

英 語 (リーディング)

各大問の英文や図表を読み、解答番号 ~ にあてはまるものとして最も適当な選択肢を選びなさい。

第 1 問 (配点 6)

You are going on a school trip to the city of Hobston and have to choose either Tour 1 or Tour 2.

Tour 1	⌚	Tour 2
Hobston History Museum Go to the big photograph of the original Hobston family in the lobby. Read their history and write down three interesting facts.	9:00 a.m.	City Nature Museum Visit the beautiful garden area on the second floor. Find an attractive flower and draw it.
Chucky Tuck's Select a lunch from their special set menu. Inquire about the meaning of the restaurant's name.	11:30 a.m.	Hobston Diner Taste some local dishes. Ask the manager about the concept for the interior decorations and take some pictures.
Thurling River Ride the open-air boat in the heart of the city and take in the view. Ask a crew member about the historic monuments that you pass on the trip. Take notes.	1:00 p.m.	Central Theater Learn about world dances by watching the live performance. Make an illustration of your favorite scene.
Hobston Cathedral Take the guided tour and listen to the explanation. Focus on the portrait next to the organ. List the main life events of this person.	2:40 p.m.	Riverside Tower Enjoy the Hobston scenery from the top. Sketch Hobston City Hall, the unusually shaped building across the river.

問 1 If you choose Tour 1, you will .

- ① hear about the origins of regional foods
- ② join a workshop in the morning
- ③ play a musical instrument after lunch
- ④ take a river trip through Hobston

問 2 Tour 2 is more likely to appeal to students who are interested in a career as .

- ① a chef
- ② a guide
- ③ a historian
- ④ an artist

問 3 Which activity is common to both schedules?

- ① Cooking special foods
- ② Interviewing a musician
- ③ Looking at the city landscape
- ④ Watching a traditional show

第2問 (配点 12)

You are an exchange student at a UK university and want to hire a bicycle. You find an announcement on the university website with a comments section for students.

University Bicycle Hire Service

15 October 2025

Announcement: End of Service

Bicycle hire services will stop at the end of March 2026. Unfortunately, the hire service is now going into debt. While we have not increased hiring fees, overall demand is still decreasing. Our costs also keep increasing because many bicycles are returned requiring more than basic maintenance. Furthermore, too many bicycles hired by students are being stolen.

There are three alternative services for you. All three require a security deposit which is returned if the bicycle comes back without damage.

- *Pedals & Wheels* is closest to the University. They charge £25 per day for standard bicycles. Electric bicycles are £50 per day. Both require a security deposit (£200).
- *Bob's Bikes* charges £15 per day (no electric bicycles available). The security deposit is £100.
- *XPower Bikes* charges £20 per day for standard bicycles and £55 for electric ones. The security deposit is £150 for either.

Share your comments below



Gordon

Last year, free copy machines at the library ended. Now it's bicycle hire services. I feel the University isn't serious about providing necessary services for students. By the way, *Pedals & Wheels* didn't return my security deposit due to a scratched pedal. It would be better for them to ignore such small things. I haven't used the other two shops.



Mandy

The announcement is not an issue for local students. Most already own bikes anyway. However, it's a big problem for exchange students, especially those on brief visits needing temporary transport. Bicycles at *XPower Bikes* are less fashionable, but the shop is open seven days a week.

問 1 Why did the University decide to end bicycle hire services?

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- ① The fees paid by students for the service kept on rising.
- ② The students' security deposits were being stolen.
- ③ The University lacked staff to maintain the bicycles.
- ④ The University was losing money by providing the service.

問 2 Which is true about the bicycle hire alternatives? 5

- ① *Bob's Bikes* is nearer to the University than *Pedals & Wheels*.
- ② Electric bicycles can be hired from two of the three shops.
- ③ *Pedals & Wheels* is the most expensive for each type of bicycle.
- ④ The security deposit at *XPower Bikes* is the lowest of the three shops.

問 3 Which option expresses Gordon's opinion? 6

- ① He has hired bicycles from two of the three shops in the past.
- ② *Pedals & Wheels* should keep customers' deposits for minor damage.
- ③ The University isn't doing its best to offer students essential services.
- ④ The University stopped providing free copy services at the library.

