QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR APPLICANTS FOR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT (MONBUKAGAKUSHO) SCHOLARSHIP 2013

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

UNDERGRADUATE・RESEARCH STUDENTS

ENGLISH

PLEASE NOTE: THE TEST PERIOD IS 60 MINUTES.
Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

1. The group of people ( ) a campaign to raise money to save the poor children in the world.
   A emerged  B launched  C wandered  D yielded

2. It is important to build up your body’s ( ) system so that you will not get sick.
   A immune  B infectious  C medical  D nutritious

3. I have planned to return to my hometown after an eight year ( ).
   A absence  B extension  C leap  D progression

4. ( ) your constant advice and guidance, we would never have developed a new medicine.
   A As  B Besides  C For  D Without

5. The use of cell phones is ( ) in the hallway of this building.
   A acknowledged  B banned  C halted  D presumed

6. Wash your eyes ( ) with water if you happen to get this ointment in them.
   A apparently  B profoundly  C restlessly  D thoroughly

7. To ( ) extent do you agree with the proposal put forward by the local government the other day?
   A how  B what  C which  D whom

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8. I was not able to ( ) John, though I had met him at reunions several times before.
   A. appreciate  B. perceive  C. recognize  D. specify

9. The boss was so ( ) that he would never even try to listen to any new suggestions from his employees, who wanted to change the system of the company.
   A. affirmative  B. conservative  C. punctual  D. thrifty

10. The government had no ( ) but to raise the consumer tax.
    A. alternative  B. attribute  C. equivalent  D. exception

II. Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

1. For many people nowadays, eating fat-free food ( ) of their health has almost become an obsession.
   A. despite  B. instead  C. for the sake  D. in the presence

2. Working for a company can often mean having to ( ) a long working day.
   A. put up with  B. come up with  C. make up for  D. bring up for

3. I like everything about Tokyo, ( ) that prices are a bit too high.
   A. so  B. such  C. in case  D. except

4. Most foreigners studying Japanese must ( ) over all the different forms of 'I' and 'you' in the language.
   A. confuse  B. be confusing  C. have confused  D. get confused

5. He is the kind of man who does everything he can to keep ( ) the slightest hint of risk or danger.
   A. away from  B. up to  C. on  D. in

6. People in Japan are living longer than ( ), thanks to the remarkably improved diet, sanitation and living conditions of the last couple of decades.
   A. before long  B. ever before  C. forever after  D. ever since
7. Companies are being forced to restructure in order to survive, and this means they have to sack or (       ) many employees.
   A. pay back    B. pay for    C. lay off    D. lay down

8. (       ) of intellectual development, human beings are more capable of reasoning when they are over twenty than in their teens.
   A. as    B. because    C. in terms    D. by means

9. People may say I am too cautious, but I don’t want to ask (       ) trouble by taking on any extra work.
   A. for    B. of    C. after    D. around

10. She is essentially a peace-loving person, who sincerely hopes to (       ) with everyone around her.
    A. go against    B. get along    C. set aside    D. come back

III. In the following paragraphs, one of the underlined parts is grammatically incorrect. Choose the incorrect part.

1. A. A lot is unclear about Shakespeare’s life—  B. the schools he was attended, his exact date of birth,  C. if he was a soldier or lawyer, even the spelling of his name.  D. What is known is that he was an unparalleled wordsmith, and, at the age of eighteen, had a shotgun wedding with Anne Hathaway.

2. A. The application essay or personal statement is a part of college admission since the explosion of college enrollment after World War II,  B. evolving from direct queries like “Why in particular do you wish to enroll in the science department?”  C. to more eccentric requests like “What is your favorite time of day?”  or  D. “What would you do if you had a million dollars?”
3 A Having discovered the "Indies," B Columbus naturally termed the inhabitants Indians, C an enduring error that modern writers are anxious to correct it by using the term "Native Americans": D though "American" itself merely commemorates the name of another European explorer.

4 A There are all sorts of eating contests all over the world, B but who knew a regular housewife would be crowned India's mango-eating champion by chomping her way through 1.4 kilograms of mangoes in three minutes. C Thirty-five competitors took part in the event in New Delhi by Saturday. D The annual contest is staged by the city's tourism agency to promote the summer fruit, of which India is the world's largest producer.

5 A According to a certain study, the employment situation is affecting the chances of couples marrying. B Among the men interviewed who said they want to wed within a year, 57 percent were full-time employees, while 34 percent were temporary workers. C When asked why they were not committed to marriage, over 40 percent of the men and women said they did not have enough money. D That's the highest figure ever for both sex.

6 A European Union leaders have agreed to amend the EU's passport-free zone to allow countries to impose inspections at borders in emergency cases. B The move comes in response to the influx of migrants from political unstable North Africa to Europe. C The measure will allow countries to resume border controls temporarily when they face a greater number of migrants. D The European Council said the resumption of border controls is only a last resort and will not undermine the core principle of free movement.

