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Chapter 1 Today's Society and Our Life

(1) NGO (Non Governmental Organization)

◆What: A group that works independently from the government to help people in trouble because of wars or natural disasters (typhoon, earthquake, tsunami, etc.).

An NGO helps to improve welfare (for safe and stable life), medical care (to cure disease or injury), and human rights (for life free from anxiety).

- International Red Cross
- Amnesty International
- Medecins Sans Frontieres



amnesty International Japan
すべての人が人権を享受できる世界を目指して



MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
国境なき医師団

◆ Expected Question ◆

Read the following sentence and answer the question below.

Today, people in different countries often work in cross-border civic activities, such as NGOs and NPOs, all over the world.

Question: What do NGO and NPO stand for?

☞ Answer : Non Governmental Organization / Non Profit Organization

(2) ODA (Official Development Assistance)

- ◆ What: The government supports developing countries with money and technology.

◆ Expected Question ◆

The government supports developing countries economically. What is this support called? Answer in the abbreviated form.

☞ Answer: ODA (Official Development Assistance)

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

Link each of the words on the left with its correct explanation on the right.

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| NGO | • | • Protect historical architecture (world heritage) |
| NPO | • | • Non Profitable Organization |
| UNICEF | • | • Non Governmental Organization |
| UNESCO | • | • Protect poor children |

☞ Answer

- | | | |
|--------|---|-----------------------------------|
| NGO | • | • Protect historical architecture |
| NPO | • | • Non Profitable Organization |
| UNICEF | • | • Non Governmental Organization |
| UNESCO | • | • Protect poor children |

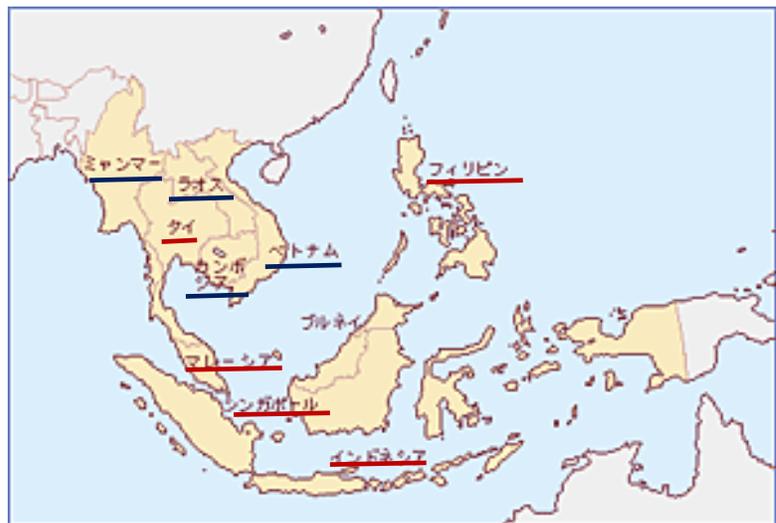
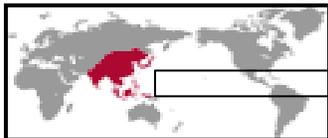
(3) ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

- ◆ When: Formed in 1967.
- ◆ What: ASEAN was first formed by Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.
- ◆ Objective: The acceleration of economic growth, social progress and cultural development among its members.
The promotion of relationships based on economic cooperation.
- ◆ The Other Member Countries: Brunei (1984), Vietnam (1995), Myanmar (1997), Laos (1997), Cambodia (1999).

◆ Symbol:



◆ Let's look at the map!!



◆ Expected Question ◆

What is the international organization which was formed by Southeast Asian countries?

☞ Answer: ASEAN

(4) APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)

- ◆ When: Established in 1989.
- ◆ What: Composed of 21 members in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, Korea, the United States, Canada and Australia.
- ◆ Objective: APEC aims to promote free trade and economic cooperation throughout the region.
- ◆ Meetings: APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and Ministerial Meeting are held every year.
- ◆ Let's look at the map ! !



- ◆ Meetings held in Japan: Osaka(1995), Yokohama(2010)

◆ Questions from past entrance exam ◆ (Tottori Prefecture)

Q1. APEC exists as a movement towards regionalism. What does APEC stand for?

