

令和6年度入学 総合政策研究科 博士前期課程 一般（第2次募集）試験問題の出典
英語 一般

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英語	1	毎日新聞社	社説 実効性への疑問ぬぐえぬ	毎日新聞 2023年12月27日 対語訳より 一部改変	毎日新聞社

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入学試験問題

英 語

志願区分：一 般

注意事項：

1. この試験は、13 時 00 分から 14 時 30 分までである。
2. 「始め」の合図があるまで、問題を見てはいけません。
3. 試験中に、問題冊子および解答用紙の印刷不鮮明、ページの脱落などがあった場合には、手を挙げて試験監督者に知らせなさい。
4. 解答は、黒鉛筆（シャープペンシルも可）で記入しなさい。万年筆、ボールペン等は使用してはいけません。
5. 試験終了後、問題冊子は持ち帰りなさい。

英 語

注意事項：

解答用紙の所定の欄に，志願区分，受験番号および氏名を記入しなさい。

1 以下の英文を日本語に全訳せよ。

The Japanese government has just approved a 3.6-trillion-yen package to a "children's future strategy," a policy aimed at giving real heft to "a new dimension of declining birth rate countermeasures" advocated by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Yet questions remain whether this will be enough to create an environment where people wanting to have children can raise a family with a sense of security.

The pillar of the package is support measures for families raising children. A system allowing non-working parents to leave their children at day care centers will be introduced, and parental leave benefits will be raised to 100% of take-home income for couples who both take time off. It marks a step forward, but the schemes need to be made more convenient.

With limited financial resources, it is questionable whether making college tuition free for households with three or more children regardless of parental income will prove effective. The new program follows the expansion of child allowances.

The free education program will bring significant benefits to families with three or more children at college age or younger. Yet these households will no longer be covered by the plan if one of the children finds a job and is no longer a dependent. It remains to be seen if the program will motivate families to have a third child.

Every child has the right to an education, and every family has to bear the cost of raising children. It is only natural that some have called the plan "unfair" for making college education free only for households with many children.

Behind the nation's dwindling birth rate lies the rising ratio of unmarried people. Some cannot afford to get married due to low incomes and unstable employment. And the government has not put serious effort into providing them with support through labor policy. Measures to correct long working hours and excessive burdens on women raising children are also insufficient.

The government claims that the new package will primarily be funded by 1.1 trillion yen to be generated through spending reform in health and nursing care, as well as 1 trillion yen to be collected from all generations through what is being dubbed a "support fund system." Yet a number of challenges remain.

Prime Minister Kishida has stressed that there will be "practically no additional burdens" on the public, but his explanation doesn't hold water. Initially, the government said it would secure the amount for the support fund system contributions by reducing public insurance premiums through spending reforms. It later revised the plan when it hit a snag, saying pay raises will be factored in. Yet it is irrational for the government to count on private companies' wage hikes as a revenue source.

One estimate has the number of births in 2023 dropping to between 700,000 and 750,000, which would be the fewest on record. It is an urgent task to slow down this still accelerating decline.

Instead of tricking the people with figure-juggling, the government must commit itself to the political responsibility of seeking public understanding for necessary measures, and the cost burdens for achieving them.

(『毎日新聞』2023年12月27日, 「社説 実効性への疑問ぬぐえぬ」の対語訳より, 一部改変)