

英語 (D) 〈I04A〉

配当年次	2 年次
授業科目単位数	2
科目試験出題者	秋山 嘉
文責(課題設題者)	秋山 嘉
教科書	基本 秋山 嘉『英語 (D)』(中央大学通信教育部)

《授業の目的・到達目標》

英語の文章を丁寧に的確に読むこと。

《授業の概要》

テキストの題材は、20 世紀前半の 3 人のアメリカ人が書いた比較的平明な文章です。第 I 部から第 III 部は、電球開発や発電所創設など、まさに「世紀の発明」を次々と生み出していた時期のエディソンの旺盛な活躍ぶりを生き生きと伝える逸話を助手のひとりが記した手記的な文章。第 IV 部は、文明の利器でありながら（あるが故に、かもしれませんが）トラブルの元凶ともなる電話についてのひねりの効いたエッセイ。第 V 部は、それ自体が映画であるようなたずまいを帯びている不思議なエッセイ。三者三様ですが、どれも読み物としての興味深さについては太鼓判を押します。

必要なのはあなた自身がそれを読むことです。それがこの授業そのものにほかなりません。そのために重要なのは、知的好奇心と理解への意欲、そして一寸の粘り強さ（自分で腑に落ちるまであきらめないこと）です。

《学習指導》

何にもましてまず、言葉を読み、理解しようとする意欲・姿勢を持っていることが大切です。そして、通信教育の学習を通じて、英語を理解するための基本事項をあらためて確実に身につけてほしいと願います。

辞書や文法書等を十分に活用してください。まず自分の手と目を使って調べてみるのが大切です。間違えることを恐れる必要はまったくありません。添削によって間違いに気づくことを通して自分の知識を正確なものにし、英語の理解力を高めてください。

ぜひとも主体的に学習に取り組み、それで得た物を自分の身にしてください。

《成績評価》

試験（科目試験またはスクーリング試験）により最終評価します。

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- ◎課題文の記入：不要（課題記入欄に「課題文不要のため省略しました。」と記入すること）
- ◎字数制限：なし

第1課題

課題文

- (1) 次の英文を日本語に訳しなさい。(教科書第I部1章(5))

英 文

- (1) In operating the electric pen, I got my current from a Bunsen battery consisting of two glass jars, capped at the top and controlled by a plunger with which I lowered the plates into the acid solution or drew them up when the pen was not in use. Thus the life of the battery was prolonged.

The pen had a needlelike point which darted in and out of the writing end so rapidly that the eye could hardly detect it. This was operated by a miniature electric motor small enough to be attached to the upper end of the pen. The shaft containing the needle was given its motion by cams on the rotating engine shaft so that when the current was turned on, and I wrote with the pen, holding it in a vertical position, it made innumerable tiny punctures on the sheet of paper, tracing the words that comprised the letter.

After the master copy of the stencil had thus been made, I took it to the 'press,' where it had to be spanned in a frame before the copies could be made. A plain sheet of paper was placed on the press, the stencil was laid on top and an ink roller passed over it. The impression of the handwriting was marked on the under sheet by the ink through the holes made by the needle. It was said that 5,000 copies could be made from a single stencil.

課題文

- (2) 次の英文を日本語に訳しなさい。(応用問題)

英 文

- (2) The crux of the simplest form of joke seems to be the production of an incongruity in the normal order of events. We hear the story, for example, of James Clark Maxwell showing Lord Kelvin (William Thomson) some optical experiment, and inviting Kelvin to look through the eyepiece. Kelvin was surprised to find that, while the phenomenon described by Maxwell was undoubtedly there, so was a little human figure, the incongruity, dancing about. Kelvin could not help asking 'Maxwell — but what is the little man there for?' 'Have another look, Thomson,' said Maxwell, 'and you should see.' Kelvin had another look, but was no wiser. 'Tell me, Maxwell,' he said impatiently, 'What is he there for?' ... 'Just for *fun*, Thomson,' replied Maxwell. When we consider a simple incongruity of this type, we can see why this form of humour is sometimes described as 'nonsense'; for 'sense' implies the normal order of things, and in this order an incongruity makes 'nonsense.'

第2課題

課題文

(1) 次の英文を日本語に訳しなさい。(教科書第III部14章(1):引用符一部変更)

英文

(1) I have shown with what disciplined routine Edison attacked the problem of making a practical incandescent lamp which would possess the qualities and requirements necessary for use in his proposed system of parallel distribution.

In October, 1878, at the very time when he was planning the distribution of electrical energy as light, heat and power, he said:

'When it is known how I have accomplished my object, everybody will wonder why they have never thought of it, it is so simple.

I have discovered how to make electricity a cheap and practical substitute for illuminating gas. The same wire that brings the light to you will also bring power and heat. With the power you can run an elevator, a sewing machine, or any other mechanical contrivance that requires a motor, and by means of the heat, you can cook your food. The dynamo electric machine may be run by water or steam power at a distance.'

課題文

(2) 次の英文を日本語に訳しなさい。(応用問題)

英文

(2) Many people have heard, at some time during their schooling, that 'some legislature, somewhere, once tried to legislate the value of π , and set it equal to 3.' The very idea of trying to legislate upon something as unlegislable as the value of π is ludicrous. But such a bill was actually considered, and the details of this and the way it was handled, culminating in its rejection by the State Senate, can be somewhat amusing.

The bill in question is House Bill No.246, which was introduced in 1897 into the Indiana State Legislature. The bill was introduced by Representative T. I. Record, representative from Posey County. It was presumably offered as a contribution to education in the State of Indiana.

In the House of Representatives, after some twists and turns it did pass, unanimously, 67 to 0.

In the Senate, the bill fared a little bit worse. It was referred to the Committee on Temperance! (Perhaps the same shrewd chap who referred the bill to the House Committee on Swamp Lands had a part in referring it to the Committee on Temperance. A wonderful choice of committees!) The bill passed the first reading in the Senate, but that is as far as it ever went. After that first passage, the senators were properly coached, and on the second reading, the Senate threw out this 'epoch-making discovery' with much merriment.

【注】 Posey County:「ポージー郡」。アメリカ合衆国インディアナ州南西端の郡。

Committee on Swamp Lands:「沼沢地域検討委員会」

〈推薦図書〉

高校生～大学生向けに編集された、学習用の英和辞典(収録語数が8万語ほどあり、語の意味の丁寧

な説明や例文が豊富に載っている、いわゆる英和中辞典という括りに入るもの。優れたものが多数出版されているので、その一つが今手元にあるなら、それで構いません。あらたに購入するのであれば、実際に自分で手にとってみて見やすく引きやすいと感じるものを選ぶのが望ましい) を、ぜひ十分に活用してください。