☞ Answer : Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum

Q2. Which country is not a member of APEC?

- a. America b. Russia c. Canada d. the United Kingdom

☞ Answer : d

(5) WTO (World Trade Organization)

- ◆ What: World Trade Organization, which followed GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade).
- ◆ Objective: The promotion of free and smooth world trade by removing barriers to trade.
- ◆ Related Organizations:
 - (1) IMF (International Monetary Fund)
 - (2) IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)
 - (3) UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
 - (4) OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

◆ Questions from past entrance exam ◆ (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

Q1. What is the abbreviation of the international organization that China joined in 2001, which promotes free trade?

☞ Answer : WTO

Q2. The international organization which promotes free trade by removing barriers to trade is 【 IMF · WTO 】 .

☞ Answer : WTO

Q3. Choose one wrong explanation about free trade from among the alternatives.

- a. Free trade imposes no high tariff on imports.
- b. Free trade does not limit the import items and the amount of imports.
- c. Free trade can protect a country's industry.
- d. WTO works to maintain global free trade.

☞ Answer : c

(6) Security Council

- ◆ **What:** One of the important organizations of the United Nations
The organization works for international peace and security.

For example, if a country with a big and strong army attacks a small country, the small country will be in trouble. The United Nations will help in such cases. However, if all the countries from all over the world gather to talk, it may take time and may be too late to help the small country. So the Security Council is formed to specialize in keeping peace.



Flag of United Nations

<http://www.sarago.co.jp/nfhtm/0k.html>

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

What are the permanent members of the Security Council? Choose the correct one.

- A**
- U.S.A
 - France
 - Britain
 - China
 - Russia

- B**
- U.S.A.
 - France
 - Italia
 - China
 - Russia

- C**
- U.S.A.
 - France
 - Britain
 - China
 - Germany

☞ Answer: A

(7) Right to Say “No”, aka* “Veto”

*aka: also known as

- ◆ What: Only the five permanent members of the Security Council have this right.

The Security Council discusses how to handle war-related situations. The Security Council cannot reach and enforce a decision if even one of the members objects to a proposal. The right to say “No” in objection to a proposal is also called “veto.”

◆ Level Up Question ◆

Down

- ① They do something to improve life in poor countries. Japan provides money for this activity, and the amount of money is the second highest in the world.
- ② They protect children all over the world.
- ③ The organization formed by 10 Asian countries to improve their economy and culture.
- ④ The motto is “Everyone with healthy life” Its head office is in Geneva.

							④
			②		③		H
①		1	N		S	C	
D					2	U	
3	P	E			A		
					4	G	
	5		F				

Across

- 1 They treasure culture for world peace. Its head office is in Paris.
- 2 The organization was formed by 25 countries in 2004. Its common currency is “Euro”.
- 3 This organization is made up of 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It holds a meeting every year to discuss economic cooperation.
- 4 “International Red Cross” or “Amnesty International” is an example of this.
- 5 International Monetary Foundation, one of the organizations of United

☞ Answer: ①ODA ②UNICEF ③ASEAN ④WHO 1UNESCO 2EU 3APEC 4NGO 5IMF

(8) UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

- ◆ Established on the Constitution of UNESCO in 1946.
- ◆ Headquarters: Paris, France
- ◆ Objective: Contribution to world peace by promoting international collaboration through science, education and culture, and by cooperating to preserve the world cultural and natural heritage.

- ◆ Flag :



- ◆ Japan's World Heritage Sites (Designated by UNESCO)

- (1) Cultural Heritage: Buddhist monuments in the Horyu Temple Area (1993)
 - Himeji Castle (1993)
 - Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (1994 Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities)
 - Historic villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama (1995)
 - Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) (1996)
 - Itsukushima Shinto Shrine (1996)
 - Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (1998)
 - Shrines and Temples of Nikko (1999)
 - Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (2000)
 - Sacred Places and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range (2004)
 - Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and its Cultural Landscape (2007)
- (2) Natural Heritage: Yakushima (1993)
 - Shirakami Mountain Range (1993)
 - Shiretoko (2005)

◆ Expected Question ◆

What is the specialized agency of the United Nations that was established for the purpose of promoting global peace through culture?

