

Q & A

*Make an Opinion!
Should've said that back then!!*

(まず、質問を繰り返して...)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ① (I think that) _____ | -Opinion- |
| ② because _____ | - Reason - |
| ③ For example, _____ | - Example or Explanation - |
| ④ (So my opinion is that) _____ | -Opinion- |

- ← Thesis Statement (主張)
- ← Body 1 (理由)
- ← Body 2 (具体例 or 説明)
- ← Conclusion (結論/主張)

- ① : I think (that)...
I feel (that)...
In my opinion...
In my view...

- ④ : So, my opinion is that...
That's why I feel /think that...
Therefore, I would say...
In conclusion, I think...

②③ :

○○ **is** important/ necessary/ useful/ helpful/ interesting/ entertaining/ exciting/
effective/ efficient / convenient / inexpensive / economical / fantastic

○○ **is getting more (and more) important**

It is important for us to develop / use ○○

It is definitely good for the environment/ our health/ children/ people/
perfectly OK our lives / our daily life / a good society / good relationships

social mobility/ human right(s)/ communication/ information (society)

So we need ○○
should develop ○○

to have/make a better society
to make our society **much better**
to address disparity/ disparities
to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

Q 1 :

"If you could change the colors of traffic lights or signals, which color would you prefer?"

A:

If I could change the color of the signals?

① I would prefer purple—deep purple.

②-1 Not because it looks cool, but because it sounds cool. I just like the sound of 'deep purple.'

③ For example, the light would show 'go,' blinking would mean 'caution,' and no light would mean 'stop.'

②-2 And using just one light would save energy. Moreover, It would be efficient and effective.

④ Yes, If I could change the color of traffic lights, I'd go with just one color, 'deep purple.' (83 words)

Q 2 :

Agree or Disagree:

“Mihama is a cozy countryside town in Japan.”

A:

Is Mihama a cozy countryside town?

- ① Yes, I think so, and I agree with that statement. In fact, I would say the entire Kinan area is cozy countryside.
- ② First of all, the sun shines brightly in the clear blue sky over the beautiful blue ocean, the Pacific Ocean.
- ③ We're also excited about the new high school, Seiran High, whose name means “blue and blue”—perfectly matching the natural beauty around here.
- ④ Yes, that's why I strongly feel that Mihama-town is one of the coziest countryside towns in Japan. (89 words)

Q 3 :

“Why do you think Christmas **is** so popular *in Japan*, even though most people here **are not** Christians?”

①:

I think (that)...
I feel (that)...
In my opinion, ...
In my view, ...

④:

So, my opinion is that...
That's why I feel /think that...
Therefore, I would say (that)...
In conclusion, I think (that)...

A:

Oh, why do I think Christmas **is** so popular *here in Japan*, even though almost all of us **are** Buddhists or Shintoists?

① *Mmm... that's because* it **fits well** with Japanese culture.

②-1 *First of all*, it's **entertaining** and even **romantic**. *For example*, we **have** a famous song by Yamashita Tatsuro, **where** he **sings**, “I'm sure you're not coming to see me, only to leave me alone tonight...”

②-2 *Second*, Christmas *in Japan* **can even feel** spiritual *in its own way*. On December 24th or 25th, it **might snow**, **creating** a calm and quiet atmosphere. *During this time*, people often **think** deeply *about the coming new year*, **which** **is** a much more important event *in Japanese culture*.

④ *So, in my opinion*, Christmas **has become** popular **because** it **fits well** with Japanese values, even from the time **when** it **was first introduced** here. (138 words)

Q 4 :

"What kind of year *do you think* this year **will be**, **or what kind of year do you want** this year **to be**?"

①:	④:
I think (that)...	So, my opinion is that...
I feel (that)...	That's why I feel /think that...
In my opinion, ...	Therefore, I would say (that)...
In my view, ...	In conclusion, I think (that)...

A-1:

What kind of year *do I think* this year **will be**?

① *I think that* this year **will be** much more **interesting** **and** far more **exciting** than ever before.

② **Because** society is changing rapidly, **and** we must change **and** adapt **to keep up with these changes**.

③ *For example*, we will have to promote social mobility to get along with the changes, **and** we have to challenge ourselves to adopt the social mobility.

④ *So, In my opinion*, this year **will be** not only more dynamic **but** also more engaging, **and** *I hope it will be* way more fulfilling for me personally. (103 words)

A-2:

What kind of year *do I think* this year **will be?**

- ① *I think (that) this year will be a year of big change.*
Things are changing, societies are changing, people are changing, and we ourselves are changing too. Or I should say, “We must change.”
- ② One of the reasons (why) I believe (that) this year will bring big changes is the return of Donald Trump as president of the United States. He is a changer, as shown during his first term and in his statements since then.
- ③-1 *For example, the way of the world trade may change* dramatically thanks to his “America First” policies.
③-2 *I also hope the war in Ukraine will come to an end, as he has said, “I will stop the war on my first day in office.”*
- ④ *So, In my opinion, this year will be a year of change. The world is changing quickly and in big ways. My hope is that these changes will be positive, making the world a better place to live.* (176 words)

Q 5 :

What is your impression after watching the video, “Hiking the Kumano Kodo Trail.”

OR

You can discuss whatever topic you would like.

