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前期日程

受験
番号

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本

医学部保健学科小論文 I 問題

注 意 事 項

1. 試験開始の合図があるまで問題冊子を開いてはいけません。
2. 本冊子のページ数は5ページです。問題に落丁、乱丁、印刷不鮮明な箇所があった場合は申し出てください。
3. 受験番号は答案用紙の所定の欄に記入してください。
4. 解答は必ず答案用紙の所定の各欄に記入してください。
5. 答案用紙は1 a, 1 b, 2 a, 2 b, 2 cの5枚です。
6. 問題冊子は持ち帰ってください。

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次の英文を読み、設問に日本語で答えなさい。

Blessed with good weather and free of incidents such as terrorist attacks, the 2012 London Olympics ended Aug. 12 after 17 days of sporting drama, excitement and joy. More than 10,000 athletes from 204 countries and regions participated.

For Japan, this year marked the 100th year since it first took part in the Olympic Games in Stockholm. Japanese athletes as a whole presented praiseworthy performances that excited and satisfied fans. They took a record 38 medals — seven gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze, topping the record of 37 medals in the 2004 Athens Olympics. Their performances should encourage people back home who are trying to recover from the effects of the 3/11 disasters.

Japan, in its basic sports plan, had set the goal of attaining a No. 5 or better position in the gold medal tally. For the London Olympics, officials of the Japanese team had set a goal of winning 15 or more gold medals. In terms of the number of gold medals, Japan came in at No. 11. But in terms of the number of total medals, it finished as the No. 6 country.

The increase in the number of medals won by Japan means that Japanese athletes have achieved a higher performance level in a wide area of sports. Japan won medals in 13 types of sports compared with its past record of 10 types. This achievement testifies to the spread of sports in Japan and deserves due praise. In swimming, Japan took 11 medals — the first time it has finished in double figures for medals in the postwar years. Remarkable was the strong showing by Japanese women athletes, including three gold medals in women's free-style wrestling, and silver medals won by the women's soccer and table tennis teams.

The performances in men's judo were disappointing, with no medals. Japanese judo athletes need to catch up with the changing trends in the judo world.

(The Japan Times Weekly: August 25, 2012 より一部改変して引用)

問 1 筆者は、ロンドンオリンピックにおける日本選手の活躍がどのような意味を持つと考えているか、簡潔に述べなさい。

問 2 下線部(1)の内容を説明しなさい。

問 3 下線部(2)の理由を 2 つあげなさい。

2 次の英文を読み、設問に日本語で答えなさい。

My American friends or students, bound for Japan from Philadelphia, frequently ask me about an appropriate gift to bring along for their friends, host families, or colleagues. In addition to teaching my students the language, I also assign books about Japan. As the Japanese language is closely tied to⁽¹⁾human relations and living customs, I believe it is impossible to communicate effectively without knowledge about Japan.

Numerous books introducing Japan have been published. To a Japanese person looking at Japan, they can give intriguing insights. Many of these books address the issue of gift-giving. They can be quite detailed, tackling not only celebratory presents, but discussing the customs of chugen and seibo seasonal gift-giving, and explaining unlucky numbers, the taboo of giving a comb and the inappropriateness of opening the present at the spot. Also, they might advise against giving too expensive a present, as it burdens the other party with an obligation to reciprocate. One business guide even detailed the way to exchange business cards, and how to wrap and give presents.

Often, they make statements like, “A gift purchased at the department store will be accepted with pleasure, but handmade items will not be appreciated.” Most Americans seem shocked by this, and in my classroom, demand an explanation. “Why don’t the Japanese like receiving a sincere, handmade gift?” “The Japanese are so delicate, but I can’t believe they won’t value hand-made gifts!” “Why is something from the department store considered appropriate?” These are the types of questions I get from the students. When foreigners speak of and analyze Japanese culture and customs, as a Japanese person, I sometimes think, “That’s not quite right.”⁽²⁾ This is one of these circumstances. The Japanese do like handmade gifts, too. At least, I’m quite happy to receive them.

I think this might be because there is a difference in the concept of a “gift” in the Japanese context.⁽³⁾ For the Japanese, gift-giving is a kind of ceremony, and doesn't necessarily involve any motivation to make the other person feel content. Since a good amount of chugen or seibo gifts are shipped from department stores, perhaps a foreign writer got the idea that a gift from a department store is the most appreciated. Or maybe a Japanese person who suggested it be purchased from a department store, leading him to the same conclusion.

To the Japanese, giving a formal gift is reigi, or good manners. It is different from an exchange of presents between friends. Without distinguishing between the two, stating that “handmade gifts will not be appreciated” will lead to a misunderstanding.⁽⁴⁾ In my class discussion, I speak of the meaning of the ritual of gift-giving, and differentiate it from giving a gift to a friend, where handmade gifts are indeed appropriate. Also, there is also a difference between the concept of a “department store” in Japan and the United States. Mitsukoshi or Takashimaya in Japan correspond to places like Saks Fifth Avenue or Neiman Marcus in the United States. These long-established stores have a carefully maintained reputation for quality, and have built up the trust of consumers. A gift from one of these stores can be relied on to have a certain class.

In the culture of gift-giving, however, Americans are more confounded by receiving gifts than giving gifts. Even short-term travelers return with anecdotes: “When I said I liked the design of their rice bowl, they gave it to me,” or, “When I asked where I could buy a bottle of water, they gave me a new bottle they had in their bag.” The list goes on and on. An American with a conscience, even while appreciating such generosity, starts to feel guilty about receiving so much. Sometimes it is hard to refuse a gift due to the language barrier. I am frequently asked what to do in this situation. In the case of an inexpensive gift, they are just showing goodwill, and are satisfied by

your happiness, so I say, “Politely accept it.” Since the Japanese person might have trouble explaining something in English, giving an item might be easier, and they might feel relieved.

(‘Learning the culture of gift giving’ by Kimiko Manes, from Daily Yomiuri On-Line, June 22, 2005 より一部改変して引用)

(注) chugen	中元
seibo	歳暮
confounded < confound	(人を)困惑させる, まごつかせる
anecdote(s)	逸話

問 1 下線部(1)で筆者はどのようなことを考えているか述べなさい。

問 2 下線部(2)はどのようなことを述べているのか説明しなさい。

問 3 下線部(3)の内容を具体的に述べなさい。

問 4 下線部(4)はどのようなことを述べているのか説明しなさい。

問 5 言葉の壁もあって日本人からの贈り物を断れずに困っているアメリカ人に対して、筆者はどのような助言を与えているか。具体的に述べなさい。