

令和 8 年度入学試験問題

外 国 語（英 語）

注 意 事 項

- 1 この問題冊子は、試験開始の合図があるまで開いてはならない。
- 2 問題冊子は、全部で 9 ページある。（落丁、乱丁、印刷不鮮明の箇所などがあつた場合は申し出ること。）
- 3 別に解答用紙が 3 枚ある。
- 4 解答は、すべて解答用紙の指定された箇所に記入すること。
- 5 受験番号は、各解答用紙の指定された 2 箇所に必ず記入すること。
- 6 解答時間は、90 分である。
- 7 下書きは、問題冊子の余白を使用すること。
- 8 問題冊子は、持ち帰ること。

I

次の英文を読んで、下の問いに答えなさい。

A couple sits together on a sunny park bench. He appears to be studying the passing clouds; she's absorbed in a novel. Some passersby might think, "How sweet." Others might see them as bleak.

They could be either. ^(a)Until now, scientists have mostly ignored shared silences between romantic partners, concentrating on verbal exchanges such as how to discuss feelings, negotiate needs, and deal with conflict. But according to new research, silence can be a powerful communicator for couples.

In a series of four studies described in *Motivation and Emotion* in 2024, psychologist Netta Weinstein of the United Kingdom's University of Reading and her colleagues asked partnered college students and adults to write about experiences of silence with their significant others.

Weinstein and her colleagues hypothesized that silences would differ in meaning and in the emotion they generated based on what motivated them. The research team sorted shared silences into three types. Intrinsic, or intimate, silences arise naturally and comfortably between mates. Introjected, or anxious, silences occur when one person feels uncomfortable speaking. External, or hostile, silences can come from one partner's wish to shut out or punish the other. These silences can also be spontaneous, or random.

In Weinstein's investigations, different groups of subjects reflected on a recent silent episode in their current relationship, or on daily silent episodes over 14 days. ^(b)Some participants were randomly assigned to write about a particular kind of silence, based on what motivated it, and one group wrote about a wordless episode from a bad relationship in their past. Participants reported how frequently such silences occurred, their emotions during them — peaceful, depressed, bored or sad, for example — and how they felt about their relationship.

To indicate why they were not speaking, they could choose among such

statements as: “Because I feared he/she would be mad at me if I said something,” “Because I cherish moments when I am able to be next to him/her even if we aren’t speaking,” “Because he/she wanted me to be silent,” “Because I wanted him/her to feel bad” and “Because I didn’t need to speak for my partner to understand me.”

Three significant findings emerged from the studies. First — unsurprisingly — the reason for a silence was a major factor in the episode’s impact on the partners’ emotions and relationship. Couples who saw their silence as anxious or hostile reported less positive and more negative emotion, for example. Second, intrinsic silences that felt comfortable were associated with many positive emotions and high ratings of how well the relationship fulfilled their needs.

The third finding was that during these intrinsic silences, positive feelings were “low-arousal” — they were relaxed and peaceful rather than happy or excited.

Weinstein says she finds this last result interesting. Until now, she says, researchers had reported that this kind of peacefulness could be achieved only in solitude, but it appears that couples who feel safe thinking their own thoughts while enjoying the pleasure of togetherness seem to experience it too. The findings show couples that they don’t have to separate to enjoy alone time.

Another overall finding, she adds, “is that we don’t always need to fill up the space with conversation: Silent moments can be powerful ways to connect.”

Weinstein and colleagues “are really looking at a topic that has received not nearly as much attention as it deserves,” says Northwestern University psychological scientist Claudia Haase, who wrote a 2023 article in the *Annual Review of Developmental Psychology* on how couples become better at managing their emotions as they grow older. In her current work, she studies couples interacting in a lab. Although she has not specifically studied mutual silences, she believes these are filled with meaning, from the refusal to speak to the

wordlessness that indicates, she says, “a sense that we are safe with each other.”

Weinstein notes that partners pay a lot of attention to how what they say can hurt or help their mate, but rarely think about the ramifications of silences. Partners might learn something important, for example, if they check out what their quietness means for their mate, Haase adds: One person’s comfortable silence may leave their mate feeling ignored or shut out.

Couples can also plan together to enable intimate silent experiences — perhaps doing something together that they both enjoy, such as reading, hiking up a trail to a breathtaking view or relaxing and listening to classical music. “Those moments,” Weinstein says, “are rich with love and closeness and connection.”

(Adapted from Francine Russo, “Quiet couples: Alone time together: The right kind of silence can be golden, revitalizing and strengthening a relationship,” *Knowable Magazine*, Feb. 10, 2025)

〔注〕 bleak 寂しい, 陰鬱な

low-arousal 低覚醒(感情の動揺が少なく, 落ち着いている状態)

ramifications 影響, 結果

(注意) 解答する際, 句読点は1マスに1字記入すること。

問 1. 下線部(a)を和訳しなさい。

問 2. 下線部(b)を, it の内容を明らかにして和訳しなさい。

問 3. 下線部(c)の理由を, 句読点を含めて 90 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。

問 4. 下線部(d)の主張を裏付ける具体例として, 本文で述べられている内容を, 句読点を含めて 70 字以内の日本語でまとめなさい。

Ⅱ は次ページ

II

次の英文を読んで、下の問いに答えなさい。

While observing wild baboons in Kenya, researcher Akiko Matsumoto-Oda noticed something striking. Whenever the animals got injured in fights with each other, their wounds healed quickly — much more quickly, it seemed, than her own scratches and scrapes.