“Today, I’d like to talk about ~ ”

“When it comes to ~ ”

A:

Q 6 :

“What do you think or how do you feel about AI (artificial intelligence)?”

OR

“What do you use as a planner, and how do you use it?”

OR

“You can discuss whatever topic you would like.”

A-1:

How do I feel about AI?

- ① *First of all, it's scary. I don't know much about AI technology, and we tend to fear what we don't understand.*
- ② *Technology is changing rapidly while I'm gradually getting older—hopefully! That's also frightening because I know we must adapt to keep up with those changes.*
- ③ *For example, imagine if someone among us right now were an AI. How would you feel or react? And what if you were the only human here, surrounded by AIs? No one would know or be able to tell who's who.*
- ④ *So yes, I'm a little bit scared about the rapid development of AI technology. (111 words)*

A-2:

About the planner (which) you're asking me *about*, I use Google Calendar because it's useful, convenient, and easy to use.

But I have one problem: I hardly have any plans since most days feel like Sundays, and the rest are like holidays since I'm retired.

Still, it makes me happy to add even a few events to my calendar! (58 words)

This is the planner. + You asked me *about the planner*.

This is the planner *about which* you asked me.
This is the planner which you asked me *about*.
This is the planner that you asked me *about*.
This is the planner you asked me *about*.

Q 7 :

“Do you have a favorite movie? If so, which one and why?”
OR

“You can talk about any topic you like.”

A-1:

Today, I'd like to talk about fire drills, or rather, earthquake drills since we're warned that a major earthquake is expected around here within the next 30 to 50 years!

It's not a question of if but when, so we need to take it seriously. Even when it comes to toilets, we need realistic-looking poop models to help people (to) think about the situation when flushing becomes impossible, a serious issue we'll likely face.

As for 30 to 50 years from now, I'm not sure whether I'll still be around, fortunately or unfortunately, when the disaster strikes. But they say 'within that time frame,' so stay prepared and vigilant! (109 words)

A-2:

Yes, I also like the movie *Witness*. It's a crime thriller about a murder, and obviously, someone witnessed it, right? The witness is an Amish boy who was visiting Philadelphia, the capital of Pennsylvania, with his mother.

I like it not only for its suspense and thrilling storyline but also for its beautiful portrayal of rural Pennsylvania, where the Amish live a simple, traditional life. Their calm, peaceful way of living amid beautiful fields is truly impressive.

Then, suddenly, this serene life is disrupted when a dangerous murderer shows up, hunting for the witness boy...

Q 8 :

Do you agree or disagree: Vallery-sensei is one of the best teachers.

OR

You can talk about any topic you like.

A-1:

Yes, I agree. I strongly believe that Vallery-sensei is one of the best ALT teachers *in Japan*.

First of all, she is always positive about teaching English to Japanese students, with a smile on her face. I'm sure she is not only kind but also a little strict, which is essential when teaching, especially to children.

For example, I remember she once said that we need to teach phonics if we are teaching the rules of English pronunciation. In Japan, phonics is not included in the curriculum for some reason.

Of course, it is not the only method for teaching English pronunciation, but it is certainly one of the best.

As you may know, in the US, they have the National Teacher of the Year award for the best teacher. If we had that kind of award in Japan, she would surely receive it.

(144 words)

A-2:

Yes, I agree. I truly think that Vallery-sensei is one of the best ALTs in Japan.

She is such a friendly and cheerful person, and she always tries to get along with people in Japan.

For example, she always makes us laugh with jokes and gestures. While doing so, she encourages us to speak English instead of Japanese. I'm sure children can learn English while having fun. Also, she is very good at Japanese—Her Japanese skills are so advanced that she can even teach me how to speak Japanese in English.

So, in my opinion, Vallery-sensei is the most beautiful, smartest, and funniest ALT in Japan. I love Vallery-sensei!

(110 words)

You don't have to get along with them.

You just have to deal with them.

How to deal with someone (whom) you don't get along with?

A-4:

Miss Vallery is an excellent teacher. I heard that from other members of our group.

I've only met her twice, so I don't know her very well,

but she was kind to us — she gave us a chance to speak in English when I joined the Thanksgiving party she hosted.

She was definitely active and considerate toward the people around her. I agree that she is one of the best teachers.(71w.)

A-3:

Yes, I agree. She is the most competent teacher I've ever met among all the ALTs I've known.

She is curious about everything. After coming to Japan, she experienced many aspects of Japanese culture. Now, she introduces Japanese culture to her students and the people around her.

For example, she practices Japanese taiko drums and plays them regularly. At the same time, she introduces American culture and cooking to her students and Japanese people.

Therefore, I would say that Vallery-sensei is one of the best teachers. (86 words)

That was the most beautiful sunset I've ever seen.
That was the best performance I've ever seen.

She has the most beautiful voice I've ever heard.
That was the most ridiculous excuse I've ever heard.

That was the most exciting trip I've ever experienced.
The earthquake was the scariest thing I've ever experienced.

Q 9 :

Why don't we talk about whether or not you believe in another world, a parallel world, or an afterlife existing somewhere in the universe?

Or, if you prefer, you can talk about any topic you like, such as kimono and the beauty of traditional Japanese culture.

A-1:

Yes, when it comes to the afterlife, there is a famous argument that almost on one can disagree with.