☞ Answer : UNESO

(9) Global Warming

- ◆ **What:** Average temperature of the entire earth is rising. The major cause of global warming is said to be the increase of carbon dioxide in the air. Global warming is now a world-wide issue.

◆ Expected Question ◆

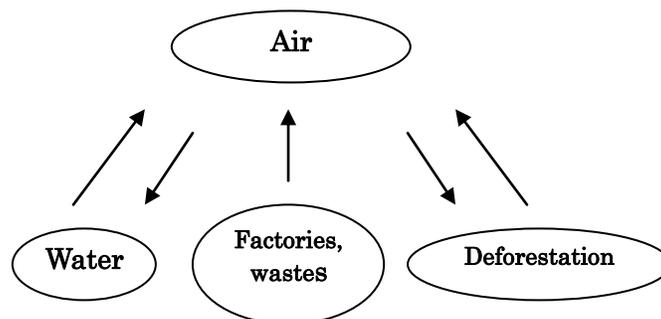
Write one global issue that we all have to cooperate to solve.

☞ Answer: Global warming

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

Fill in the blanks.

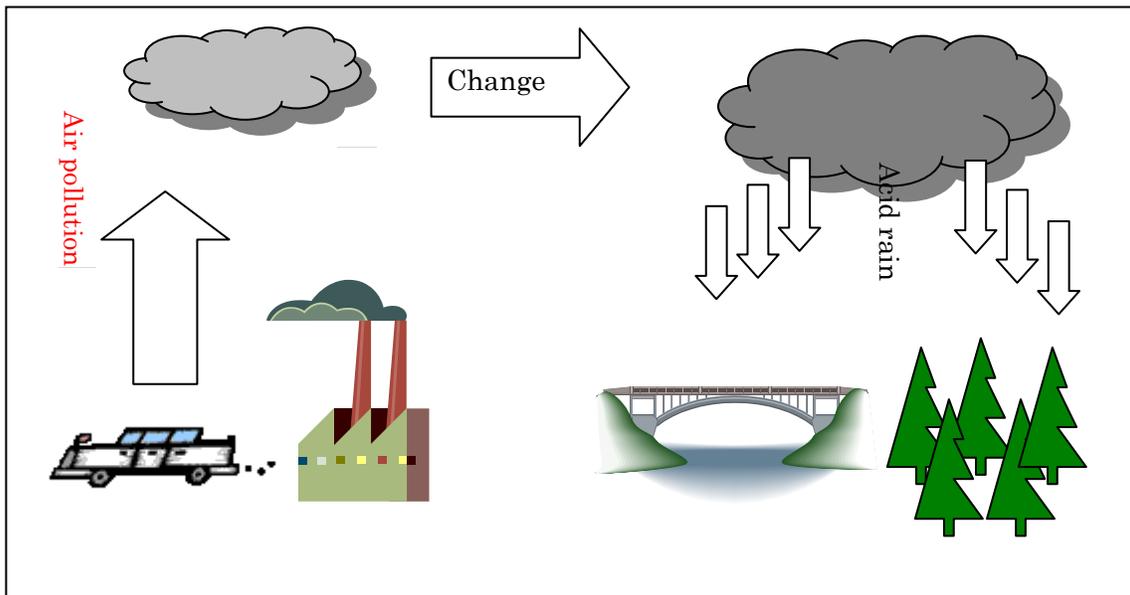
The cause of the global warming is the greenhouse gases due to various activities of (①). The half of the cause is (②). Forests absorb (③) and provide (④). However, the forests have been decreasing due to deforestation. As a result, (⑤) is advancing in the developing countries. In Europe, trees in forests are dying because of (⑥).



☞ Answer: ①people, ②CO₂, ③CO₂, ④Oxygen, ⑤desertification, ⑥acid rain

(10) Acid Rain

- ◆ What : One of the environmental issues. Acid rain is caused by air pollution.
- ◆ Influence : Acid rain can be harmful to plants and animals in water. Forests die. Fish in the lakes die.
- ◆ Let's look at the figure.



