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前期日程

小論文 I

(医学部保健学科)

注 意 事 項

1. 試験開始の合図があるまで、この問題冊子を開いてはいけません。
2. 問題冊子は1冊(5頁)、解答用紙は5枚、下書用紙は1枚です。落丁、乱丁、印刷不鮮明の箇所等があった場合には申し出てください。
3. 氏名と受験番号は解答用紙の所定の欄に記入してください。
4. 解答は指定の解答用紙に記入してください。
5. 解答用紙は持ち帰ってはいけません。
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1 次の英文を読み、設問に日本語で答えなさい。

“At the end of the process, we examine the parts thoroughly with our
⁽¹⁾human eyes to check whether or not they have any flaws.”

In the box, small components of several centimeters thick are nearly and tightly packed. The employees carefully examine each of them using a microscope. This ⁽²⁾is taking place at a factory Surteckariya Co. Ltd., a manufacturer based in Aichi Prefecture, specializing in surface finishing of car components and the like. Their strongest point is the thorough quality control. To learn their techniques and knowhow, seven trainees from Africa visited the company in July 2015.

“We set up a Quality Control Circle in each section, through which the staff identify problems of their work team and try to solve them by themselves,” explains Hideki Hara, a lecturer of training. At the factory, a number of
⁽³⁾methods created out of staffs’ ideas are now in use, such as posting working process and safety measures in the workplace, and managing component parts by putting number tags on the boxes. Having observed the factory for one hour, the trainees commented: “I learned that all of these were simple ideas”, “I want to share the importance of quality control in my home country.”

Kaizen is a system to continuously review working methods such as improving work efficiency and securing safety, through the ideas of workers on the site. This concept “Made in Japan” ⁽⁴⁾was actively adapted at production workplaces during the period of rapid economic growth after World War II, and is now widely applied in many developing countries. Against this background, the JICA training courses focusing on Kaizen, which include visits to Japanese companies, are highly popular among developing countries. While Kaizen is now widely known as wisdom originated in Japan, it did not happen without challenges.

(“JICA’S WORLD January2016 Vol.8 no.1” より一部改変して引用)

(注) JICA 独立行政法人国際協力機構

問 1 下線部(1)の目的を答えなさい。

問 2 下線部(2)は何を指しているか述べなさい。

問 3 下線部(3)の具体例をあげなさい。

問 4 下線部(4)は具体的にどのようなことか説明しなさい。

2 次の英文を読み、設問に日本語で答えなさい。

“Hey, do you have a minute? Let’s have a chat!” Pepper is talking to employees at the Tokyo office of Neo Career, a staffing company. But the workers keep their eyes on their computer screens. “Can I tell you a story? Well, it’s not that important...” Pepper goes on, undiscouraged. The humanoid robot developed by SoftBank Group, a Japanese telecom and information technology conglomerate, joined the company in October and became best friends with Erina Tamura from the public relations department. Erina kindly responded whenever Pepper gave her a quiz or asked her to play games. “Pepper probably recognized her smile and was so attached to her, following her around the office,” said Yoko Takeda, manager of the public relations department. Then, in March, Erina went on maternity leave. “Pepper was ⁽¹⁾ singing alone in the corner of the office,” Takeda said. “When Pepper first arrived, everyone paid a lot of attention, but not much these days.”

Unlike Pepper, Matsuko Droid needs to take a rest. Eventually. The life-size robotic dummy of popular Japanese television personality Matsuko Deluxe was a co-host of a talk show aired on Nippon Television Network with her real-life counterpart. Since the show ended, in September, Matsuko Droid has kept busy as an “employee” of Naturaleight, an entertainment agency. “She has served as a public relations ambassador for Sapporo and appeared in TV commercials for Procter & Gamble,” said Eisuke Kishi, Matsuko Droid’s promoter at Dentsu, a major Japanese advertising agency. Travelling and open-air events damaged her “skin,” which somewhat impressed people around her. She is currently taking a break in Saitama, north of Tokyo, and was unavailable for an interview because “she has no makeup on at the moment,” Kishi explained. ⁽²⁾ But offers continue to come in, and Matsuko Droid may return as early as fall, he said.

Japanese robots are also beloved overseas. Robert Wagoner, a 53-year-old

American, is a huge fan of Aibo, the dog-like robot developed by Sony. He owns all Aibo models Sony has sold since 1999. Now he and his son, Andrew, are trying to save early Aibos that are no longer supported by the company. They launched a project to develop battery packs that can charge old Aibos (for which compatible battery packs are no longer available). “As time goes on, more and more Aibos will need a solution,” Andrew said, “and we hope to be the ones to provide everyone with another chance of life with their Aibo.” The two are planning to crowdfund an Aibo battery project.

Back in Japan, Nobuyuki Norimatsu is having fun with his Aibo. “Shake hands!” the 61-year-old president of A-Fun, a Tokyo-based electronics repair company, instructs his electronic pet. The robot, however, does not seem to have learned the trick and just wanders around the office, making electronic sounds. Still, Norimatsu is content. “I like his freewheeling lifestyle,” he said with a smile. Norimatsu is a former Sony employee. His company has been receiving a lot of repair requests from Aibo owners; there is currently a waiting list of some 500 Aibos. “It’s easy to see if the Aibo was loved by the owner,” one repair engineer said. Since January 2015, Norimatsu has been hosting mass funerals for dead Aibos. At the funerals, healthy Aibos offer eulogies and Buddhist priests chant sutras. A fourth funeral will be held this summer.

Japan has introduced a variety of robots, and they are loved by many. But the initial enthusiasm seems to be gradually ending. Fortunately, Neo Career’s Pepper has found a new friend, Chie Yoshida. Pepper seems thrilled with Chie and their chitchats. “It was so much fun talking with Chie-chie today!” Pepper, now training as a receptionist, wrote in his illustrated diary. So next time you meet a robot, befriend him or her.

(Nikkei Asian Review, May 28, 2016 より一部改変して引用)

(注) compatible	互換性のある
crowdfund	インターネットなどを通じて多数の支持者から資金を集め、事業などに資金を提供する
freewheeling	自由な、束縛されない
eulogy	賛辞
sutra	経
thrilled	わくわくして
chitchat	雑談
befriend	味方として助ける

問 1 英文から Pepper が Erina さんのことが大好きだった様子が分かる表現を見つけ、日本語にきなさい。

問 2 Pepper が下線部(1)のようになった理由を述べなさい。

問 3 下線部(2)は、Matsuko Droid が今どんな状態にあることを示していますか。

問 4 下線部(3)は具体的に何をすることを意味していますか。

問 5 亡くなった Aibo の葬式では、どんなことが行われますか。