

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

The classroom was stifling with the heavy breath of midsummer, yet when my test paper was placed before me, a sudden chill ran through my veins. Around me rose laughter, exclamations of relief, the rustle of pages brandished with pride. I, however, sat motionless,
5 my score glaring in crimson ink, colder than any winter frost.

Then, through the silence of my despair, came the thunder of an engine. A plane roared above, and my eyes were drawn to the window. There, in the vault of heaven, stood a towering cumulus, rearing like a dragon ascending the sky. (1)Nothing, far from fading with time, stirred me more suddenly than the recollection of the ancient phrase “Gashin-shōtan” — to lie on firewood and taste bitter gall — that vow of Goujian who, enduring humiliation and hardship, rose at last to triumph, a lesson whose weight is hard to stress enough for anyone who seeks to turn disgrace into strength.
10

(2)It was not the cold of failure that I felt, but the surging heat of my own heartbeat — and that heat, steady and unyielding, was nothing less than the very sign of strength itself, not so slight that it could be overlooked, but so vital that nowhere must any soul with honesty and gravity fail to stress this truth.
15

Q1.

Translate the underlined part (1) into Japanese.

Q2.

Translate the underlined part (2) into Japanese.

25 Q3.

Do you agree with the proverb “Gashin-shōtan” as a guiding principle for students?

Write an essay of about 60–80 words. In your essay, summarize briefly what the writer argues.

30 State your own opinion (agree or disagree).

Give at least one specific reason or example to support your opinion.