

Otsuma Junior High School

Entrance Exam for Returnees 2023

Date: December 9, 2022

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 Patricia's parents are (). They moved from Russia to Canada before she was born.
A. immigrants B. consumers
C. voters D. victims

- 2 In an effort to answer any questions you may have, ABC High School will conduct a meeting on Tuesday. However, space will be limited and () for this event will start early next week.
A. proportion B. production
C. occasion D. registration

- 3 The teacher uses fun games to () the students' interest in the subject.
A. remove B. stimulate
C. depress D. extend

- 4 Mr. Peacock () us to check the assignments he posts online every afternoon.
A. reminds B. serves
C. confuses D. offends

- 5 Young students should be () to different cultures and languages. That's why we strongly encourage them to go abroad early in their lives.
A. caused B. drown
C. exposed D. combined

- 6 Daichi was nervous about his first public speech, but he was able to () that speaking in public was easy.
A. regret B. pretend
C. adjust D. bother

- 7 The students who want to improve their English skill should keep a diary. It is one of the most () used methods.
A. terribly B. materially
C. commonly D. plainly

The following is a summary of your classmate's project on fall enrollment.

Some universities in Japan have fall admission options – *Aki-Nyugaku* – for Japanese students returning from study abroad programs, foreign exchange students, and general applicants. How would fall enrollment benefit students?



1 Benefits for Students

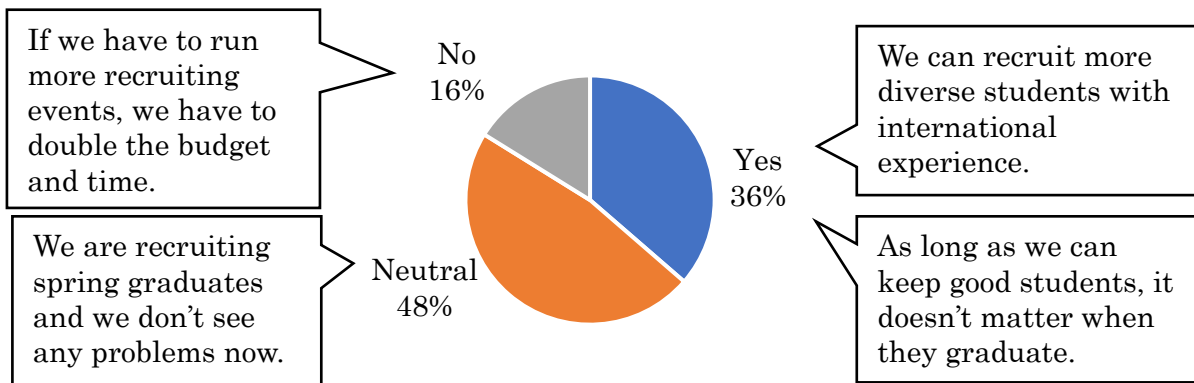
- Students would have another chance at being admitted if they fail the spring enrollment exam.
- Students could take advantage of a gap term/year – the period between graduating from high school and starting university – and gain experiences through studying abroad and volunteer activities.
- Students could get part-time jobs and earn money for their own tuition before going to universities.

2 Benefits for Universities

- Universities could invite more international students. Greater diversity in the student profile would make universities more attractive.
- Universities could maintain a steady profit by getting more students in fall.
- It would be easier to organize exchange programs or transfer admission programs with foreign universities.

Company Voices

Do you agree with fall admission?



- 1 Based on the summary, which statement is TRUE?
 - A. The author concludes that fall enrollment has negative impacts on students and universities.
 - B. The author believes a gap term/year has more demerits than merits for academic achievement.
 - C. The project implies that Japanese universities should be more globalized by introducing fall admission.
 - D. The author would agree with the idea that giving one-shot exams is fair for all students.

- 2 Which statement is a good supporting argument for the author’s proposal?
 - A. More and more high school students answered “study abroad programs” as an important factor for them in choosing their universities.
 - B. Even with fall admissions, there are still mismatches with universities in Australia and New Zealand, whose admission is in February.
 - C. Most Japanese high school students hope to enroll in universities soon after their graduation from high school in March.
 - D. Preparing entrance exams is already placing a heavy burden on universities and high schools, and we should not double it.