問 4 According to Mandy, which is true? 7

- ① Most local students are getting worried about the end of the service.
- ② The announcement impacts short-term exchange students the most.
- ③ *XPower Bikes* is closed for business on the weekends.
- ④ *XPower Bikes*' strength is that it offers trendy bicycles.

第3問 (配点 9)

Your English teacher told you to read this short fiction story for the next class.

A New Fish Tale

It all started in the Yukarry Plastic Zone, an enormous area of plastic waste in the middle of the Yukarry Sea. For years, salt water broke down the waste into very small pieces called microplastics. Over time, sea life in the Zone absorbed these microplastics from the sea water, and this affected some fish's eggs. Fish that grew from these eggs consisted of both organic and plastic materials. They were a new kind of life on Earth.

After a while, a fishing boat happened to catch one of these partially plastic fish. Marine biologists discovered that the fish were eating much of the ocean waste in the Zone, helping to clean the water. This news quickly spread around the world. People were so thankful for these special plastic-eating fish, calling them, "Heroes of the Sea."

A year later, a research ship came across hundreds of these "heroes" floating on top of the sea. They had all died. After studying this event, the scientists reported that the fish only live for a short time and cannot produce their own eggs. Another problem was that when the fish's bodies broke down, many plastic pieces remained floating on the ocean. This news was a terrible surprise to everyone. The waste problem hadn't been fixed at all. Something still needed to be done to solve it.

The world's governments finally took more responsibility. They began major projects to clean up all of the oceans. They also made single-use plastic illegal. In addition, people were only allowed to use natural materials for bags and containers. This helped create the eco-friendlier world that we enjoy now.

問 1 According to the story, small pieces of plastic were .

- ① affecting the climate of the Earth
- ② causing changes to the eggs of some fish
- ③ gradually absorbed into the Yukarry Sea
- ④ used for improving organic materials

問 2 Based on the second and third paragraphs, people's feelings toward the fish most likely changed from .

- ① angry to frightened
- ② grateful to shocked
- ③ honored to satisfied
- ④ scared to hopeful

問 3 Choose **four** out of the five options (①~⑤) and put them in the order they happened in the story. → → →

- ① A novel species was born in the ocean.
- ② Catching plastic fish was banned.
- ③ Governments made earth-friendly laws.
- ④ Scientists found that the fish have a limited life cycle.
- ⑤ The hero fish consumed a lot of sea garbage.

第4問 (配点 12)

In high school English class, you are writing an essay about the influence of popular culture. This is your most recent draft with comments from your teacher.

The Positive Impacts of Music	Comments:
<p>Music has always been a popular form of entertainment. Advances in technology have made music more accessible and popular. Listening to music can positively affect people in the following three ways.</p> <p>The first advantage is that music can help improve people's mental state. Research shows that listening to music can raise self-confidence and self-esteem as well as reduce stress and anxiety. (1) <u>Listening to music can also increase concentration.</u> Overall, these points show that music has the potential to favorably influence people's mental state.</p> <p>The second advantage is that music helps people interact both online and offline. Music fans from diverse backgrounds can communicate with each other via social media. When artists go on tours, fans can meet at concert halls or stadiums. (2) <u>This is why people listen to music.</u></p> <p>The third advantage is that some artists' songs can encourage listeners to become aware of social injustice and take action. (3) <u>The messages in songs can inspire them to speak up for change.</u> In fact, these voices have influenced society.</p>	<p>(1) <i>Add an example to make the underlined part clearer.</i></p> <p>(2) <i>The last sentence doesn't sum up the paragraph well. Rewrite it.</i></p> <p>(3) <i>What do you mean by "speak up for change"? Add more information.</i></p>

In conclusion, music can provide numerous advantages. It can benefit people's mental state, connect people of various backgrounds in different ways, and (4) emphasize the importance of freedom of speech. Therefore, music has positive impacts not only on individuals but also on society as a whole.

(4)
This part doesn't match one of the advantages. Rewrite it.