The argument is that you should believe in another world since no one has experienced or truly knows whether it exists or not. In that case, believing in such a world is the safest choice.

For example, if another world does exist, those who have believed in it and prepared for it won't be troubled. On the other hand, if such a world doesn't exist, no one will ever realize it because there would be nothing to observe.

Therefore, it is better for your soul to believe in another world, a parallel world, or an afterlife—whatever form it may take. (120 words)

A-2:

Yes, I believe in another world, a parallel world, or an afterlife existing somewhere in the universe.

The world we live in is unfair, and those with money and power rule it. There are wars happening, and they hurt the weak.

Therefore, I believe that another world should be fair.

(50 words)

A-3:

When I was younger, I didn't believe in the afterlife at all.

But as I get older, my thoughts have changed.

Many people believe that science can explain everything in this world, but I think there are still many mysteries that remain unsolved.

I read some books about people who had near-death experiences, particularly a book titled *Proof of Heaven*, written by neurosurgeon Eben Alexander. After reading it, I began to believe in the afterlife.

So, my opinion is that nobody truly knows whether it exists or not. When we die, we will finally know the truth.

(97 words)

Q 10 :

Do you agree or disagree: High school students **should not** do their nails, **pierce** their ears, **or** **dye** their hair.

A-1:

I neither agree nor disagree with the statement.

To be honest, I like a neat and clean appearance. I think Japanese women look good with black hair, and very bright hair colors don't always* suit them. Also, doing nails or dyeing hair costs money.

On the other hand, many young girls *in Japan* care about their appearance. By doing so, it might help them feel more confident.

So in my opinion, it should be fine as long as they don't overdo it. (82 words)

[部分否定]: -というわけじゃない

Not all (of) the books he recommended **were** interesting.

Not all/both of them **could be** wrong.

Not everything **is going to go** wrong.

I **don't** always **agree** with you, but- / **always** = *necessarily*

Art **can't** always **be** beautiful just because it is expensive.

It **doesn't** (**always**) **mean** that he is good just because he is rich.

A-2:

Yes, I agree.

Studying **is** the duty of a student. **Although** everyone **is given an equal opportunity to study**, once **you become** a member of society, **it becomes harder to find time** for it. We **can't study all day**. I **want to say** to my high school self, “**You should study hard now.**”

Therefore*, I **think** high school students **should not do** their nails, pierce their ears, or dye their hair.

In addition, once **you become** a member of society, doing your nails, piercing your ears, or dyeing your hair **can help** you **shine as** an adult woman. (98 words)

〈接続詞〉 **Certainly he apologized, but** I won't forgive him. [and / so / or]
Although certainly he apologized, I won't forgive him.
I won't forgive him **although** he certainly apologized.
[because / when / if / as / while / after / before / whereas]

〈接続副詞〉

1. 文頭 : Certainly he apologized. **However**, I won't forgive him.
2. 文中 :

Certainly he apologized; **however**, I won't forgive him.
Certainly he apologized; I won't, **however**, forgive him.
Certainly he apologized; I won't forgive him, **however**.

逆説: however / nevertheless / though / otherwise

順接: besides / moreover / further(more) / therefore / namely / thus / then

対比: instead / meanwhile /comparatively

補足: incidentally / indeed

A-3:

I want to talk about Japanese traditional culture, especially the tea ceremony and flower arrangement. I learned both a long time ago when I was younger, but I've almost forgotten how to perform the tea ceremony properly.

That's why I want to relearn these proud parts of Japanese culture. Although* it's hard for me to sit on tatami mats, and it's also difficult for my aging brain to remember all the formal steps, I still enjoy wearing kimono.

when I was learning the tea ceremony, I could* wear a kimono. Frankly, I feel a little embarrassed to wear one these days, though*, because only a few people wear kimono even on special occasions, and they are not very convenient for daily life. But kimono have elegance, grace, and beauty.

It's truly regrettable to forget our traditional culture. I hope more Japanese women will wear kimono and continue to cherish these traditions. (151 words)

Q 11:

Are you planning to attend Expo 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan? Why or why not?

Or, if you prefer, you can talk about any topic you like.

A-1:

I'm not planning to attend EXPO 2025 because I don't like crowded places. The EXPO venue is too big for me to walk around easily. I can't walk very much due to my age.

Besides, to enter the EXPO, you need to make a reservation online. Also, people selected by lottery can enter the popular pavilions preferentially, while the others have to wait in long lines.

I'm curious to see it, but I don't think I would be able to operate a cellphone well. For these reasons, I'm not going to EXPO 2025. (93 words)

“Would you also like me to show you an even more elegant, very high-level version like for an important formal letter? (It would use slightly more advanced English.)”

“Great! Here's a very polished, high-level formal version — like something you might write for an official letter, a public comment, or a very respectful email.”

A-2:

After careful consideration, I have decided not to attend EXPO 2025.

while I have a strong interest in the event and appreciate the significance it holds, I have concerns regarding the large crowds and the extensive size of the venue, which may present challenges for me in light of my age and physical condition.

Furthermore, the requirement to make an online reservation, as well as the lottery system for accessing popular pavilions, may complicate the experience.

Given that efficient smartphone operation is essential for a smooth visit, and recognizing that this may be difficult for me, I believe it would be prudent to refrain from attending.

