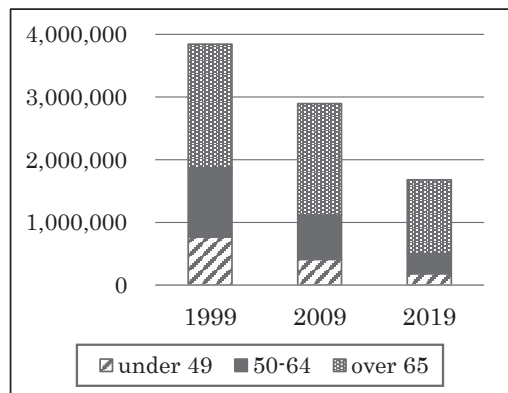
B.



C.



D.



- 7 Which technology will help solve the issue in the following report?
- A. weather stations
 - B. *e-kakashi*
 - C. auto-pilot tractors
 - D. drones



Exposure to Agri-Chemicals and Health Effects on Farm Owners

As farmers, you recognize the benefits of using agricultural chemicals to prevent diseases, keep away insects, or to add nutrients in your crop. Yet, you may be concerned about the possibility of negative effects on your family's health and safety.

In fact, the use of pesticides is increasing in low and middle-income countries. This increase can cause health problems for farm owners, farm workers, and communities living near those farms.

- 8 Which statement is NOT appropriate as a reason why the Netherlands is referred to as a good model for Japan?
- A. The Netherlands proved that even a small country can increase productivity with the use of advanced technology.
 - B. The number of people who engaged in farming has continued to increase with the promotion of smart agriculture.
 - C. The Dutch government has taken a leading role in supporting agricultural development on a national level.
 - D. The Netherlands has been selling its advanced technology overseas, too.

Read the following news article, then answer the questions.

Meet the Kind Strangers Who Became Real Christmas Elves to Kids in Need

Derek Burnett

November 10, 2022

For years, Stephanie Levinson, a preschool teacher in a severely disadvantaged neighborhood, knew that her young students were in difficult situations – some were homeless, many were in foster care, others were crowded into garages or single rooms with eight to ten family members – so she made sure to be good to them every Christmas season.



It was hard to do on a teacher’s salary, but she managed to bring the kids a little holiday magic – a pack of crayons, a pencil, something. No matter how small the gift was, Levinson’s students were always grateful.

Then the COVID pandemic hit, and online learning started. But Zoom opened teachers’ eyes to many other physical hardships their students faced. For Levinson and her colleagues, it was a look into their students’ home lives – and what they saw broke the teachers’ hearts.

One student spent her daily six hours of Zoom at the back of a convenience store while her father worked. On screen, other students had brothers and sisters in the background, all sharing one bed and doing online school for various grades.

And, with the heating of the school building now inaccessible to the students, Levinson began to hear a common complaint about being cold. “They’d be trying to type on the computer, and you could see that their little fingers were cold.” It was Southern California, so the temperatures weren’t freezing – but they did drop, and a lot of the kids were working in unheated spaces.

Levinson knew she had to do something. She created a simple wish list on Amazon: a blanket for each of her 24 students, and sent a request to the residents of her neighborhood. “Help Keep My Students Warm,” she wrote. Five minutes later she got a text from a neighbor. “I’m looking at your wish list,” the message read, “but there’s nothing there because someone else has already fulfilled your list.”

Quickly, Levinson reached out to her colleague who taught the school's other pre-kindergarten class. "Can I add your class to the wish list?" she asked.

"Sure!"

And just as quickly, the second class received donated blankets. Still more messages came in: "We want to buy. We want to help. There's nothing there."

Her actions had spread through SNS. Whatever she asked for, generous donors were willing to provide. Levinson had always been touched by how caring and generous her students were. If they received some small gift, they'd often share it with their family. After these donations came pouring in, the classroom's elf doll joined Levinson's Zoom class. The elf is believed to be Santa's helper, and its message was, "You're being good! I'm telling that to Santa! You'll be getting gifts from him."

"COVID hit us pretty hard," says Monique Luna, whose son Nathan was a pre-K student in Levinson's class. "My husband had lost his job. We depended on those gifts."

As the summer of 2021 ended, and students and teachers prepared to return to in-person schooling, Levinson started hearing from her donors. "We want to help with back-to-school supplies," they said. "Do you need stuff? Can we help?"

Because school supplies were expensive, of course the families needed help. Once again, Levinson put up a wish list, and they got so many donations that she made sure all of the school's 600 students received a backpack filled with supplies.

For Christmas 2021, the community again brought gifts to Levinson's school, from blankets and toys, to free tutoring services. Inspired by what had happened there, teachers at other low-income schools in the area put up Amazon wish lists of their own, and they, too, received a lot of donations.

For the students, their universe is simple. "They completely believe that the elf brings all this stuff from Santa, and that their kindness is why it's happening," Levinson says. "I love that they believe this."

(adapted from an article from Reader's Digest)

- 9 How did the COVID pandemic impact the teachers' understanding of their students' lives?
- A. It made them realize the importance of online learning.
 - B. It allowed them to communicate more effectively with parents.
 - C. It exposed the physical hardships students faced at home.
 - D. It made teachers realize how helpless they felt in their daily online lessons.
- 10 Choose one statement that is TRUE according to the passage.
- A. Before the COVID pandemic, Levinson had never imagined giving Christmas gifts to her students.
 - B. The parents of Levinson's students do not think the gifts are useful.
 - C. Levinson's success encouraged teachers at other low-income schools to put up Amazon wish lists.
 - D. Levinson's students believe gift donations have nothing to do with the elf and Santa.
- 11 [Answer in English. Write at least one complete sentence.]
How did Levinson get blankets for students?
- 12 [Answer in English. Write at least one complete sentence.]
Why and how do Levinson's students believe they got gifts?

Choose one of the questions below, and write a 120-150 word essay in English to answer it. Identify the question number of your choice on the answer sheet.

- 1 Do you agree with the statement “Imagination is more important than knowledge”? Why or Why not?

- 2 Why is it important to have diversity in schools?

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