◆ Expected Question ◆

Read the following passage about the problem of environmental pollution in Japan, and answer the question below.

The discussion at UN (United Nations) conference on Environment and Development that were held in Brazil in 1992 enhanced opportunities where we consider the problems of global environment. In Japan, a new law was enacted in 1993. A movement that copes with global environmental preservation is under way.

Q: Give one example of the underlined part.

☞ Answer: Acid rain

Note:

In addition to acid rain, **global warming**, **ozone layer destruction**, **destruction of the rain forest** and **desertification** are also among the problems.

(11) Basic Environment Law

- ◆ What: The basic law to promote policies for environmental conservation of Japan.
- ◆ When: In 1993. (1967-1993: Environmental Pollution Prevention Act)

◆ Expected Question ◆

Q: What is the law established in 1993 whose purpose is to deal with new problems of environmental pollution?

☞ Answer: Basic Environment Law

◆ Quizzes on Environmental Problems ◆

- Q1: How much water on earth is available for our daily use?
- A. About 20% of the whole water on earth.
 - B. About 0.04% of the whole water on earth.
- Q2: What is the average temperature of the earth?
- A. 20°C.
 - B. 36°C.
 - C. 15°C.
- Q3: We have to sort garbage before disposing in order to promote recycling of resources. How to sort varies from one area to another. Into how many kinds do people in Minamata (Kumamoto Prefecture) have to sort garbage?
- A. 8.
 - B. 22.

☞ Answer: Q1-B; Q2-C Q3-B

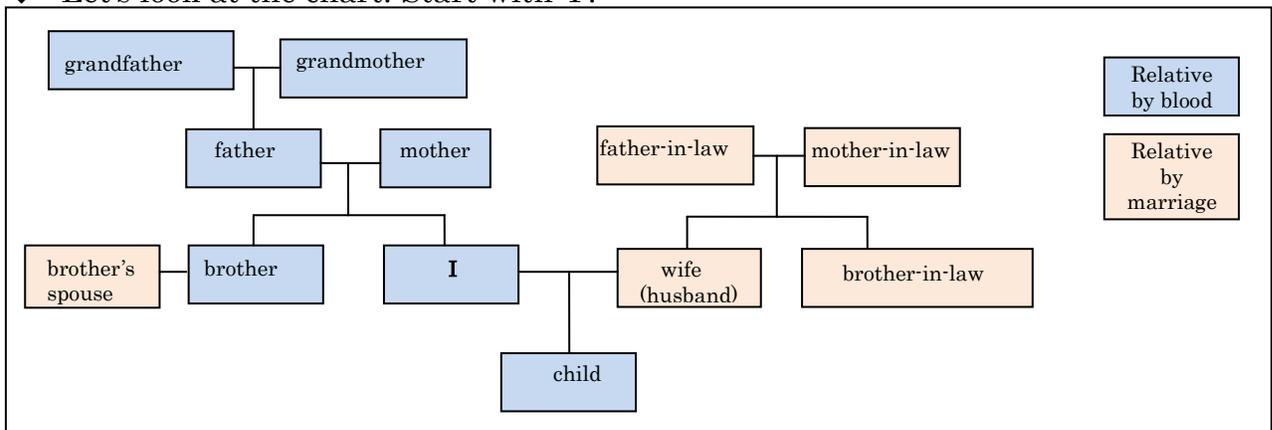


Chapter 2 Human Rights and the Japanese Constitution

(1) Civil Law

- ◆ What: This law, established on the basis of individual dignity and the essential quality of both sexes, relates to family relationships and the right of ownership.
- ◆ What this law is about: This law has to do with family relationships, inheritance and the right of ownership.
- ◆ When: This law has been in effect since the Meiji Era.
- ◆ Related terminology
 - ① Relative: group of people connected by blood and marriage.
 - ② Relative by blood: people who have ties of blood (e.g. parent and child, brother and sister, grandparent and grandchild)
 - ③ Relative by marriage: connection which is brought by marital relation (e.g. brother-in-law, elder brother's wife)
 - ④ Direct line: vertical connection (e.g. parent and child, grandparent and grandchild)
 - ⑤ Collateral relative: horizontal connection (e.g. brother and sister)
 - ⑥ Spouse : a partner in a marriage

- ◆ Let's look at the chart. Start with 'I'.