Although I remain genuinely interested in the EXPO, I feel this is the most appropriate decision at this time. (125 words)

Key points about this version:

It softens the refusal ("I have decided not to attend" instead of "I'm not going").
It shows respect for the event ("strong interest," "appreciate the significance").
It uses modest expressions ("may present challenges," "it would be prudent").
It keeps the tone warm but dignified.

I am going to attend the EXPO. = I'm gonna attend the EXPO.

I am not going to attend the EXPO. = I'm not gonna attend the EXPO.

A-3:

Yes, I am planning to attend EXPO 2025. The theme of EXPO 2025 is "Designing Future Society," and each country will exhibit new technologies and promote international exchange.

We hope these efforts will contribute to global progress and help resolve common global issues. Ultimately, it means creating a happier future for everyone. I want to experience all of it and have conversations with people from many different countries.

For example, I would like to see green technology from the U.S.A., and afterward, I would like to eat a steak or a hamburger. In addition, I want to experience a cashless lifestyle.

Therefore, I am very excited and planning to attend EXPO 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan. (116 words)

I am looking forward to embracing the opportunity to witness the future being shaped before our eyes.

↑
to witness the future which is being shaped before our eyes
↑
to witness the future. The future is being shaped by them before our eyes
↑
to witness the future. They are shaping the future before our eyes
↑
to witness the future. They shape the future before our eyes

A-4:

Yes, I am planning to attend EXPO 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan. The theme of EXPO 2025, "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," will feature exhibitions from countries around the world, showcasing cutting-edge technologies and promoting global exchange.

It is my hope that such efforts will contribute meaningfully to societal advancement and foster the resolution of shared global challenges.

This vision — of innovation, collaboration, and mutual prosperity — deeply resonates with me. I look forward to experiencing the exhibitions firsthand and engaging in meaningful conversations with people from diverse cultures.

In particular, I am eager to explore green technologies presented by the United States, and afterwards, to enjoy American cuisine such as steak or hamburgers. Moreover, I am excited to experience aspects of a fully cashless society, which many participating countries will demonstrate.

For all these reasons, I am very much looking forward to attending EXPO 2025 and embracing the opportunity to witness the future being shaped* before our eyes. (159 words)

Key points:

1. Clear Structure and Logical Flow (making it feel polished and easy to follow)

The paragraph follows a smooth, logical order:

- (1) Plan to attend → (2) Theme explanation → (3) Personal hope → (4) Specific examples → (5) Conclusion.

2. Formal Vocabulary and Tone (Professional but still warm and personal)

Used more sophisticated words like "showcasing," "foster," "mutual prosperity," "resonates with me," and "meaningful conversations."

3. Precise and Graceful Expressions

Instead of simple verbs like "see" or "eat," more elegant phrases are used:

- "explore green technologies"
- "enjoy American cuisine"
- "embracing the opportunity."

4. Respectful and Positive Feeling (Sounding thoughtful and open-minded)

Focuses not only on what the speaker wants to do, but also on shared goals like "societal advancement" and "global challenges."

5. Polished Details

Full country names: "United States" instead of casual "U.S.A."

No contractions ("I'm" → "I am") because contractions are usually avoided in very formal writing.

Smoothed out casual language ("want to expression" → "look forward to experiencing").

Q 12:

What do you think about or how do you feel about English textbooks in Japan, especially for kids in elementary or junior high school? Or do you have any memories of studying English when (you were) younger?"

Or, if you prefer, you can talk about any topic you like.

What do you think about English education? (opinion)

A: What do you think about the ending of the book?

B: I think it's better than the old one. The design is nicer and easier to read.

How do you feel about speaking English in public? (emotional opinion)

A: How do you feel about studying English every day?

B: Honestly, it's tough, but I know it's good for me.

"Think about" = 考える (consider, analyze) (じっくり・分析的)

Last night I couldn't sleep because I was thinking about his nasty attitude.

"Think of" = 思う／想う (recall, remember, imagine) (心に浮かぶ・感情的)

Last night I couldn't sleep because I was thinking of him, who I love.

What do you think of the teacher? (casual opinion)

A: What do you think of the movie?

B: I loved it! The story was really touching.

How can we fix this problem?

→ How do you think we can fix this problem?

A-1:

Yes, I do. I have two strong memories of studying English when I was younger.

First, I remember being forced to memorize English passages by rote in high school and recite them aloud. If the passage was one I liked, it was easy and even fun. But when I wasn't interested in the content, it felt really difficult.

Second, I went to an English cram school during junior high school, where the teachers were strict about pronunciation. I was a shy student, and their intense reactions made me feel uncomfortable. Because of that, I struggled to pronounce English words correctly.

That's one of the reasons I'm studying English again now.

(110 words)

tada- asked: Why did you omit this part completely, "I liked a reciting a Japanese poem when younger."?

ChatGPT said: It seemed unrelated to studying English. The original question was: "Do you have any memories of studying English when you were younger?" — and this part was about Japanese poetry, not English.

It wasn't clearly connected to the rest of the paragraph. There was no explanation of why Japanese poetry was mentioned. If you'd like to include it, I can help rewrite it so it fits naturally. For example:

"When I was younger, I enjoyed reciting Japanese poems. Maybe that's why I didn't mind memorizing English passages—at least when I liked them."