Now, Matsumoto-Oda has data to back up that idea. In experiments, human wounds took more than twice as long to heal than those on other mammals — including chimpanzees, which are one of the closest relatives to *Homo sapiens*. Matsumoto-Oda, who is an evolutionary biologist at Japan's University of the Ryukyus, and her colleagues, describe their findings in a paper published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

For the study, the team compared the healing rates of humans with those of rats, mice and four primate species: vervet monkeys, Sykes' monkeys, olive baboons and chimpanzees.

They studied 24 human patients who had recently had skin tumors removed, taking daily measurements of the wounds to see how much they had shrunk. On average, the wounds healed at a rate of 0.25 millimeters per day.

To gather data on the other mammal species, they anesthetized and surgically wounded captive lab mice, rats, olive baboons, Sykes' monkeys and vervet monkeys. They also studied naturally occurring wounds — mostly caused by fighting — on five captive chimpanzees. The animals' wounds healed at a rate of approximately 0.61 millimeters per day, on average.

Researchers were not entirely surprised by the results, because skin healing is affected by hair. The hair follicles at the root of each hair contain stem cells, which, in addition to producing hair, can grow new skin when necessary. Since humans have much less hair than other mammals do, it makes sense that our wounds would take longer to heal.

“When the[skin]is wounded, as in most kinds of scratches and scrapes, it's

really the hair-follicle stem cells that do the repair,” says Elaine Fuchs, a biologist at Rockefeller University who was not involved with the research, to the *New York Times*’ Elizabeth Preston.

At some point in the evolutionary journey, humans lost most of their body hair. Since chimps’ wounds heal faster than ours, this shift likely occurred after humans diverged from our shared ancestor with the primates, reports *New Scientist*’s Chris Simms.

It’s not entirely clear why early humans lost their hair. But it seems our species swapped the once-abundant hair follicles for sweat glands, which are not as efficient at healing wounds but help keep us cool in hot environments.

In theory, this slower wound healing rate should have put humans at a disadvantage. But the researchers speculate that support from friends and family, as well as the use of certain plants as medicine, helped humans survive.

For example, archaeologists have unearthed a 1.8-million-year-old skull that belonged to an elderly *Homo erectus* male whose teeth had fallen out long before he died. Similarly, researchers discovered the remains of a Neanderthal male who lived to reach middle age, despite having lost his right arm and suffering other injuries. The only way these individuals could have survived, researchers posit, is if their peers took care of them.

Scientists have also found traces of plants with antibacterial and pain-relieving properties in Neanderthals’ dental plaque. This suggests early human species may have understood that eating certain plants could help them overcome illnesses and injuries.

“Such social and medical support may have helped mitigate the adaptive disadvantage of a slower wound-healing rate,” the researchers write in the paper.

(Adapted from Sarah Kuta, “Human Evolution Traded Fur for Sweat Glands — and Now, Our Wounds Take Longer to Heal Than Those of Other Mammals:

Even compared to chimpanzees, one of our closest relatives, humans' scrapes and cuts tend to stick around for more than twice as long, new research suggests," *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 30, 2025)

〔注〕 baboons ヒヒ primate 霊長類の動物
anesthetize 麻酔をかける hair follicles 毛包(毛根の袋状の部分)
sweat glands 汗腺 dental plaque 歯垢
mitigate 和らげる, 軽減する

(注意) 解答する際、句読点は1マスに1字記入すること。

問 1. 下線部(a)を和訳しなさい。

問 2. 研究者たちは治癒速度の平均値をどのように導き出したか。本文の内容に即して、句読点を含めて40字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。

問 3. 下線部(b)を和訳しなさい。

問 4. 研究者たちは治癒速度の遅いヒトが長く生き残れた理由をどのように考えているか。本文の内容に即して、句読点を含めて70字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。

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Ⅲ

次の問題 A, B に答えなさい。

問題 A. 下線部を英訳しなさい。

現代は情報化社会であると言われますが、情報と教養とは別のもので。定義の仕方にもよりますが、私は教養に比べると、「情報」というものはそれほど深いものではないと考えています。情報は、人間の人格に影響をおよぼすものではないからです。

わかりやすい例では、聖書や『論語』などは人間の人格に影響をおよぼしてきた書物の代表格ですが、これらを情報だとみなす人はいません。情報とは人格への影響がないものを指すのであって、情報によって人格変容が起きたら、それはもはや情報とはいえない、と思うのです。

そう考えると、人生において人との出会いは決定的に重要です。一人の人間の人格は、本以上に生身の、別の人間との出会いによって左右され、影響される度合いが大きいからです。

「世の中にはこんな人もいるのか」と実際に話してみることで受ける印象は、たとえ一度きりの対話でも後々まで残ります。その意味では「百聞は一見に如かず」というように、100 の情報にふれるよりは、一人の人間と生身で話すことが大事なのだらうと思います。

〔出典〕 齋藤孝 『20 歳の自分に伝えたい知的生活のすゝめ』(SB クリエイティブ, 2022 年)

問題 B. 次の質問に 70 語 (70 words) 程度の英文で答えなさい。解答欄末尾の所定の箇所に、解答に用いた語の数を「(68 words)」のように必ず記すこと。ただし、ピリオドやコンマなどの句読点は語数に含めません。

If you could have any superpower or any supernatural ability, what would it be and how would you use it?