

# 小論文 問題

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**60 minutes**

Write in English in the space provided on the separate answer sheet.

(This question sheet will *not* be collected. You may use it for notes.)

## I. Knowledge-based Questions

Choose one question from each of the two groups below (20 points x 2).

(Students are expected to answer in one paragraph for each question.)

(A1) (Japanese History)

What was *Dejima*? What purpose did it serve?

(A2) (World History)

What was *Pax Romana* and how did it benefit the Roman Empire?

(A3) (World History)

Why did the League of Nations fail to prevent World War II?

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(B1) (Geography)

What is the Mercator projection and how does it affect the way countries are visualized? Please give one example.

(B2) (Politics)

What are the three branches of the Japanese government and why are powers separated between them?

(B3) (Economics)

Give three limitations or disadvantages of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) as a tool in measuring the health of a country's economy.

## II. Critical Thinking Essay Questions

Choose any *one* of the following critical thinking essay topics (60 points):

(1) Online platforms (SNS) have received a lot of criticism. Misinformation and online bullying can cause harm in the offline world.

Furthermore, access to these services is controlled by massive companies that make record profits, despite the users producing most of the content for free (instead of the companies themselves). Despite these issues, they remain incredibly popular, with billions of users around the world. Discuss whether these platforms can be a positive influence or not. Explain your reasoning.

(2) Experts have predicted that within the next few decades the level of rural depopulation in Japan will be one of the highest in the world. While some consider this a major issue, others don't see it as a cause for concern. Discuss both sides of the argument, with examples. Your answer should include your ideas on how the government should respond.

(3) Modern society views recycling as the responsibility of the individual; we must separate our trash and take care to dispose of it correctly. In the not-too-distant past, large companies were more involved in recycling. For example, soft drink companies would produce drinks in returnable bottles and then organize the collection, cleaning, and refilling of the bottles. Should the responsibility of recycling be on the individual? Or should businesses be responsible for recycling their own products? Defend your reasoning.