7 A High-resolution photos of the Moon's surface taken by a U.S. lunar probe show footprints and other marks left by Apollo astronauts about 40 years ago. B NASA says the track marks have remained intact, in order that the Moon has no
atmosphere or wind on its surface. c Skeptics say the Apollo missions were a hoax, and that the astronauts' activities were filmed in a movie studio, d but NASA says the images should remind the American people of the glory of the Apollo Program.

8 A Hungary is introducing a new tax on foods considered unhealthy. b Prices on snacks like chips and sweets will raise an average 20 percent. c Prices of caffeinated soft drinks will soar as much as 60 percent. d The government says it expects the new tax will also create an added benefit of lower healthcare costs, as citizens eat better and become healthier.

9 A Mobile manufacturers in Japan have begun producing models designed especially for women. b One of the models will allow users to touch up photos by adding virtual makeup to their faces or adjust skin tone. c The unit will be waterproof for those who want to use it while taking a bath. d Meanwhile, a product with an extra-sensitive touch panel will be unveiled, aimed at users with long fingernails.

10 A South Korea is facing one of the lowest birth rates in the world. b In an effort to reverse the trend, the government is seeking to ease the financial burden on families by lowering the age at which it offers free education, from six to five years old. c Many parents pay for their children to attend cram schools, in addition to kindergartens or nurseries. d Officials hope that a new policy will have a positive effect on the birth rate.

IV Choose the most suitable word or phrase from the list to fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage below.

"English is the global language." A headline of this kind must have appeared in a thousand newspapers and magazines in recent years. It is the kind of statement which seems so obvious that most people would give it (1) a second thought. Of course English is a global language, they would say. You hear it on television (2) by
politicians from all over the world. Wherever you travel, you see English signs and advertisements. Indeed, if there is anything to wonder about at all, they might add, it is why such a headline should still be newsworthy.

But English (3) constitute news. The language continues to make daily news in many countries. And the headline isn’t stating the obvious. For what does it mean, exactly? Is it saying that everyone in the world speaks English? This is certainly not true. Is it saying, then, that every country in the world recognizes English as an official language? This is not true (4). So what does it mean to say that a language is a global language? Why is English the language which is usually cited in this connection? How did the situation arise? And could it change? Or is it the case that (5) a language becomes a global language, it is there forever?

These are fascinating questions to explore, (6) your first language is English or not. If English is your mother tongue, you may have mixed feelings about the way English is spreading around the world. You may feel pride in the fact that your language is the one which has been so successful; but your pride may be tinged with concern, when you realize that people in other countries may not want to use the language in (7) way as you do, and are changing it to suit themselves. We are all sensitive to the way other people use (or, it is more often said, abuse) ‘our’ language.

And if English is not your mother tongue, you may still have mixed feelings about it. You may be strongly motivated to learn it, (8) you know it will put you in touch with more people than any other language; but at the same time you know it will take a great deal of effort to master it, and you may begrudge that effort. Having made progress, you will feel pride in your achievement, and savour the communicative power you have at your disposal, but (9) feel that mother-tongue speakers of English have an unfair advantage over you. And if you live in a country where the survival of your own language is threatened by the (10) of English, you may feel envious, resentful, or angry.

1 A usually    B hardly    C precisely    D doubtfully
2 A speak      B speaking  C spoke       D spoken
3 A does       B doesn’t   C did         D didn’t
4 A either     B neither   C so          D too
5 A although   B while     C once        D unless
6 A as if      B even though C whether    D whichever
7 A a different B an opposite C the only    D the same
8 A because    B even though C whereas    D while
The United Nations estimates that the world reached seven billion people as of Monday, 31st October, 2011. It warns that the growing number of people is likely to worsen problems such as poverty in developing countries, water shortages, and heavy urbanization. Populations are growing faster than economies in many poor countries in Africa and some in Asia. At the same time, low fertility rates in Japan and many European nations have raised concerns about labor shortages.

Population experts at the United Nations estimated that the world population reached six billion in October 1999. They predict nine billion by 2050 and ten billion by the end of the century. China's population of one and a third billion is currently the world's largest. India is second at 1.2 billion. But India is expected to exceed the population of China and reach one and a half billion people around 2025. India will also have one of the world's youngest populations.

Economists say this is a chance for a so-called "demographic dividend." This term is often used to describe the positive effects of population growth on an economy, and refers to how the rate of economic growth is closely attributed to the rise in the working-age population, those aged between 15 to 64, coupled with a low number of children and a "dependent" elderly population.

India could gain from the skills of young people in a growing economy at a time when other countries have aging populations. However, economists say current rates of growth, although high, may not create enough jobs. Also, the public education system is failing to meet the demand and schooling is often of poor quality. Another concern is health care. Nearly half of India's children under the age of five are malnourished. Sarah Crowe at the United Nations Children's Fund in New Delhi says these two problems "could keep India back."