Overall comments:

Your draft describes the impacts well. We can benefit from listening to music!

問 1 Based on Comment (1), choose the best sentence to add after the underlined sentence.

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- ① Some people experience anxiety when music is loud.
- ② Some people feel relaxed without listening to music.
- ③ Some people focus better on their studies with some music on.
- ④ Some people lose confidence when hearing unfamiliar music.

問 2 Based on Comment (2), choose the best sentence to replace the underlined sentence. 15

- ① Fans can exchange different interests through social media.
- ② Fans can form closer relationships online than offline.
- ③ Fans can get acquainted in the virtual and physical worlds.
- ④ Fans can make more friends at concert halls.

問 3 Based on Comment (3), choose the best sentence to add after the underlined sentence. 16

- ① Some fans of musicians protested against racial discrimination.
- ② Some listeners became musicians to entertain audiences.
- ③ Some musicians donated a lot of money to improve society.
- ④ Some people stopped following musicians' social media accounts.

問 4 Based on Comment (4), choose the best phrase to replace the underlined part. 17

- ① encourage friendships among musicians and fans
- ② enhance unity among artists of all generations
- ③ inspire people to stand up for social reforms
- ④ motivate people to pursue their own goals

第5問 (配点 16)

Your class will be hosting Jenny, a student from the UK. After a few email exchanges, she has emailed again about a blog post on lost and found items in Japan. You and your group members have replied.

Jenny's email

Hello again,

Your emails are making me feel more comfortable about living in Japan.

Yesterday, I read a blog and was amazed to learn about the high return rate of lost property in Japan. It also mentions a well-known saying that I find fascinating. I guess that's the main reason for the high number of returns. Please read the blog (www.*****) and let me know if you agree.

In English, we have a saying, 'Finders keepers, losers weepers.' So, if I lose something, I don't expect to get it back. I probably wouldn't bother to report it to the police either. However, occasionally, 'finders' check for contact information and get in touch with the 'loser.' A couple of years ago, my uncle, who lives in Edinburgh, lost his wallet, but it just appeared in his letterbox with a note from the finder. The person who found it must have put it in there. He was very fortunate that nothing had been removed.

Anyway, I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

Jenny

The blog

Enya Hand's Blog +

www.*****

Lost and (Usually) Found By Enya Hand


People often say that if you lose your wallet in Japan, you will likely get it back. Based on my time living there, I found a couple of reasons why.


First, there are over 6,000 small neighbourhood police boxes called *koban*. They are located across the country in places where people gather or pass by. Around 48,000 police officers work in these police boxes. Also, the relatively low crime rate enables them to handle lost property, which is considered important police work.


Second, the Japanese say '*Otentosama ga miteiru,*' which literally means the sun witnesses everything. Children are taught this saying and learn that even if no one sees them doing the wrong thing, the sun is watching, so it is better to do the right thing.


According to a survey on lost property, around 84% of mobile phones, 72% of ID cards, and 72% of money, including even large sums, get reunited with the original owners. This, however, does not mean that you can neglect your belongings.

Comments:

 Francesca: I dropped my passport, and a child ran up and returned it. I bowed and said, '*Arigato.*' She was only about five!

 Nelson: In Hokkaido, I saw a glove on the pavement. The following morning, I saw it again. Someone had put it on top of a nearby bench. It was a kind gesture.

 Samira: I lost my engagement ring on holiday in Japan. I went to the *koban* and did the paperwork. Two days later, the police called and told me to return to the *koban*. Now, when I look at my left hand, I smile.

 Tom: I left my umbrella in a Japanese cafe. I went back for it, but it was gone. I asked the server, but she said she hadn't seen it. It probably has a new owner.

Your group's reply email

Hello Jenny,

Thanks for sharing the English saying. We also find that fascinating.

It is true that the Japanese saying is common knowledge as many of us heard it when we were children. We don't take it that seriously, though. Actually, we have a law known as the Lost Property Act. It says that the finder must report the item to the police. Otherwise, they may be punished. Also, if lost property is not claimed within 90 days, the finder is 'rewarded' by receiving the item. We think that this better explains the high return rate in Japan.

