

令和5年度入学者一般選抜入学試験問題

(B日程 国際経済学部)

英 語

注意事項

- 1 試験時間は、午前10時から午前11時30分までである。
- 2 試験開始の合図があるまで、問題冊子を開かないこと。
- 3 この試験では、問題冊子（7ページ）、解答用紙2枚及び下書き用紙1枚を配付する。
- 4 試験開始の合図があつてから、解答用紙に受験番号を必ず記入すること（氏名の記入は不要）。解答用紙は2枚あるので、必ず2枚すべてに記入すること。
- 5 解答は、解答用紙の所定の欄に横書きで記入すること。所定の解答欄以外に記入した解答は無効である。
- 6 問題冊子及び解答用紙にページの欠落や印刷不鮮明な部分等がある場合は、手をあげて、試験監督者がそばに来てからその旨申し出ること。
- 7 原則として、試験時間中の途中退室は認めない。
ただし、具合が悪くなった場合、トイレに行きたくなった場合等は、手をあげて、試験監督者がそばに来てからその旨申し出ること。
- 8 試験終了の合図があつたら直ちに筆記用具を置くこと。
- 9 試験終了の合図があつて筆記用具を置いたら、机の上に問題冊子と下書き用紙を重ねて置き、その上に表にした解答用紙を問①の解答用紙が上になるように重ねて置くこと。
- 10 試験監督者の許可があるまで退室しないこと。

※ 解答は解答用紙に書きなさい。

1 Read the following article and answer the questions below.

Japan's shrinking* railways

- 1 Tucked away* in the verdant* mountains of Shimane, in western Japan, Gobira railway station has nearly disappeared. Its signs have faded*, the letters hardly legible*. The tracks are blanketed in thick moss* and overgrown* with weeds*. Its last departure was in the spring of 2018, when the 108km-long Sanko Line, which snaked through six municipalities in Shimane and Hiroshima prefectures, closed after 88 years. "It's sad that the Sanko Line is gone," a local [person] reminisces*. "When we were young, we would stretch our hands out of the train windows and touch the leaves of the mountain."
- 2 The line carried an average of 83 passengers a kilometre in 2016, down from 458 in 1987. It was losing ¥900 million (\$8.5 million) a year when it shut. "It was a difficult decision," says Masuda Kazutoshi, a former mayor of one of the towns served, who oversaw* the process. "But in reality, we all knew that this was going to happen." A bus service has replaced the trains.
- 3 Japan is a railway powerhouse*. The famed* *shinkansen*, or bullet trains, connect far-flung corners of the country. Two new stations were added this year to Tokyo's already expansive* commuter-rail* network to ease congestion* at rush hour and provide better access to venues* for the Olympics. One of the new stations boasts cleaning robots and an automated* convenience store.
- 4 Yet many railways in rural areas face a similar fate to the Sanko Line. A total of 44 lines, spanning* over 1,000km, have closed since 2000. Three-quarters of local railway companies are unprofitable*. The shrinking and ageing of the population, which are especially acute* in rural areas, have drained away passengers and revenue. Cars have also become more popular in rural areas, even among the elderly: the number of licence-holders* over the age of 75 is climbing, according to government statistics. Covid-19*, which has slashed the number of workers and tourists on rural routes, will push railways further into debt.
- 5 The government provides relatively little support for struggling lines. Japan's railways were privatised* in the late 1980s, and the subsidies train companies receive are at best a quarter of what is needed to keep them all afloat*, estimates Utsunomiya Kiyohito of Kansai University. Roads, by contrast, receive massive funding. Near the defunct* Gobira station, dozens of construction workers can be seen toiling* on road-improvement schemes.
- 6 "Lawmakers* living in Tokyo don't see what's happening in rural communities," laments* Kojima Mitsunobu, chairman of Ryobi Holdings, a transport

company. Resentment* of rural-urban disparities* runs deep in the municipalities* of Shimane and Hiroshima, too. “Japan thinks Tokyo is the only place people live in,” says Morita Ippei of Gounokawa Railway, an organisation seeking to revitalise* the towns along the Sanko Line. “The Sanko Line disappeared. We were abandoned, discarded*.”