A-2:

I started studying English when I was in junior high school. At that time, English teachers were Japanese, and most of them couldn't actually speak English. Still, I always got good grades on tests.

However, after graduating from high school, I happened to see Sesame Street on TV one day, and I was truly shocked. Even though I had studied so hard, I couldn't understand what they were saying at all.

Because of that experience, I wanted my child to learn English with a strong focus on listening and speaking, so I enrolled her in ECC. She studied there for 14 years and became able to speak English well.

I believe the biggest problem with English education in Japan is that it puts too much emphasis on test-taking skills. (129 words)

tada- asked: Would you mind rewriting it in the structure of opinion, reasons, example, and conclusion?

A-3:

I believe that one of the biggest problems with English education in Japan is its strong focus on test-taking rather than real communication skills.

when I was in junior high school, English classes were mostly taught by Japanese teachers who couldn't actually speak English fluently. As a result, the lessons centered around grammar and vocabulary for written exams. I always did well on tests, but I wasn't learning how to truly use the language.

After graduating from high school, I watched Sesame Street on TV one day and was shocked to realize I couldn't understand anything they were saying, despite all my years of studying. That moment made me realize how little practical English I had learned.

Because of this, I decided to have my daughter study English in a way that focused on listening and speaking. I enrolled her in ECC, where she studied for 14 years. Thanks to that method, she is now able to speak English well.

In conclusion, I feel that Japan's English education system needs to shift its focus from test scores to real-world language use in order to truly help students communicate.

(188 words)

A-4:

Although Japan's education system is often regarded as one of the most efficient and effective *in the world*—evidenced by top rankings *in the 2022 PISA assessments*, where Japan placed first *in both mathematics and science*, and second *in reading comprehension among OECD nations*—its foreign language education system, particularly *in English*, has long been among the weakest.

First of all, the quality of English instruction has historically been poor. When I was a student, English classes were mostly taught by Japanese teachers who could not speak the language fluently. As a result, lessons focused almost entirely on grammar and vocabulary for written exams. Even if students performed well on tests, they often failed to acquire real-world communication skills. I don't believe this situation has changed significantly.

Second, class sizes remain too large to support meaningful language learning. I was shocked to discover that even two years ago, there were still 40 students in one "Communication English" class when I briefly worked as a temporary instructor. It was a travesty—an educational tragedy. Under such circumstances, it is virtually impossible to teach actual communication, despite what the subject title promises.

Of course, I recognize that many English teachers are striving to improve the system, and that education reforms

were implemented in the 2020 academic year. However, I would argue that these efforts are too little, too late. Japan consistently scores at the bottom in the Speaking section of the TOEFL test among Asian countries, highlighting the continued failure to develop practical language skills.

True reform of English education in Japan will lead to broader changes to the entire education system—and, arguably, to traditional societal norms. Japan must shift its approach from the traditional system to one that fosters real-world language use. Only then can we truly equip students to communicate globally—and, in doing so, help Japan reestablish itself as a forward-thinking, globally engaged nation. (314 words)

Q 13:

Should Japan do more to protect its historic sites?

Or, if you prefer, you can talk about any topic you like.

A-1:

I think Japan should do more to protect its historic sites. It's essential to understand Japanese history and culture and pass them on to future generations.

These sites are evidence of events that happened long ago and show us how people lived in the past. when I look at historical buildings, I'm always impressed by the technology of the time. We can learn so much from the past.

They are also valuable tourist resources. Of course, preserving them costs a lot of money, but their value is truly priceless. (89 words)

A-2:

Yes, Japan should do more to protect its historic sites. I have two main reasons.

The first reason is related to Japan's cultural development. Japan has a long history, and we can learn the wisdom of our ancestors *from historical ruins*. There is a saying: "Learn from the past to create the new."

The second reason is environmental preservation. By protecting historic sites, we can prevent new buildings from being constructed *in those areas*, which helps preserve traditional scenery.

For these reasons, I believe Japan should make greater efforts to protect its historic sites. (94 words)

Q 14:

What is your favorite? Write an essay “My Favorite ~”

(place/person/object/experience/day/subject/thing/food/
music/sport/job/app)

A-1:

I'm going to talk about one of my favorite artists—a 7-member girl group called HANA. They were formed through an audition program called No-No-Girls.

Their singing and dancing are absolutely amazing. Among all the members, I especially like Chika. She had been rejected at every audition before because of her appearance.

The first time I heard her voice, I had tears in my eyes and got goosebumps. I was so deeply moved.

At first, she lacked confidence, but as the audition progressed, she began to believe in herself. I'm really happy to see how much she has grown.

To be honest, I wasn't interested in boy or girl groups at all until a few years ago. But since I discovered HANA, my life has become more fun and meaningful. (130 words)

A-2:

My favorite thing **is** my cat, Alan. He **is** a very special and precious cat *to me*.

He **came** from Nagoya **when** he **was** just *two months old*, and **now** six years **have** already **passed**. He's a beautiful cat with silver fur *on his back* and a white belly—a stunning two-tone coat. He's **handsome** and **talkative**, sometimes a little **rough**, but he often **comes** to sit *on my lap* **when** he's *in a good mood*. **when** I talk to him, he always **responds** with a “meow,” as if he **understands** what I'm saying.