◆ Expected Question ◆

What is the law that concerns family relationships, inheritance and individual possession?

☞ Answer : Civil Law

(3) Basic Law for a Gender-Equal Society

- ◆ When: Enacted in 1999.
- ◆ What: Before World War II, “family” was thought to be the most important in Japan. It was firmly believed that “men should work while women should stay at home to do all the housework and child rearing.” After the war, however, people started to think that discrimination based on sex is not fair. How can men and women be equal? The Basic Law for a Gender-Equal Society is an answer to this question.

◆ Expected Question ◆

The law was established in 1999 to realize the society in which men and women can use their abilities regardless of sex. What is this law?

☞ Answer: Basic Law for a Gender-Equal Society

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

How do you read the following Kanji?

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. 夫婦
() | 6. 親権
() |
| 2. 親子
() | 7. 役割分担
() |
| 3. 多様化
() | 8. 介護
() |
| 4. 結婚
() | 9. 地域
() |
| 5. 核家族
() | 10. 違反
() |

☞ Answer: 1. Fufu 2. Oyako 3. Tayoka 4. Kekkō 5. Kakukazoku 6. Shinken 7. Yakuwaribuntan 8. Kaigo 9. Chiiki 10. Ihan

(4) Barrier-free Movement

- ◆ What: Movement to remove barriers that disturb users and provide them with supportive tools.
- ◆ Target: Not only for elderly and handicapped people, but for everyone.
- ◆ Why: In order to lead a safe and comfortable life.

◆ Question from past entrance exam◆ (Hyogo Prefecture)

Answer the following question on welfare society.

We try to remove physical, mental, or social barriers so that elderly people and handicapped people can lead a safe and comfortable daily life. What is this movement called?

☞ Answer: Barrier-free movement

◆ Let's think!

Q1: What is the meaning of "barrier"?

Q2: Find barriers around you.

Q3: What can be barriers to physically handicapped people?

Q4: In what situations do visually handicapped people have difficulties?

① Name some electric appliances that they may feel difficult to use.

② Name some products whose contents they cannot easily know.

Q5: What can you do for a barrier-free society? Think about barrier-free daily products.

◆Level-Up!! (Examples of Barrier-free marks)◆

	Gentle slope		Need assistance		Automatic door
	Steep slope		Wheelchair-accessible toilet		Wheelchair-accessible elevator
	No step		Wide toilet		
	No step/stairs		Wheelchair-accessible parking		

(5) Right to Live

- ◆ What: When people cannot go to hospital because they do not have money, or they cannot make a living because they are jobless, they have the right to ask for money for living. This right is stated clearly in the Livelihood Protection Law.
- ◆ Article 25 of the Constitution of Japan
All people shall have the right to lead a healthy and cultured life of at least minimum standards.

◆ Expected Question ◆

Q1 Article 25 of the Japanese Constitution says, “All people shall have the right to lead a healthy and cultured life of at least minimum standards” What is this right called?

Hint: Basic social right

☞ Answer: Right to Live

Q2 All people shall have the right to lead a (1) and cultured life of (2). [Article 25 of the Japanese Constitution]

(1) Write correct words in each blank.

☞ Answer: 1. healthy 2. at least minimum standards

(2) Which of the social rights does the underlined part correspond to?

☞ Answer: Right to Live

(3) Workers are guaranteed three labor rights. Write down these three rights.

☞ Answer: Right to Organize, Right to Barigain Collectively, Right to Engage in Labor Disputes

(6) Social Rights

◆ When: Established in 1919.

The Weimar Constitution established social rights for the first time in the world.