- 3 Which comment DOES NOT match the “Company Voices” in the project?
 - A. “The new academic year would give our company more opportunities to gain global talent.”
 - B. “Companies like ours cannot afford additional recruitment costs.”
 - C. “We agree with fall admission because our company always looks for good workers.”
 - D. “We don’t count any experiences that students gain during their gap year, because it is additional time that they would waste.”

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

<Discussion Question>

As one of the nations with the largest aging populations, with one in five citizens aged 70 or older, Japan is facing a sensitive problem: how to maintain comfortable lifestyles for people as they get older, while also keeping traffic accidents down.

<Homework>

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

<Group Discussion>

Rika: Deadly accidents involving older drivers often make national news. The most striking case, as you know, is an 87-year-old elderly driver who struck and killed a mother and her daughter, and injured nine others, in Ikebukuro in 2019.

Yu-Jin: That was such a tragic accident, and it has invited a heated discussion about the dangers of senior drivers and accidents caused by them.

Jenny: Well, to begin, let's share our analysis on the current situation.

Kyoko: Look. This graph shows the number of fatal traffic accidents – per 100 thousand drivers in the past 10 years – caused by drivers aged 75 or older and those who are younger. Both the rates and number of accidents have been constantly decreasing in both groups. However, it's also been a steady trend that senior drivers cause more than double the number of fatal accidents in all years than younger drivers.

Rika: So, we can say (1) that deadly accidents involving elderly drivers are becoming more frequent, (2) that there are more chances for them to cause accidents than younger drivers.

Yu-Jin: Indeed, age-related changes in vision, physical functions, and the ability to reason and remember might affect some older adults' driving abilities and lead to driving errors, such as pressing the accelerator instead of the brake pedal, or driving the wrong way on a highway.

Kyoko: Therefore, right now, the government strongly encourages them to return their

licenses. Many local governments have introduced some incentives to encourage elderly drivers to return their drivers' licenses, such as train and bus discounts, pick-up services and others.

Yu-Jin: According to research by the National Police Agency, about 600 thousand people in Japan voluntarily returned their licenses in 2019, the highest number on record since 1998.

Jenny: However, it's not as easy as it seems. The return rate dropped in the following two years. We can say that, in the corona pandemic, travel and commuting are restricted, and also decreased. The use of public transportation remains on the decline, while private cars and people walking are increasing, in order to avoid infection.

Rika: That's right. This graph shows changes in commuting compared to January 2020, before the spread of the pandemic. As you can see, about 50 to 60% of the respondents answered that they have come to avoid traveling by train or bus. On the other hand, the percentage of respondents who answered that they have increased traveling by private car has almost doubled from 15% to more than 30% between June 2020 and March 2022.

Kyoko: Also, I think giving up driving can be (3) because they have to admit that they are no longer able to drive safely, and because they are not ready to abandon lifestyles they are accustomed to. It's important to take steps that support public safety, while treating older drivers with dignity and understanding their feelings.

Yu-Jin: I agree. Many people easily say that older drivers should give up their drivers' licenses – but their cars and driving have become essential parts of their lives.

Rika: One thing I would propose is to give limited licenses according to levels of cognitive function and driving skills. The idea is to let those who have such problems drive only certain types of cars, for example, ones with automatic braking systems or smaller sized ones that can only run at a restricted speed.

Jenny: The issue is that there's no one-size-fits-all solution to keeping seniors safe while driving. You can't say that, at X point in someone's age, they are definitely going to face a certain physical or mental problem.

Kyoko: So we have to change not only the laws or create new safe-driving cars, but also think of the quality of life in an aging society, and increase awareness of both elderly and younger drivers about the issue.

4 Choose an appropriate combination of words/phrases to fill in blanks (1) and (2).

- A. (1) it's true : (2) and it's also true
- B. (1) it's true : (2) but it's not true
- C. (1) it's not true : (2) but it's true
- D. (1) it's not true : (2) and it's not true

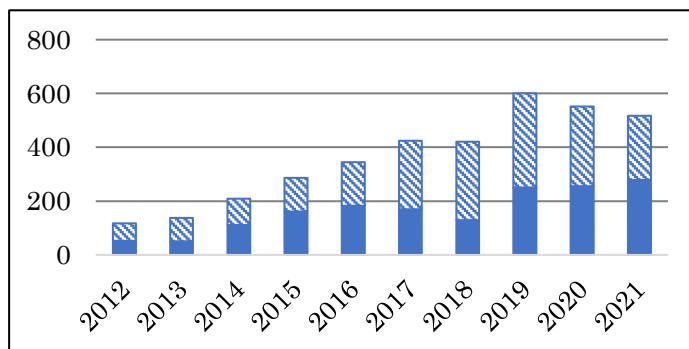
5 Choose an appropriate word to fill in the blank (3).