We're very **close**. **when** I move around the house, he **follows** me and **stays** by my side—even **when** he's **sleepy**. He also **loves** playing with balls. **when** I kick a small ball, he **chases** it and **kicks** it back to me like he's playing soccer.

He has a favorite stuffed toy that looks like a silver cat. He carries it *in his mouth* as he **goes** from the first floor to the second floor, and then back down—**meowing** loudly the whole time. He **does** this almost every day. I think of it as his daily “job.”

But I do have one small problem with him: whenever the doorbell rings, he runs to the second floor and hides under the bed. He never wants to meet guests. I wish I could introduce him to people, but he's just very shy, isn't he?

I'll always **cherish** him *forever*. (242 words)

A-3:

My favorite English word is “tears”—not just the singular tear, but the plural tears—because it carries such deep emotion and feeling.

It’s interesting that although tear is liquid, the word has a plural form, as in “Tears are falling down my cheeks.” Shouldn’t it be uncountable, like water or milk? But to me, tears are more than just drops of liquid. Each tear feels like a single, tangible expression of emotion—so personal and complete that it makes sense to count them, one by one.

That’s why we say things like “tears in your eyes.” In that phrase, you don’t just see water—you see memories, pain, love, or even joy. You can almost look into someone’s soul through their tears. In a way, tears are countable in the same way emotions can be—individual, unique, and meaningful.

To me, “tears” is one of the most beautiful words in the world—and perhaps the most beautiful in English—especially when you hear the phrase, “tears in your eyes.”

(170 words)

Q 15:

Write an essay about (four) seasons!

A-1:

My favorite season **is** summer. I **have** two reasons.

First, I **feel that** all living creatures **shine** *in the summer*. For example, we **can see** short-lived insects like fireflies and cicadas, **which** **are symbols** of the season.

Second, I **have** many wonderful memories of summer.

When I **was** *in elementary school*, my brother and I **visited** our grandmother *in the countryside every year* by bus. **Living** away from our parents, we **were free to swim** *in rivers and pools all day*, **eat** lots of corn **and** watermelon, **and** **play** with local friends. It **felt like** I **could forget** my everyday life.

Therefore, **whenever** I **see** a big summer cloud—a cumulonimbus—I **feel like** shouting, “Summer **is coming!**”

(118 words)

Poetic and Expressive Version:

My favorite season **is** summer.

In summer, I **feel as if** all living things **are shining** with life.

The brief, flickering glow of fireflies, the endless song of cicadas—they remind me that beauty often lives in fleeting moments.

Summer also carries the weight of memory. When I was a child, my brother and I would ride the bus to our grandmother's home in the quiet countryside. Away from our parents, we swam in rivers under the sun, ate sweet corn and juicy watermelon, and played with barefoot friends until dusk.

Those days felt like magic, a gentle escape from the ordinary.

Even now, when I see a towering summer cloud—a great white cumulonimbus stretching into the sky—my heart stirs, and I want to cry out, “Summer has come!” (131 words)

“Summer is coming!”

Implies anticipation and excitement.

You're looking forward to summer and the feelings it brings.

Example tone: childlike joy, waiting for the fun to begin.

You see the clouds and your heart leaps—it's almost here!

“Summer has come!”

Implies arrival and a sense of wonder or recognition.

You're already feeling summer's presence and warmth.

Example tone: nostalgic, reverent, or deeply appreciative.

The moment has arrived—you feel summer all around you.

A-2:

Essay about Seasons

The rainy season has begun. Though today is sunny—and the weather will stay clear for a little while, according to the forecast—the temperature is already over 30°C, close to 35°C, and very humid. I don't like this season.

My favorite season is spring. I think it's the best one because many beautiful flowers bloom in the garden. In Japan, cherry blossoms bloom one after another, from south to north, across the country.

Some people love the red and yellow leaves of autumn. It's true—autumn scenery is stunning.

But when I think that winter is coming soon, I feel a little lonely. To me, winter just means cold days. I don't like the cold, maybe because I was born in a warm region.

(125 words)

grow up	(自分が) 成長する	(子供・動物)
bring up	(他を) 育てる	(子供)
raise	(他を) 育てる/育む	(子供・動植物)

grow – grew - grown
bring – brought - brought
raise – raised - raised

I grew up in a small town near the mountains.
She grew up surrounded by nature and animals.
We watched the puppy grow up into a beautiful dog.

He brings up his son with great care.
My parents brought me up to be independent.
Ken was brought up to always respect others. ← His parents brought up Ken to -.

She raised the puppy since it was a newborn.
His parents raised him to be hardworking.
He was raised with a strong sense of responsibility. ← His parents raised him with -.

A-3:

I don't need four seasons anymore—spring and autumn are all I want.

Japan traditionally has four seasons, but spring and autumn are becoming too short. Meanwhile, summer has been getting hotter, longer, and more unbearable *in recent years*.

I don't like hot weather, so I can hardly stand the heat. On top of that, electricity bills keep rising. It's scary to imagine what would happen if the power went out in the middle of summer.

I wish I could move somewhere where the temperature stays around 25°C all year round. I'd love to spend the rest of my life *in comfort*. (102 words)

程度を表す副詞：

(I can not stand the heat.)

I can hardly stand the heat.