◆ What: Social rights are the rights to live one's life as a full human being. The rights are made up of the following three: right to live, right to be educated and basic labor rights

Social Rights		
1	Right to Live	The right to lead a healthy and cultured life of at least minimum standards
2	Right to be educated	The right to receive an equal education correspondent to their ability
3	Basic Labor Rights	The right, and also obligation to work

◆ Expected Question ◆

Q1. What are the rights to live one's life as a full human being?

☞ Answer: Social Rights

Q2. What are the rights of (A)-(E) in the following passage?

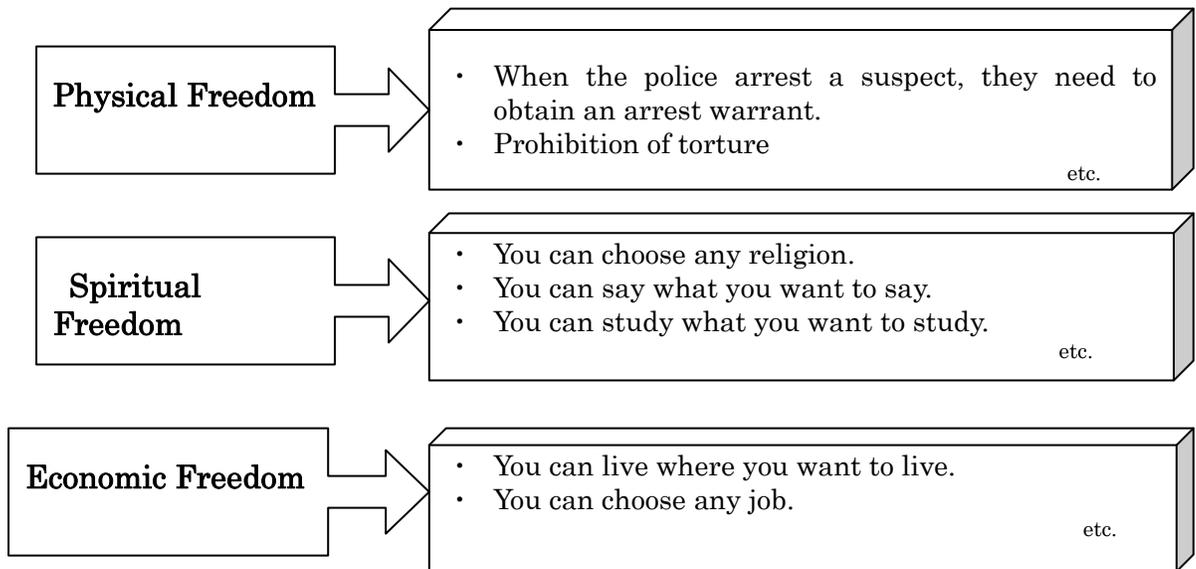
All human beings (A) are not restricted in their own actions without reason. They have (B) the right not to be discriminated by all. In addition, they are guaranteed (C) the right to live one's life as a full human being. They are also guaranteed (D) the rights to participate in politics and (E) the rights to confirm the protection of human rights.

A() B() C() D() E()

☞ Answer: A. Right to Freedom B. Right to Equality C. Social Right (Right to Live) D. Suffrage E. Right to make a claim

(7) Right to Freedom

- ◆ What: This right guarantees you to freely think, express your opinions and act. This right is further divided into three kinds: physical freedom, spiritual freedom, and economic freedom.



◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Kagoshima Prefecture)

What kind of the right to freedom makes it possible for you to choose any job?