We can't wait to meet you.

Yours,

Group 4 Members

P.S. Your uncle was really lucky.

問 1 Which two parts of the blog is Jenny most interested in? (The order does not matter.) ·

- ① The common Japanese saying
- ② The low serious crime rate
- ③ The meaning of the English saying
- ④ The number of police officers
- ⑤ The percentage of lost items returned

問 2 What was the outcome of the story about Jenny's uncle?

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- ① He was contacted by email by the finder.
- ② His wallet was returned without any money in it.
- ③ The finder returned the lost wallet to him.
- ④ The police called him when they found his wallet.

問 3 According to the blog, which combination best describes the reasons for the high return rate of lost property in Japan?

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- A : Dealing with lost property is an essential police duty.
- B : The law ensures the rights of both losers and finders.
- C : The number of *koban* is increasing year by year.
- D : 'The sun sees everything' is widely believed.

- ① A and B
- ② A and C
- ③ A and D
- ④ B and C
- ⑤ B and D
- ⑥ C and D

問 4 Based on the blog comments, which two items were returned to their original owners?

22

- ① Glove and passport
- ② Glove and ring
- ③ Glove and umbrella
- ④ Passport and ring
- ⑤ Passport and umbrella
- ⑥ Ring and umbrella

問 5 Your group and Jenny have different opinions on

23

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- ① how people pay attention to possessions
- ② the interpretation of the English saying
- ③ what happened regarding Jenny's uncle
- ④ why people in Japan hand in lost items

第6問 (配点 12)

In English class, your teacher has asked you to prepare presentation notes for the following story.

Making a Fresh Start

“Ken, you look so happy! I can tell that you are truly enjoying the lessons now,” my yoga instructor said. “Thank you,” I replied with a big smile, thinking it took me a year to get to this point.



I remember the day I signed up for yoga classes. I was on my way home from work and a sign in a window caught my eye. It said, “Get refreshed! Join our yoga lesson!” Somehow the message appealed to me, so I went in for a trial lesson. Later, I found myself at the counter of the yoga studio signing up for classes.

At first, I enjoyed the classes but I struggled to master some of the techniques and poses. I worked hard to improve my yoga skills by constantly watching others. I thought to myself, “Wow, look at that woman. She’s so flexible.” Then I thought, “The instructor’s movements and poses are always so graceful. Why can’t I do the same?” From the corner of my eye, I noticed another student that appeared shaky and unstable. He seemed to lack confidence—a little like me. His movements were pretty awkward. “I’m doing better than he is. What a relief!”



Before starting yoga lessons, my Monday mornings always began with a big sigh, “Ahhh, another week begins.” I had been working for the same company for three years after graduating from university, and I was so happy to get my dream job. I still found the work stimulating and challenging. However, the busier I got, the more stressed I felt. I often found myself

thinking, “Am I doing better or worse than my colleagues?” or “Can I become the leader of the upcoming project?” It was around this time that I saw the yoga sign.



A few months after joining the yoga studio, I was still tired and stressed. I didn't really “get refreshed.” One weekend, as usual, I was in class and saw the same awkward guy. As I watched him, I noticed that his yoga technique had not improved but something was different. Though his movements were still not great, he seemed more confident and energetic. I was drawn to the change in him.

After the lesson, I introduced myself to him and we chatted for a while. I discovered that Hiro had been doing yoga for a year. I said, “All the students are so good. I'm always embarrassed when I compare myself to them.” Hiro said, “Really? Through yoga classes, I've learned not to pay attention to others and just focus on doing my poses as best I can.” I was surprised to learn how differently we thought even though we had been taking the same yoga classes.

The following Monday I was called into my boss's office. “Sorry, Ken, but I have to inform you that you weren't selected to be the leader of the new project.” I was crushed. I had believed that I was the best candidate for the position and would be chosen. My boss continued, “I know you've been trying really hard, but you might be overly concerned with what others think about you. Why don't you just focus on yourself and your work first? Then you will be able to truly care about your projects and colleagues.” I was hit with a realization. I began to understand what Hiro had meant.



