

2年次 法学部

試験科目 英語 (問題・解答)

受験番号				
フリガナ				
氏名				

次の英文を読み、問いに答えなさい。答えはすべて解答欄に記入すること。

Japan [A] such as wind and solar power. The government is now weighing a new set of measures to promote renewable energy, including expanding offshore wind power and reviewing the rules on access to the power transmission system — one of the key hurdles to increased use of renewables.

These efforts should be backed up by a much more aggressive target for increasing renewable energy in this country — to prompt greater investments in the sector and to drive home the government’s commitment to (B) de-carbonizing the nation’s energy policy in the fight [C] climate change.

The government’s basic energy policy calls for turning renewables into a principal source of power supply. However, the target share for renewable energy in the 2030 power supply mix — 22-24 percent of the total — is even lower than the 26 percent envisioned for coal-fired power plants, which many other industrialized nations plan to (D) phase out because they emit more global warming gases such as carbon dioxide than other sources of power. Renewable energy including large-scale hydraulic power (E) 17 percent of the nation’s power supply in fiscal 2018 — nearly double the 9 percent in 2010 but still well below the levels in advanced European economies.

When most of the nation’s nuclear power plants were shut down following the 2011 meltdowns at Tokyo Electric Power Company Holding’s Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant, the power industry fired up more thermal power plants, including coal, to make up [F] the loss of nuclear power, which supplied 30 percent of the nation’s electricity demand [G] the disaster. Favored for its cheaper cost and the low geographical risk involved in its supply from overseas, the share of coal power reached 32 percent in 2018, second only to the 38 percent of natural gas-fired plants.

In recent years, Japan has come [H] growing international fire for its heavy reliance on coal despite the global efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. In response to such criticism, the government last month (I) fleshed out its earlier pledge to phase out “inefficient” coal-fired power plants. Of the nation’s 150 coal plants, 120 were categorized as less efficient in their power generation, and about 100 of them are expected to be set aside for either decommissioning or suspension [J] service by 2030.

(K) However, the impact of the move on combating climate change may not be as big as the numbers suggest. Most of the coal plants to be put out of service are old, small-capacity facilities. The more “efficient” ones that will be kept, including those now planned or under construction, have much larger capacities so the net reduction in the total capacity of coal-fired plants in Japan will only

amount to some 20 percent, according to an estimate by an environmental group.

In fact, the government is not expected to change coal’s share of 26 percent in the 2030 power supply mix. Even an “efficient” coal plant is said to emit twice as much carbon dioxide as a natural gas power plant, and many point to the global warming risk posed by keeping those plants in operation for decades to come.

Japan has pinned its hopes on nuclear energy — which does not emit carbon dioxide in generating power — for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. However, the restart of nuclear plants idled in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima disaster remains slow. Nuclear power’s share of electricity supply in 2018 was a mere 6 percent — a far cry from the government’s target of 20-22 percent in 2030. Due to lingering safety concerns and the increased post-Fukushima cost of running nuclear plants, prospects are slim that the restart of the idled plants will pick up significant speed in the near future.

Given the uncertain future of nuclear power and the nation’s continued heavy dependence on (L) fossil fuel-based energy, the government remains unable to upgrade its commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris agreement to fight climate change — even though nations are urged to revamp* their voluntary plans every five years to prevent the catastrophic effects of global warming. Significantly boosting the use of renewable energy holds the key to Japan accelerating its de-carbonization efforts, and the government needs to make its commitment clear by sharply upgrading its targets for the share of renewables in energy supply.

The higher cost of renewable energy in Japan compared to other countries where the use of those energy sources have become more prevalent, as well as the unstable power generation by renewable sources dependent on weather conditions, have often been cited as reasons why renewables don’t take off in this country. Rather than continue to use those problems as excuses for dragging our feet, we must pursue technological innovations to overcome them and lower the cost of renewables. It’s time to shift gears in the effort to restructure the nation’s energy landscape.