He is hardly right about it.

absolutely completely totally

絶対に

quite

まったく

almost nearly

ほとんど

rather somewhat

いくぶん

hardly scarcely

ほとんど～ない

never

全然～ない

Q 15:

Write an encouraging letter to an 18-year-old girl about her future.

“Her name is Sam, and she is originally from the Philippines. She is currently studying at ○○ High School.

Sam came to Japan when she was in 6th grade. She speaks three languages: Tagalog, English, and Japanese.

Her English is nearly native-level, and although her Japanese is just reaching the intermediate level, she receives mostly A's in her subjects. She also works part-time at ○○-Shop, where she uses her English skills to help foreign customers.”

A-1:

Dear Sam,

Hello, my name is Sachiy H. Thinking of you at 18 years old reminded me of myself at that age. I didn't know what I wanted to do back then, so I focused on the tasks in front of me. For example, I followed my parents' advice and worked at a company for two years.

However, I eventually realized that it wasn't the right path for me. I discovered my interest in traditional Japanese culture and decided to enroll in a kimono school in Osaka.

I believe it's okay to take your time. As you move forward, even slowly, you'll begin to discover what truly matters to you.

Don't rush — go at your own pace. I hope you live a life that feels true to yourself.

Warm regards,
Sachi H. (132 words)

A-2:

Dear Sam,

My name is Momo. I'm a Japanese woman who has studied English for many years, and over time, I've had a variety of life experiences.

I'm very happy to be writing this letter to you. You already speak three languages — Tagalog, English, and Japanese — and that is a wonderful advantage for your future.

For example, you could become an interpreter. If you wish to continue your studies at a university or college, you'll have the option to study in either English or Japanese. It would also be helpful to learn a skill or earn a qualification that can support your career.

With your language abilities and talents, you'll be able to live and work in Japan, the Philippines, or wherever you choose. The possibilities are wide open for you.

I wish you a bright and lucky future.

Sincerely,
Momo (141 words)

A-3:

Hi Sam,

My name is Kimiy Y. I'm probably older than your grandmother!

I heard that you speak English, Tagalog, and Japanese — that's amazing! I truly admire your ability to speak three languages. I've been studying English for a long time, but I still struggle with it.

If you decide to continue living in Japan, I hope you'll make the most of your language skills. For example, you could work at an English conversation school, a hotel, a tourist information center — there are many opportunities.

I imagine that living in Japan might be difficult at times.

Every country has its good and bad sides, and Japan is no exception. But one of the things I appreciate about Japan is how safe it is. You can even walk alone at night without worry.

Anyway, I'm wishing you all the best. You can do it — go for it!

Warmly,

Kimi Y. (149 words)

With my Japanese ability improving, I'm getting used to daily life here.

As my Japanese ability improves, I'm getting used to daily life here.

My Japanese ability is improving, and I'm getting used to life here.

Q 16:

You are planning on going out *next weekend*. Would you prefer to go alone, with a friend, or with your family?

A-1:

No, I don't prefer to go alone, with a friend, or with my family, because it depends on the situation. For example, I have two plans.

One plan is to read books in Kiho library by myself. I borrowed three books there, and I have to return them by next week. My favorite place is the library in Kiho. It has my favorite books, a comfortable atmosphere, and kind library staff.

Another plan is to go to the hot spring in Hongu with my husband. We sometimes go to the hot spring because it is good for our health. We really love it. (103 words)

Feedback for A1

Your essay is very clear, and I like how you gave two concrete plans (the library and the hot spring). That makes your answer interesting to read. Just be careful with small grammar points like "a reading book" → "to read books." Great job showing details about Kiho library and your husband—you made it very personal!

A-2:

If I go shopping, I prefer to go alone, because I tend to take a long time to buy something. I'd like to shop at my own pace.

If I go out for lunch or dinner, I prefer to go with my friends. Then we can have conversations on various topics. It feels good to get away from everyday hustle and bustle.

If I go for a drive, I prefer to go with my husband. We don't need to talk much—just listening to songs from our younger days while driving is enough. (93 words)

Feedback for A2

Excellent organization! You wrote about three different activities (shopping, eating, driving), and explained who you prefer to go with in each case. That is logical and easy to follow. One area to improve is verb tense—"If I will go" should be "If I go." But overall, your answer is very natural and enjoyable to read.

A-3:

This morning, I thought I was going to go shopping and come back before lunch, because it must be too hot in the afternoon. But in the end, I didn't go.

I had things I needed to buy, but I didn't feel like going today. I'm not good at parking when I drive, and I'm sure the place is full of cars.

So I decided to go on Monday, the day after tomorrow. Instead, I read a book I borrowed from Kiho library, Sono Ayako's *Kono Yo ni Koishite*.

It was a very good essay. I was deeply impressed by it, and I recommend all of you to read it. Although it's not really connected to the homework about going out alone or with friends. (125 words)

Feedback for A3

I like how you told a real story about your morning. It feels very honest and personal, and the part about reading Sono Ayako's book was especially nice—you even gave a recommendation! Just try to connect your story more clearly to the question (about going alone, with friends, or with family). Still, it was a strong essay with lots of feeling.

[不定詞 **to**]: (動作感) ~へ移動

That is logical and easy to follow.

Your answer is very enjoyable to read.

That makes your answer interesting to read.