Several months have passed. I continue to go to yoga classes focusing on self-improvement, which has positively affected my feelings about my work. I sometimes run into Hiro and we have lunch together. I have devoted myself to the new project and aim to be a reliable team player. Although I have the same routine, I now see things in a different light, and I feel refreshed!

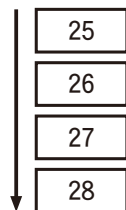
Title of the story: Making a Fresh Start

Personality of the main character

Ken

-

Events in the story from Ken's point of view



Factors that contributed to Ken's change in perspective about his job

-
-

What Ken learned through this entire experience

- He learned .

問 1 Choose the best option for .

- ① delightful but careless
- ② earnest but self-conscious
- ③ generous and delightful
- ④ self-conscious and careless

問 2 Choose **four** out of the five options (①~⑤) and put them in the order they happened to Ken. → → →

- ① He approached the awkward man and learned his name.
- ② He attended yoga lessons but did not feel better.
- ③ He was not appointed to lead the new project.
- ④ His boss transferred him to a new division.
- ⑤ His dream job was becoming stressful and exhausting.

問 3 Choose the best options for and . (The order does not matter.)

- ① His acceptance of valuable advice from his boss
- ② His conscious effort to get praised by his classmates
- ③ His decision to be better than Hiro in yoga class
- ④ His gradual improvement of his yoga technique
- ⑤ His observation of and subsequent conversation with Hiro

問 4 Choose the best option for .

- ① how to get refreshed by focusing on balancing his work and lifestyle
- ② how to improve his yoga poses and get promoted in his department
- ③ to be concerned with how he is perceived and improve his quality of life
- ④ to stop comparing himself to others and concentrate on his abilities

第7問 (配点 16)

You are using the following article to prepare for a presentation about mosquitoes in your science class.

Controlling the “World’s Deadliest Animal”

Have you ever had your outdoor event ruined by mosquitoes? Just as you are about to enjoy a lovely summer picnic, some mosquitoes come to crash the party. Although they may be merely an annoyance in Japan, globally, the story is quite different. The mosquito has been classified as the “world’s deadliest animal” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 600,000 people are killed every year from mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. However, out of the nearly 3,700 species of mosquitoes worldwide, only a small number transmit serious diseases. For example, the *Aedes* mosquito is responsible for spreading dengue fever, which is common in tropical regions.

What can be done to safeguard the public? There are various strategies that governments can implement to help protect citizens from mosquitoes. Local governments need to keep accurate records about mosquitoes including the variety and the size of the mosquito population. In addition, cities and towns should inform their citizens about how to stay safe around mosquitoes. When people go outside, they should wear long sleeves to prevent bites. Around the home, any standing water where mosquitoes may breed should be removed. Also, when windows are opened, screens are necessary and should be checked for damage. Governments must also take the lead in managing mosquito populations. Traditional methods tend to include the use of industrial chemicals. These chemicals can reduce mosquito populations, but they may negatively impact the ecosystem. In response to this problem, some innovative techniques which are environmentally safer have recently become available.

One promising new discovery in mosquito control makes use of a spray

that contains a surfactant. Surfactants, which are often contained in shampoo, reduce the surface tension of a liquid, which allows water and oil to mix. A Japanese company successfully incorporated this idea and produced a new mosquito spray in 2023. Normally, mosquito bodies and wings are protected by a wax-like coating. This coating prevents water from being absorbed by the mosquito. However, the new spray is able to go through this coating and allow water into the mosquito's body. As a result, its wings get wet and it is unable to fly, making it an easy target for enemies such as ants or spiders. Furthermore, the spray covers the breathing holes on the mosquito's body, so it is unable to breathe. Additionally, surfactants are safe for humans because they do not contain any harmful chemicals.

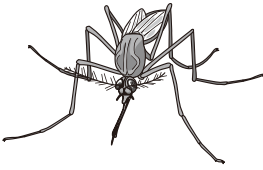
Recent studies on reducing the number of mosquitoes through genetic modification also seem to be encouraging. Researchers now have the technology to place a fatal gene into mosquitoes. When mosquitoes with this gene go back into the wild and mate, the newly born mosquitoes inherit it. Because the gene is deadly, the mosquitoes die before becoming adults. This technique has found success in Panama, Brazil, and some Pacific Islands. Given that genetic modification is still a relatively new technology, further research is required to learn about its long-term effects on the environment.

