

2017年(第62回)一級臨床検査士資格認定試験

「共通英語問題」

次の英文を読み、下記の設問に答えよ。

Almost everyone has heard about global warming and how it could cause damage to our environment. Recent measurements of the oceans show that this warming is causing the sea level to rise by several millimeters every decade. Many island nations are concerned that within a century or so their homes will disappear under water.

Moreover, this rise in temperature together with pollution and the loss of natural habitat is said to be causing a huge loss in the diversity of life on Earth. ※1

Two billion years ago, there was no oxygen on the Earth, and all forms of life consisted of creatures so tiny that they would be invisible to the human eye. Gradually, these creatures began producing oxygen as a waste product, just as plants do now.

However, at that time, for most life, oxygen was poisonous. As oxygen increased from 0% of our atmosphere two billion years ago, to the present 21%, species were forced to evolve. Naturally, many species must have died in the poisonous atmosphere; however, some managed to adapt, and these were our ancestors. ※2

While it may seem difficult to believe that oxygen can be poisonous to life, this shows us how disasters can produce strange and unpredictable results. ※3

The present disaster, which is happening before our eyes, is interesting because it is being caused by humans. Unlike past disasters, global warming is unique in that it is not natural. At this point, no one knows what the outcome of this environmental destruction will be.

By studying disasters in the past, it is possible to predict that the big changes occurring in today's environment will force humans to change if they are to survive. ※4

設問1. 下線※1が起こる理由は何か。

設問2. 下線※2を和訳せよ。

設問3. 筆者は何を根拠にして下線※3のことを述べているのか。

設問4. 下線※4を和訳せよ。

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People may decide to study foreign languages for various reasons. They may do so for the immediate purpose of satisfying the requirements of some public examination or of getting greater fun and enjoyment out of a holiday abroad.

※ Men of business may have to deal directly or indirectly with foreign correspondence and research workers may realize the importance of being able to read the latest accounts of advances made in their subject as soon as they are published in foreign journals without waiting for a translator, who may or may not be competent to present a precise rendering with one hundred percent accuracy.

People may be keenly interested in the activities of a foreign nation for political reasons and they may need to acquire that close knowledge of current affairs which travel abroad and the reading of foreign newspapers and journals alone can supply. Students of literature must surely be able to read the masters at first hand.

Learning a new language implies approaching a new world and it inevitably leads to a widening of intellectual experience.

-SIMEON POTTER, *Language in the Modern World*-

設問1 下線部の付いた※を和訳せよ。

設問2 人々はなぜ外国語を学ぼうと決心するのか2つ答えよ。

設問3 作者の考える新しい言語を学ぶことの意義を2つ挙げよ。

平成27年(第60回)一級臨床検査士資格認定試験

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Only women over 35 have a high risk of producing a Down's syndrome child.

※ 1 They have been screened through blood tests and ultrasound scans, then with amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS), in which cells are taken from the developing embryo. Younger mums have been screened too, but in their second trimesters and only with blood tests. The recommendation is that all women be screened at the 20th week, using the same tests; and many women are being pushed to have them earlier. Many like the idea. The tests will be more accurate (amniocentesis has a 99% accuracy rate), and will give women more time to decide what to do.

It makes sense to test under-35s. 80% of Down's syndrome babies are born to younger women, because their fertility rates are higher. But others find the changes unsettling, and with reason. Both amniocentesis and CVS tests carry a slight risk of miscarriage. And roughly 80% of women testing positive for Down's have abortions.

※ 2 Jon Colman, the chief operating officer at the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), notes that although many of them are born susceptible to heart problems, hearing loss and respiratory problems as well as mental retardation, most contribute to their families and communities and all are entitled to lead productive, independent lives. Down's children, many parents say, are delightful to bring up. And most do not die in their 20s, as Americans tend to assume, but can hope to live into their mid-50s.

amniocentesis : 羊水穿刺

chorionic villus sampling (CVS) : 絨毛生検

fertility rates : 出生率

entitled : 権利を与える

設問 1 ※の付いた下線文を和訳せよ。

※ 1

※ 2

設問 2 筆者は 35 歳未満の女性を検査することが道理にかなっているという。

その理由を記せ。