7 “If we continue down this path, every form of public transport in rural regions will disappear in the future,” warns Mr. Utsunomiya. The buses that replaced Gobira’s trains are empty: “carrying air, ” as Mr. Masuda puts it. He worries it is not so much public transport that is disappearing, but rather the communities it serves.

Source: “Undo the locomotion,” *The Economist*, September 12, 2020, pp. 23-24.

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- * shrink : 縮む、小さくなる、減少する
- * tuck away : (建物などが) 静かな場所にある、隠されている
- * verdant : 新緑で覆われた、青々とした
- * fade : 薄れる、(色が) あせる、見えなくなる
- * legible : 判読できる
- * moss : コケ、コケの茂み
- * overgrown : (植物が) 生い茂った
- * weed : 雑草
- * reminisce : 追憶する、思い出を語る
- * oversee : 監督する
- * powerhouse : 原動力になるもの、精力家、強大な国 (〇〇大国)
- * famed : 有名な、名高い
- * expansive : 拡張的な、発展的な
- * commuter rail : 通勤鉄道
- * congestion : 混雑
- * venue : 開催地、会場
- * automate : オートメーション化する
- * span : …に及ぶ
- * unprofitable : 利益のない、もうからない
- * acute : ひどい、深刻な
- * holder : 所有者、保有者
- * covid-19 : 新型コロナウイルス感染症 (COVID-19)
- * privatise : 民営化する (privatize)
- * afloat : (会社などが) 破産しないで、活動して
- * defunct : 消滅した、現存しない
- * toil : 精を出して働く

- * lawmaker : 立法者、立法府の議員
- * lament : 悲しむ、嘆く
- * resentment : 憤り、憤慨
- * disparity : 差異、格差、不均衡
- * municipality : 地方自治体
- * revitalise : 再び活力を与える、生き返らせる、活性化する (revitalize)
- * discard : 捨てる、放棄する、廃棄する

I. From the choices A to D, choose the most appropriate answer to the questions below.

- (1) What does “this” in paragraph 2 indicate?
 - A. A bus service has replaced the trains.
 - B. The average number of passengers per kilometer decreased.
 - C. The railway line stopped operating.
 - D. The railway line was losing money.

- (2) What is the purpose of paragraph 3?
 - A. to highlight Japan’s developed railway network
 - B. to highlight Japan’s development in technology, automation, and robots
 - C. to highlight the efficiency of Japan’s famed shinkansen
 - D. to highlight the gap between Tokyo’s network and rural railways

- (3) The word “yet” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
 - A. already
 - B. from now
 - C. however
 - D. so far

- (4) The word “slashed” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
 - A. changed
 - B. decreased
 - C. replaced
 - D. stopped

- (5) What does “funding” in paragraph 5 refer to?
 - A. debt
 - B. profit
 - C. schemes
 - D. subsidies

- (6) What does “this path” in paragraph 7 refer to?
- A. the anger felt by the people of Shimane and Hiroshima regarding the differences between Tokyo and their prefectures
 - B. the lack of understanding by lawmakers in Tokyo regarding the situation in the rural areas
 - C. the loss of income of people in the rural areas
 - D. the plan to revitalize the towns along the Sanko line
- (7) Which of the following did NOT contribute to the closing of the Sanko line?
- A. Cars have become popular in rural areas, even among the elderly.
 - B. The government provided little support.
 - C. The shrinking and ageing population has drained away passengers and revenue.
 - D. Two new stations were added to Tokyo’s commuter-rail network.
- (8) Which of the following is NOT an argument given in the article?
- A. Leaders of the country who are based in Tokyo do not understand the seriousness of the railway problem in rural communities.
 - B. The future of other types of rural public transportation may be similar to that of Japan’s rural railways.
 - C. The problem of disappearing railways in rural Japan has been difficult to predict.
 - D. The problem of Japan’s rural railways is caused by many factors including the shrinking and ageing of the country’s population.

II. How can Japan’s rural railways be revitalized?

Give one suggestion in a paragraph (between 50 and 60 words, in English).

(語数を記入する必要はありません。)

2

Write a paragraph between 120 and 150 words in English to answer the following question. (語数を記入する必要はありません。)

Question: Sapporo is hoping to host the Winter Olympics in 2030. If Sapporo is selected, it will be its second time to host the event. State one possible advantage and one concern you have regarding the hosting of the Winter Olympics in Sapporo.