Another recent discovery focuses on the treatment of mosquito eggs. Scientists are making use of a common bacteria called *Wolbachia*, which is found naturally in approximately 60% of all insects. Researchers first inject the bacteria into mosquito eggs. Mosquitoes carrying the bacteria are then born and raised in a factory. After maturing, the male mosquitoes with the bacteria are released into the environment. When the males mate with females that do not possess the bacteria, the eggs that they produce will never hatch. Thus, the bacteria work to reduce the population of mosquitoes. Moreover, *Wolbachia* is neither a threat to the natural environment nor to humans.

The human race has been in a constant battle against mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. In modern times, humans appear to be making steady and consistent progress. With continued scientific innovation and collaboration, we may be able to more effectively control the mosquito population.

Slide drafts

Mosquitoes



The World's Deadliest Animal

1

Much More Than an Annoyance

Mosquitoes .

2

Public Health

The government should .

3

New Mosquito Spray

- It .
- It .

4

Studies of Genetically Modified Mosquitoes

- Failure to mature
- Panama, Brazil, Pacific Islands
- Long-term effects unknown

5

Steps to Control Mosquitoes Using *Wolbachia*

↓

The eggs will not hatch.

6

Conclusion

7

問 1 Choose the best option for .

- ① bite more than 600,000 people per year
- ② disturb popular outdoor activities
- ③ reduce the number of species to 3,700
- ④ spread fatal diseases to human beings

問 2 Choose the best option for .

- ① apply traditional methods of mosquito control, rather than modern ones
- ② establish new standards and laws to control the mosquito population
- ③ focus on mosquito monitoring and control, as well as public education
- ④ provide private companies with funding for mosquito control research

問 3 Choose the best options for and . (The order does not matter.)

- ① covers the mosquito with a wax
- ② destroys bacteria in the mosquito's body
- ③ interferes with the mosquito's breathing
- ④ prevents the mosquito from flying
- ⑤ stops chemicals from harming the mosquito

問 4 Choose the correct order of steps that scientists take to control the mosquito population with *Wolbachia*. Use only **four** out of the six statements (A ~ F).

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A : Female mosquitoes are injected with *Wolbachia*.

B : Female mosquitoes transmit *Wolbachia* to males.

C : Male mosquitoes are released into the wild.

D : Male mosquitoes mate with females.

E : Mosquitoes are born in a factory.

F : *Wolbachia* is inserted into mosquito eggs.

- ① $A \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow B$
- ② $A \rightarrow E \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$
- ③ $E \rightarrow A \rightarrow D \rightarrow B$
- ④ $E \rightarrow D \rightarrow F \rightarrow C$
- ⑤ $F \rightarrow B \rightarrow E \rightarrow D$
- ⑥ $F \rightarrow E \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$

問 5 Choose the best option for

37

.

- ① Humans are making advances to reduce the mosquito population to control diseases.
- ② Humans have eliminated mosquito-borne diseases through mosquito control.
- ③ Humans should control mosquito-borne diseases mainly through genetic modification.
- ④ Humans will resolve issues related to mosquito control in the next few years.

第 8 問 (配点 17)

You are working on an essay about **online voting for elections in your city**, following the steps below:

Step 1: Read a range of opinions gathered from the Internet about online voting.

Step 2: Take a position on online voting.

Step 3: Create an outline for your essay using additional sources.

▶ [Step 1] Read a range of opinions

Alex (civil servant)

Online voting can prevent human errors. People could possibly make mistakes in counting votes. Computers can perform this better and much more quickly. Also, online voting can reduce the cost of an election because fewer people will be needed to check the votes. It may require a significant initial cost, but once implemented, it will be a lot more accurate, time-efficient, and cost-effective.