〈前置詞〉 **to** ~ : ~まで移動

She goes to school. (to 名詞)

She goes there to study. (to 動詞)

It feels good to get away from everyday hustle and bustle.

One plan is to read books in Kiho library by myself.

We sometimes go to the hot spring.

It's not really connected to the homework.

前置詞：(場所感) へ移動、到達

Q 17:

Agree or Disagree:

“Technology has made life more complicated rather than easier.”

A1 (Corrected)

I agree that technology has made life more complicated for us elderly people.

For example, when I tried to buy something online, I entered the password I thought was correct, but my smartphone said it wasn't. I tried many times, but it still didn't work. I think it's easier to order by phone than online.

Besides, some restaurants don't have paper menus anymore. We have to scan a QR code and order from our smartphone, which I find difficult.

Technology is advancing rapidly, and society is changing a lot. I'm worried about whether I can keep up. (97 words)

Feedback:

Clear and relatable examples! You express your frustration and concern naturally. The essay flows logically from personal experience to general opinion.

Encouragement:

You're doing wonderfully! Even if technology feels challenging, your ability to reflect and describe your experience in English shows great adaptability. Keep writing—your clarity shines through!

A2 (Corrected)

I disagree. I have two reasons.

First, technology has helped reduce housework. We women were freed from many chores thanks to new technology. Of course, I love housework, but because of these inventions, women could join society and find rewarding work.

When my mother was a child, she had to go to the river to fetch water and boil it with firewood. She always said, "The work was too hard for me."

Second, technology helps people enjoy their lives. With more free time, families can talk and relax together after dinner. They can also travel with family or friends. (99 words)

Feedback:

Excellent structure and clear reasoning! You used personal and historical examples effectively. Just watch small grammar points like “frome” → “from” and tense consistency.

Encouragement:

Wonderful effort! You showed both logic and warmth. Your writing connects family, work, and happiness beautifully—keep expressing your thoughts like this!

A3 (Corrected)

I completely agree. I can't keep up with recent technology.

For example, I got a smartphone on September 30th, and today is October 11th, but I still don't know how to use it. I tried to learn, but I got confused from the very beginning. It's so difficult for me to use.

I was disappointed and thought it was a mistake to buy it.
Ten days have already passed.

Yesterday, my friends kindly taught me how to use it, and I appreciated their help. I learned a little, and I must get used to my new smartphone—though my brain isn't so smart!

Technology should make life easier, but it isn't kind to our generation with aging brains like mine. (120 words)

Feedback:

Very heartfelt and humorous! Your essay feels honest and real, and your self-irony (“my brain isn't so smart”) makes it charming and human. Excellent storytelling!

Encouragement:

This is such an expressive and touching essay! You turned frustration *into humor and reflection*—signs of both maturity and creativity. Keep that gentle humor—it's your strength!

Q 18:

Write an essay titled “The Autumn of ~,” such as “The Autumn of Appetite” or “The Autumn of Reading.”

A1 —

The Autumn of Travel

I have a plan to travel *next month*. It's not too hot and not too cold — the perfect season.

I traveled to Sado Island at the end of June and enjoyed the trip, but it was too hot. I decided that I would never travel anywhere during the summer again!

Autumn is the best season for traveling. We can enjoy beautiful red leaves, delicious food, fresh fruits, and many countryside specialties.

This summer was long and very hot, but now autumn has come. Let's enjoy the season! (87 words)

Feedback

Clear idea and strong opinion! The contrast between summer and autumn is effective. Nice structure: past experience → decision → conclusion.

Encouragement

Great job expressing your feelings! Your writing shows excitement and personality. Enjoy your trip — and keep practicing your English through real-life experiences!

A2 —

The Autumn of Memories

The happiest time *of my life* was when my children were still small.

At that time, we lived in my mother's house. Raising children can be fun, but also stressful. My mother always supported me. I asked her about anything I didn't know, and she helped me feel calm and balanced. Because of her, I could raise my children with laughter, and not alone. Also, at that time, I didn't need to worry about their studies yet. The time I spent with my mother and my little children is a precious memory. (92 words)

Feedback

This is heartfelt and touching. You clearly expressed love, gratitude, and nostalgia. Very smooth flow — beautiful emotional writing.

Encouragement

Your essay shows deep love for family. You write with emotion and honesty — that's a gift. Keep sharing memories like this; your voice is gentle and strong.

A3 —

The Autumn of Appetite

Autumn is the harvest season. We can see many fruits and vegetables, and countries around the world hold harvest festivals. We eat these foods with gratitude.

I have three favorite autumn harvests. The first is chestnuts. When chestnuts line up in the stores, I buy them every year and cook a traditional sweet called shibugawani. It takes a long time to make, but I enjoy the process, and I truly feel autumn when I eat it.

The second harvest is ginkgo nuts. when I see ginkgo trees in autumn, I feel happy that autumn has come. I cook ginkgo-nut rice — it's delicious.

The third harvest is bulbils, which are baby yams. I also cook rice with them.

Therefore, I am always full and happy in the autumn season. (128 words)

Feedback

Very warm and seasonal writing! The list of foods and cooking makes the reader hungry and brings autumn alive. Nice organization with three examples.

Encouragement

Your love for seasonal foods shines beautifully. Keep writing with this rich sense of tradition and feeling — it gives your English a lovely flavor!