* revamp: 手直しする

(出典“Bump up the target for increasing renewable energy”, The Japan Times, 7 Aug 2020)

1. 空所 [A] にあてはまるようつぎのa~hの語(句)の順序を並べ替え、2番目と4番目と6番目にくるものの記号を書きなさい。

a. in b. far behind c. advanced economies d. remains
e. the use f. renewable energy g. of h. many other

2. 下線部(B) de-carbonizing the nation’s energy policy の意味するものとして、もっとも適切なものを、つぎのa~dより一つ選び、その記号を書きなさい。

採	点	欄

(裏面を使用する場合は表の氏名欄が下になるようにすること)

- a. changing the nation's present energy policy so that we can use more coal in generating power
- b. changing the nation's present energy policy so that we can reduce carbon dioxide emissions
- c. keeping the nation's present energy policy so that we can continue to use fossil fuel-based energy
- d. keeping the nation's present energy policy so that we can continue to reduce the number of coal-fired power plants

3. 空所 C, F, G, H, J に入るもっとも適切なものを、つぎの①～⑤より一つずつ選び、その記号を書きなさい。それぞれの選択肢を二回以上使用しないこと。

- ① against ② before ③ for ④ from ⑤ under

4. 下線部(D) phase out の意味するものとして、もっとも適切なものを、つぎの a～d より一つ選び、その記号を書きなさい。

- a. stop using gradually
- b. start to use slowly
- c. further develop
- d. stop operating suddenly

5. 空所 (E) に入るもっとも適切なものを、つぎの a～d より一つ選び、その記号を書きなさい。

- a. increased by
- b. consisted of
- c. accounted for
- d. cut out

6. 下線部(I) fleshed out の意味するものとして、もっとも適切なものを、つぎの a～d より一つ選び、その記号を書きなさい。

- a. withdrew
- b. denied
- c. obscured
- d. embodied

7. 下線部(K) However, the impact of the move on combating climate change may not be as big as the numbers suggest の主張の理由となるように以下の英文を完成させる場合、空所(I), (II) に入るもっとも適切なものを、つぎの a～d より一つずつ選び、その記号を書きなさい。

The reduction in the number of coal-fired plants operated in Japan are expected to be about (I) percent, but their net reduction in the total capacity of coal-fired plants will be about (II) of that rate.

- (I) a. 33 b. 44 c. 55 d. 66

- (II) a. a third b. a half c. two thirds d. three fourths

8. 下線部(L) fossil fuel-based energy はつぎのどれを利用したものか。当てはまるものすべてを、a～g より選び、その記号を書きなさい。

- a. coal
- b. natural gas
- c. nuclear
- d. oil
- e. solar
- f. water
- g. wind

9. 本文によれば、日本において“renewable energy”の供給率が低い理由としてよく指摘されてきたことは何か。つぎの a～d よりその理由に該当するものを一つ選び、その記号を書きなさい。

- a. Because Japanese politicians give importance to the interest of the companies that manage coal-fired power plants.
- b. Because electric power companies dislike introducing renewable energy power plants that sometimes harm the environment.
- c. Because people in Japan are less likely to admire renewable energy than those in other countries.
- d. Because Japan cannot constantly generate power due to the changeable natural condition.

10. 著者が、日本において“renewable energy”の使用率を上げなくてはならないと主張する理由は何か。本文全体の内容のまとめともなるように、その理由を 90 字程度の日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。その際、以下三つの語句を日本語に訳して説明に含めること。

[nuclear power / thermal power / greenhouse gas emission]

11. 本文の内容と合致するものを、つぎの a～h より三つ選び、その記号を解答欄に書きなさい。

- a. Japanese government is now reviewing the rules that make it possible for more people to have access to electricity.
- b. The share of renewable energy increased between 2010 and 2018, but it is not expected to overtake that of coal-fired power plants in the next ten years.
- c. Coal power transcended any other powers in its share of energy supply in 2018.
- d. Because Japan could not achieve the aim of setting aside 100 coal-fired power plants, the move did not have a big impact on combating climate change.
- e. An “inefficient” coal plant is thought to emit more than twice as much as carbon dioxide as a natural gas power plant.
- f. Japanese government reduced nuclear power's share of electricity supply to 6 percent in 2018 as it had planned.
- g. There is little possibility that the idled nuclear plants will begin working again soon as it had worked before 2011.
- h. The higher cost of renewable energy is a convincing explanation of the reason why the use of renewable energy cannot get more common in Japan.