Irina (programmer)

Online voting could be vulnerable to hacking. Any computer programmer knows that no program is completely secure. However carefully we set up the system, there will inevitably be security weaknesses. Elections attract attention and thus hackers. In addition, it costs a lot to maintain computer systems. Keeping the system up-to-date and secure would be more expensive than holding an election with paper ballots. Overall, it is better to maintain the conventional way.

Joseph (high school teacher)

If all voting goes online, it would exclude or disadvantage some voters who don't use the Internet. This could have a negative impact on senior citizens, in particular. We should avoid any divide that digitalization of elections may cause. On the other hand, online voting could work well for younger people

who prefer digital devices. It should be easy for the newer generations to vote using smartphones.

Kana (university student)

I have many friends who do not vote in elections. They are too busy with their studies, club activities, and part-time jobs. Online voting would allow us to vote from anywhere, requiring little time. It would also be more inclusive of physically challenged people who might have difficulties accessing the voting venue. In the end, the enhanced convenience would raise the voting rate.

Sarah (journalist)

I think that authenticating voters, confirming their identity, could be a challenging part of online voting. Serious cases of online fraud, in which a criminal uses someone else's identity, are often reported. What if there is an error in the authentication process in online voting? It would be very difficult to ensure fairness and security, which could threaten the democratic process.

問 1 Which of the following best summarizes Joseph's opinion? 38

- ① Older generations may benefit from the ease of an online voting system.
- ② Online voting may affect different generations in different ways.
- ③ People born in the digital age are unfamiliar with paper ballots.
- ④ The online system will make smartphones essential in elections.

問 2 Both Alex and Irina mention 39 .

- ① the financial aspect of online voting
- ② the identification issues of online voting
- ③ the potential errors in counting the online votes
- ④ the security issues of conducting elections online

► [Step 2] Take a position

問 3 With the above opinions in mind, you have taken a position on online voting and written some notes below. Choose the best options to complete [40] — [42]. (You must have all of [40] — [42] correct to get points.)

POSITION: Our city should introduce online voting.

- [40] and [41] support this position the most.
- An idea shared by these two people is that [42].

Options for [40] and [41] (the order does not matter):

- ① Alex
- ② Irina
- ③ Joseph
- ④ Kana
- ⑤ Sarah

Options for [42]:

- ① computers function more effectively than humans
- ② online voting systems will save time
- ③ the physically challenged benefit from online systems
- ④ voting online can promote digital device use

► [Step 3] Create an outline for your essay

Online Voting in Our City

Introduction

Although there are some concerns about online voting, we should consider introducing it in our city.

Body

- REASON 1: [the common idea in Step 2]
- REASON 2: 43 [based on Source A]
- REASON 3: Online voting likely increases the participation of young people in elections. [based on support from Source B: 44]

Conclusion

Introducing online voting is a positive step forward for the citizens.

Source A

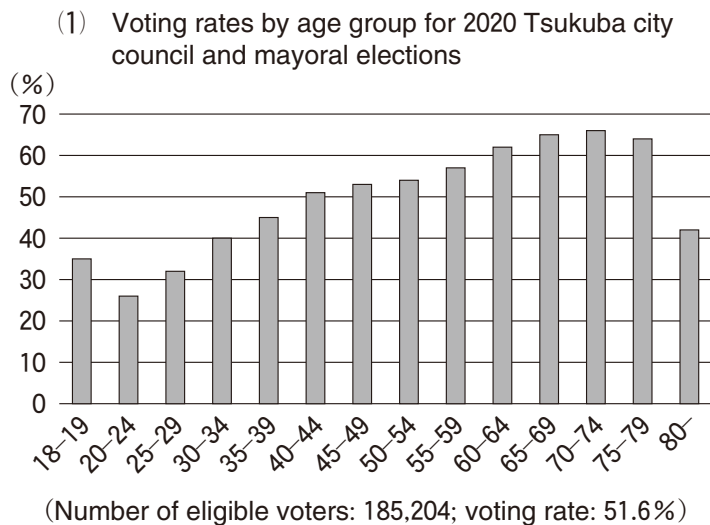
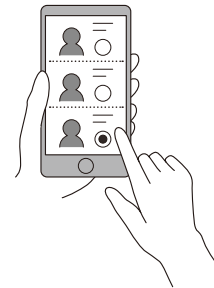
Estonia was the first country to hold general elections using online voting in 2005 and the popularity of online voting has continued to increase. More than half of the total votes in the 2023 parliamentary elections were cast over the Internet. In addition to the convenience of voting remotely from anywhere anytime, it allows voters to change their electronic votes multiple times in a secure way, which is not possible when votes are in the paper format. It can also handle situations in which votes are made both online and onsite by the same person. In this case, the electronic votes become invalid and only the paper votes are counted, ensuring the principle of “one person, one vote.” Thus, Estonia is a good example to follow for other countries or cities that want to have their elections online.