- A. logical
- B. emotional
- C. illegal
- D. economical

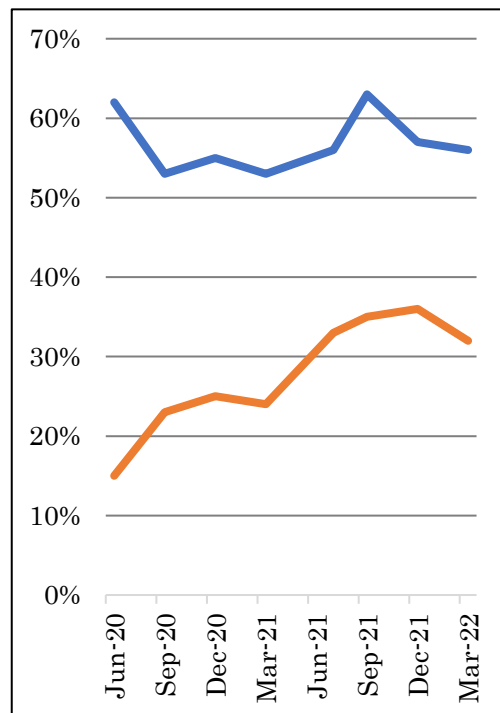
6 The graphs X, Y and Z are referred to in the discussion. Which statement is true about the graphs?

- A. From Graph X, you can conclude that the number of elderly drivers is growing.
- B. Graph Y is explained by Yu-Jin for his analysis.
- C. Graph Z reflects the government's efforts to encourage drivers to return their licenses.
- D. Graphs X and Z reflect impacts of the corona pandemic.

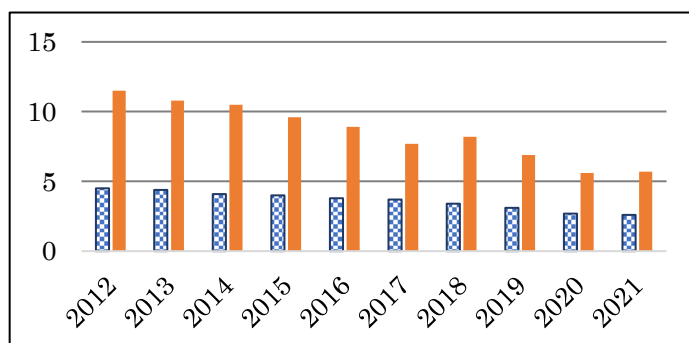
Graph X



Graph Z



Graph Y



- 7 The following is a part of a news article that one of the students has read for their research. Who first introduces the issue into the discussion?
- A. Rika
 - B. Yu-Jin
 - C. Jenny
 - D. Kyoko



February 4, 2021

Up to one-third of people in some cities have stopped using public transport because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether they'll ever get back on board is impossible to predict, but according to research into the travel habits of people in 104 cities across 28 countries, lockdowns, the rise of remote working, and stay-home orders have all meant a decrease in the volume of people commuting.

Asked what would make them more likely to use public transport again, commuters stated a number of concerns. The top issue was the desire for more buses on the road to lessen the chances of vehicles being too full. They also want vehicles, stations and stops to be disinfected.

- 8 Choose one statement that is NOT true according to the discussion.
- A. It is agreed that preparing discounted public transportation services is the most effective way to convince elderly people to return their drivers' licenses.
 - B. The corona pandemic has made people more dependent on cars.
 - C. There is no single solution to the issue because not every human at the same age or life stage is going to be the same.
 - D. Cars with advanced technology can help elderly drivers drive more safely.

Read the following news article, then answer the questions.