Sarah argues that children are unable to fully develop their ability. They will remain in a state of developmental disorder and will not be able to learn when they go to school. They cannot really pay into the economy, and help the country and the region move forward. Out of every two hundred million children who start school, only ten percent complete grade twelve.
Michal Rutkowski, the director of human development in South Asia at the World Bank, also says that the public policy needs to become more serious about providing for access to health services, sanitation, and schooling.

1. Problems resulting from the rapid growth of the world population may include
   ____________
   A. the heavy concentration of humanity in industrial countries.
   B. the slower economic growth in many poor African countries.
   C. the low birth rates in Japan and many European countries.
   D. the increase of an older workforce in many developing countries.

2. According to the United Nations' estimation, ____________
   A. One third of the world population consists of that of China and India.
   B. the populations of China and India are currently almost exactly equal.
   C. India will sooner or later become the country with the largest population.
   D. the percentage of the younger generation in China is gradually dropping.

3. The "demographic dividend" describes ____________
   A. the positive effects of economic growth on the growth of population.
   B. the negative effects of the elderly population who are dependent.
   C. a growing number of children who will support future economic growth.
   D. a low proportion of children and elderly people who are not working.

4. Economists say, in India ____________
   A. a growing economy could create more than enough job opportunities.
   B. younger workers tend to be unskilled and not well paid.
   C. many unschooled children have little knowledge of health care.
   D. many children under school age have inadequate nutrition.

5. According to Sarah Crowe, in India ____________
   A. children already suffer from learning disabilities when they go to school.
   B. working children help the country move ahead and develop its economy.
   C. poor health care and the low quality of schooling undermine economic growth.
   D. water shortages and bad sanitation cause poor health in children.
When we used to go on vacation as a family, we would joke that my mother over-packed. She'd fill suitcases with clothes and shoes for hot and cold weather. Other bags were filled with toys, games and cards to keep us entertained. Then, other bags were stuffed with snacks, bags with cleaning supplies (we were sometimes messy with our snacks!) and bags to clean up the cleaning supplies! At least it seemed that way. We used to joke that my mother “packed everything but the kitchen sink.” We laughed, but we always ended up using pretty much everything we took with us.

This April I’m realizing that I am my mother’s child. Though I don’t have time to go on vacation (I wish I did!), I do have to pack a bag every day to go to the library to study. It’s quite a challenge.

I have to take my computer, so I can check my email and keep in touch with people while I am in the library. Since I will be in the library for five hours, I pack a large water bottle filled with ice and mineral water. I also have to pack a thermos of coffee, so I don’t get sleepy. If I get hungry, I will need an energy bar, and a bag of almonds.

If the library is chilly, I will need a sweater and extra socks in case my toes are cold. I will also need a fan and a handkerchief in case the library is hot. In either event, I will certainly need lip gloss and moisturizer for my hands.

Oh! I can’t forget to take my MP3 player so I can listen to soothing music. I will take two sets of headphones, in case one breaks. I also pack my phone, keys, wallet, mints and chewing gum.

On the way to the library my back starts to hurt because my bag is so heavy. I have to be careful how I carry it: it is so overstuffed with “necessities” that I can’t even zip it up! Still, I feel like I’ve forgotten something important.

As I get to the door of the library, I realize what I have forgotten. I don’t have any books! I have packed “everything but the kitchen sink” – and my books, notes and class materials. Maybe I should just take the day off!

1 What did the author joke about when she used to go on vacation with her family?
   A Her mother being tired of packing her several bags.
   B Her mother packing bags with too many things.
   C Her mother putting smaller bags into a large bag.
   D Her mother preparing snacks the author didn’t like.
2 Why does the author think she is like her mother?
   A Because she makes a list of what she should do during the day in advance.
   B Because she prepares everything she thinks she will need whenever she goes anywhere.
   C Because she enjoys stuffing her bags with her favorite things when going to the library.
   D Because she uses the same bag as her mother when she goes to the library.

3 What did the author NOT take to the library?
   A An extra set of headphones to listen to music.
   B Lip gloss to use when it is either cold or hot.
   C The books that she needed for working in the library.
   D The heavy bag that made her back hurt.

4 What does “pack everything but the kitchen sink” mean in this passage?
   A Prepare too many things before doing something.
   B Make a good plan for things that should be done.
   C Go to a place where daily necessities are not prepared.
   D Think deeply about what will happen in the near future.

5 What is true about this story?
   A The library is very comfortable for the author, so she usually stays there for five hours to study.
   B The library is usually very chilly and dry, so it is necessary for the author to take moisturizer.
   C The author was not able to get to the library because she couldn't carry the bag that was overstuffed.
   D The author forgot to take something important to the library, but she didn't know what it was at first.