Source B

Tsukuba City was planning in 2022 to introduce an online voting system for its city council and mayoral elections. The following are slides based on a presentation given by the city that showed (1) current voting trends, (2) university students' attitudes toward online voting, and (3) city residents' opinions about an online trial election.

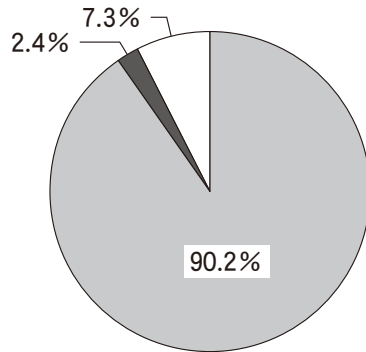
Introduction of online voting

City of Tsukuba (Japan)



(2) Questionnaire given to university students in Tsukuba (2020)

Would you use an online voting system if it were available?

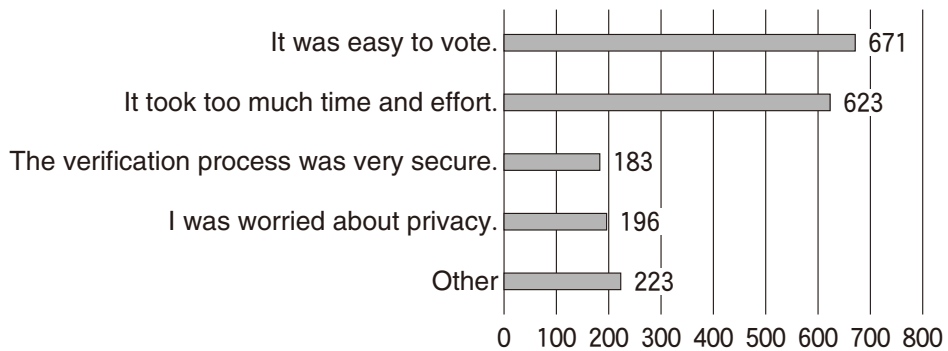


■ Yes ■ No □ Undecided

(Number of respondents: 82)

(3) Questionnaire after the 2022 trial online election given to city residents

Opinions about the online voting experience



(Number of respondents: 1,402; multiple answers allowed)

(「公職選挙におけるインターネット投票の実施」(つくば市)の一部を参考に作成)

問 4 Based on Source A, which of the following is the most appropriate for REASON 2 in the essay outline? 43

- ① Estonia has used online voting for more than three decades.
- ② Online voting offers flexibility while providing relevant safeguards.
- ③ People get more information on candidates thanks to the online system.
- ④ The principle of “one person, one vote” is secured in paper elections.

問 5 Based on Source B, which of the following best supports REASON 3 in the essay outline? 44

- ① Although some residents felt online voting has security issues, its introduction would be the key to increasing the voting rate of young adults, because less than 2% of university students would refuse to use it.
- ② More than half the people answered it was easy to cast their votes online while nearly 40% of the people felt it was troublesome. Regardless of these positive and negative aspects, it would raise the voting rate of young people.
- ③ The age range of the lowest voting rate is 20–24. According to the survey, more than 90% of university students answered they would use an online system. Thus, introduction of online voting could help narrow the gap between age groups.
- ④ The overall voting rate is more than 50%. Among the age groups, the biggest difference is between the youngest and the oldest. This could be reduced by introducing an online voting system because university students prefer it.