The Power of DIY

Kathleen Toner

May 19, 2022

There's plenty of construction outside a home in North Carolina. Workers are measuring and cutting lumber to build a ramp to the front door. The busy scene is unremarkable except that no men are doing the work. Women make up less than 4% of workers in construction trades. The entire industry is facing a massive labor shortage, and women could be a valuable resource.

実際の問題では
ここに写真が掲載されています

Nora El-Khouri Spencer, 42, is a licensed general contractor and social worker. Her nonprofit organization, Hope Renovations, offers a free 10-week program that provides women with skills and certifications to find jobs in construction. The average hourly wages in the construction industry are often nearly double that of hospitality work.

"My vision is that one day we won't think it's unusual for women to be working in this industry," Spencer said. "That women will be doing this work, making more money, and creating better lives for themselves."

That's only part of Spencer's mission. Trainees also experience working with her professional construction team – all women – making safety modifications to senior citizens' homes.

"Our program is actually solving two problems at once," she said. "We're bringing women into this industry and we're also helping older adults... It's a win-win."

Spencer didn't develop her skills until later in life. Growing up, if her parents needed something fixed, they'd always ask her brother. Buying her first house with her husband and wanting expensive home renovations changed that.

"I realized pretty quickly that my plans were beyond my budget," she said. "I just started buying tools and trying to learn things on my own. I figured out that I was good at it." Over the years, she learned more from her family and YouTube. When she'd hire someone for complicated projects, they'd teach her as well. "I would follow them around

and ask them a lot of questions,” she said. “And then, it hit me that I’d never met another woman, and I began to wonder why.”

The question stuck with Spencer while she was working in a homeless shelter after graduate school. When helping women get back on their feet, she often suggested construction jobs which pay much more than minimum wage. “Their reaction was always ‘No one’s ever taught me any of that stuff. It’s a man’s job,’” she said. “I realized there’s an opportunity gap. That’s a gap I can help fill.”

Spencer’s training program starts in the classroom, where trainees learn basic skills including safety. They also get their own toolbox that they take with them when they graduate from the program. “We have people from all walks of life including single moms and women in recovery,” she said. “All kinds of different people coming together and finding a shared excitement.”

While the program is free to everyone, Spencer also offers a stipend to women below a certain income level to help with transportation and childcare. “If we really want to get women into this industry, we need to take out all the barriers that we can,” she said. “We want to make it as easy for them as possible.”

Since July 2020, more than 40 people have completed the program. Two-thirds of them have found jobs in the industry. Raine Clay, 46, is one of them. A single mom, she had worked for a shipping company for almost two decades until she suffered a back injury. Hope Renovations gave her the chance to pursue interests she’d had for years. Clay graduated and is now a project manager at a construction company, and hopes to become an interior designer. “I feel encouraged to pursue my dreams, and to show my kids a great example,” she said.

So far, Spencer’s construction team has completed more than 130 projects, mostly for seniors. “We’re providing hope to the people that we serve,” Spencer said. “We’re helping women renovate their lives.”

(adapted from an article from CNN)

9 The following are some of the comments from readers about the news article. Which student's comment fits the article the best?

A.

If women have more chances to work in construction, they can expand their opportunities and help solve the labor shortage.

- Tomoko

B.

As Spencer says, construction work is the most valuable way to help seniors live an independent and healthy life.

- Ryoga

C.

It is interesting that Spencer was engaged in construction jobs even before she bought her first house.

- Harue

D.

Spencer's parents understood that construction is not only for men but also for women, even before she started the business.

- Shuya

10 Choose one statement that is true according to the passage.

- A. Spencer's parents often asked her brother to teach her how to fix things, and later used these skills to help women and seniors renovate their homes.
- B. The supply and demand of labor force in construction industry is well balanced even without women.
- C. Spencer recognizes that financial support for commuting and childcare is the key to solving one of the difficulties that women face in construction work.
- D. It was her parents who encouraged Spencer to start her nonprofit program.

11 [Answer in English. Write at least one complete sentence.]

In the article, Spencer refers to a "win-win." Which two groups of people benefit from her program and how?

12 [Answer in English. Write at least one complete sentence.]

What does Spencer mean by "we're helping women renovate their lives"?

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

- 1 Do you agree with the statement “To be honest is necessary in building a good relationship”? Why or Why not?
- 2 Which do you think is more important: making progress or producing perfect results?