



2025 年度 直前講習会

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【1】最後にやっておきたい英文解釈

次の英文の意味を日本語で表しなさい。

(A) Education as a right, rather than a privilege, was a feature of the last years of the nineteenth century. This was partly a consequence of economic change; only when the national economy could afford to educate all the young, and dispense with their labour, could compulsory education become a reality.

(B) Some people would say that the Englishman's home is no longer his castle; that it has become his workshop. This is partly because the average Englishman is keen on working with his hands and partly because he feels, for one reason or another, that he must do for himself many household jobs for which, some years ago, he would have hired professional help.

【2】説明問題

[語句説明②”otherwise”] 《大阪大》

解答時間 10 分

[設問] 本文中の下線部のotherwiseが表す内容を日本語で具体的に説明しなさい。なお、本英文はウェブサイト上の記事である。

There’s a burglary every 15 seconds in the United States - and more than 6 million home break-ins every year.

The good news: Your house doesn’t have to be one of them. There’s plenty you can do, experts say, to make it tougher for housebreakers to make off with your hard-earned, perhaps irreplaceable stuff. A few smart moves within the house can keep a burglar out — or at least minimize the amount of things he can steal.

Put lights and a radio or a television on timers. “People who leave the lights on all day might as well put out a sign in their front yard saying they’re out of town,” says Ann Lindstrom of an alarm-system company. Look for the type of timer that can be set for random on and off times. Otherwise, it’s too easy for crooks to get wise to the fact that your lights are coming on at the same time every night

【3】長文読解

解答時間 20 分

次の英文を読んで設問に答えなさい。

The Cabbie¹ & the Hippocampus²

Next time you're in a London taxicab — one of the famous black cabs known all over the world — here's a little experiment you can try. Lean up to the partition and say, "Hey, that's (1)a nice hippocampus you have." Then wait to see how the driver responds. You might get an alarmed stare in the rearview mirror. But you might well also get the London slang version of "Thanks — thanks very much!" The hippocampus is a specialized structure of the brain. According to Wikipedia, "humans and other mammals have two hippocampi³, one on each side." Early researchers thought the structure looked like twin sea horses⁴ — hence the name *hippocampus*, which (A) from the Greek word for sea horse.

The reason your London cabbie might know what you're talking about is because of a famous study done some years ago. Scientists at University College London conducted brain scans on a group of taxi drivers to test a theory, and the theory turned out to be correct. The average cabbie had a larger hippocampus than most people.

The reason has to (B) with the nature of the job. London is an ancient city with a vast and dizzying network of streets. It takes years of study to build a complete "mental map" of the city. Meanwhile, the hippocampus plays a key role in areas like memory and spatial navigation — two things the cabbies rely on day in and day out.

The study confirmed something else interesting. Over time, the hippocampus continues to grow as the "mental map" adds complexity. The head researcher said, "There (C) to be a definite relationship between the navigating they do as a taxi driver and the nature of the brain changes. In addition, the hippocampus has changed its structure to accommodate their huge amount of navigating experience." (2)London taxi drivers, who have to know their way around thousands of winding streets, have the most refined and powerful internal road map, strengthened over years of experience.

It may be different now in the days of high-tech GPS⁵. But in the days before that, London cabbies had to pass an exhausting test. They had to acquire something called "The Knowledge." That was how they (D) to it; if you had the knowledge, you were fit to drive a black cab. If you didn't, then you have no chance. The only way you could get the knowledge was to build a detailed mental map of all the streets within the heart of London.

Acquiring the knowledge could take "up to three years of hard training," the manager of a London taxi school told the BBC. "There are 400 prescribed routes which you can be examined on but in reality, you can be asked to join any two points."

When I first heard about this study, the thing that fascinated me most was (3)the idea of a physical knowledge structure within the brain. We are used to thinking about knowledge and experience as wholly abstract things. You can't really put your hands

around the idea of knowing something; you just “know” it. But the London study shows that, in the process of building out the “mental map” of a city, one is also enhancing the physical structures of the brain as a consequence of that mental activity. That’s why the hippocampus continues to grow as “the knowledge” deepens. This idea also shows why it’s hard to store up wisdom and experience in a short period of time. Cramming doesn’t do the trick. That’s a short-term memory thing at best. There’s no easy way to transfer a complex network of ideas directly into your head. Maybe one day we’ll be able to plug our heads into a computer and download software like they did in a science-fiction movie, but I’m not (E) my breath.

(Justice Litle, “Do You Have ‘The Knowledge?’” Taipan Publishing Group ホームページ [Jan. 23, 2009] より一部改変の上, 引用。)

(注)

¹ タクシー運転手

² 「海馬」と呼ばれる, 脳の一部で, 大脳皮質側頭葉の奥深くにある部位

³ hippocampus の複数形

⁴ タツノオトシゴ

⁵ Global Positioning System の略。人工衛星などからの電波によって自分の位置を確かめることができる。

問 1 下線部(1) “a nice hippocampus”を持つことは, ロンドンのタクシー運転手に必要な二つの能力と密接に関係しているが, それらの能力とは何か。本文に即して, 15 字前後の日本語で簡潔に述べなさい。

問 2 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3 下線部(3) “the idea of a physical knowledge structure within the brain”とは何か。本文に即して簡潔に説明しなさい。日本語で説明しなさい。

問 4 空所(A)～(E)に入るべき最も適切な語を下の「語群」より選び, 必要に応じて適当な形に直して解答欄に書き入れなさい。ただし, 各括弧には 1 語が入る。

leave	derive	do	seem	refer	hold	have
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【4】 英作文～和文英訳～

解答時間 15 分

次の文章の下線部(1), (2)を英語に訳しなさい。

読書の面白さの一つは、読んだ本について、他の人とコミュニケーションが取れるということだ。

相手がその本を読んでいないときには、是非にと推薦する楽しみがある。(1)自分の感動したものについて、それを誰かに教え、その人にも感動を味わってもらいたいという気持ちを抱く人は多いだろう。

また、すでに読んだという人と、感想を語り合うことも、もちろん楽しいことだ。(2)見ず知らずの人とでも、同じ本を読んでいたというだけで、仲良くなれることもある。同じ感想を抱いていれば、それで大いに盛り上がるだろうし、違っているなら、どう違うのかを話し合うことで、自分の考えの幅を広げることができるだろう。

【5】 英作文～自由英作文～

解答時間 15 分

In recent years, many local and national governments have considered imposing a tax on sugary drinks (Coca-Cola, Pepsi, etc.), because such drinks are thought to be a major contributor to health problems such as being significantly overweight. Would you support or oppose a tax on sugary drinks? Write a paragraph in ENGLISH, providing specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. (80 words)