☞ **Answer : Economic Freedom**

◆ Expected Question ◆

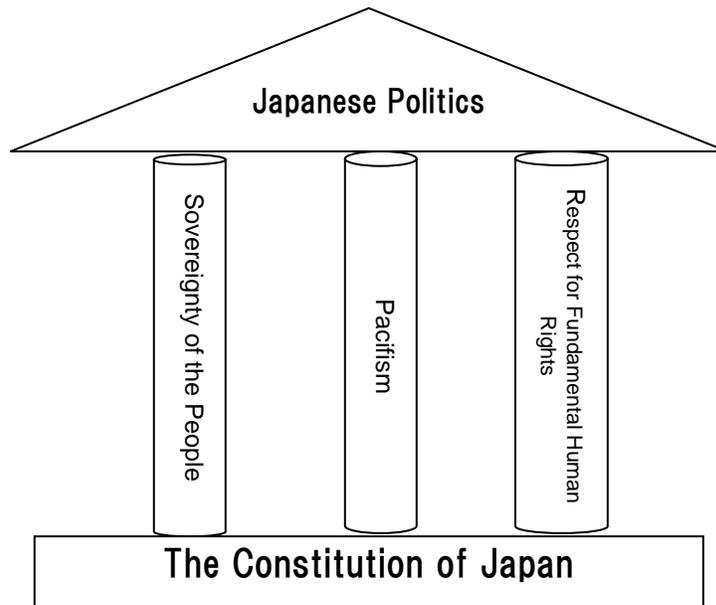
What do the following sentences indicate in the Right to Freedom?

1. Freedom of assembly and association as well as speech, press, and all other forms of expression are guaranteed.
2. Freedom of thought and conscience shall not be violated.
3. Every person shall have freedom to choose and change his residence and to choose his occupation to the extent that it does not interfere with the public welfare.
4. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself.

☞ **Answer : ①Spiritual Freedom ②Spiritual Freedom ③Economic Freedom ④Physical Freedom**

(8) Sovereignty of the People

- ◆ What: The principle that people have the right to determine their country's politics. This is one of the basic principles of the Constitution of Japan (enacted on May 3rd, 1947, i.e. Constitution Memorial Day.)



◆ Expected Question ◆

Q1. Fill in the blanks.

The Sovereignty of the People: (①) have the right to determine their country's politics. The politics is conducted by the will of (②). This is the same meaning as (③) in meaning.

☞ Answer : ①the people ②the people ③democracy

Q2. Two of the three basic principles of the Constitution of Japan are pacifism and respect for fundamental human rights. What is the other one?

☞ Answer : The Sovereignty of the People

Q3. The day that the Constitution of Japan was enacted is now a national holiday. When is it?

☞ Answer : May 3rd (Constitution Memorial Day)

(9) Public Welfare

◆ What: Everyone's happiness or good.

The Constitution of Japan says that we are always responsible for making good use of the basic human rights for public welfare.

For example: (Article 21 of the Constitution is on the freedom of expression.)

Mr. A: "I am free to write anything. So I will leave bad things on my teacher onto an online discussion board!"

↑You are not allowed to do it because you will harm your teacher's human rights.

(Article 22 of the Constitution is on the freedom of choice of occupation.)

Mr. B: "I am free to choose any job. So I will become a doctor."

No, you can't. You can't be a doctor if you do not have a medical license.

◆ Expected Question ◆

Q1. Fill in the blanks.

All of the people shall be respected as (①). Their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness shall, to the extent that it does not interfere with (②), be the supreme consideration in legislation and in other governmental affairs.

☞ Answer : ①individuals ②public welfare

Q2. The maximum respect for the basic human rights is stated clearly in the Constitution, but there is when the rights are limited. When is that?

☞ Answer : When they are against public welfare.

Q3. Choose the correct one from the choices.

ア The people have the basic human rights, but the rights are limited by public welfare.

イ The people have the basic human rights, but the defendant does not have them.

ウ The people have the basic human rights, so they can claim the rights at any time.

☞ Answer : ア

(10) Duties of the People

What: The Constitution of Japan refers to the three duties of the people.

① Duty to have one's children receive education

② Duty to work

③ Duty to pay tax

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

Choose the duties stated in the Constitution of Japan.

Example



Work



1



Have children go to school



2



Have a baby



3



Study



4



Pay tax



5



Get married



Answer 1-○ 2-× 3-× 4-○ 5-×

(11) Right to Privacy

- ◆ What: The right by which to prevent other people from unfairly interfering with one's private life, and to keep information private to protect one's life.

◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo Prefecture)

1. We performed a mock Diet assembly in the civics lesson. The following is a part of the mock Diet assembly. Answer the question below.

Member C: It often happens that one's personal information is disclosed before one realizes, or that one's private life is unfairly exposed. What do you think about this?

Prime minister: These are serious problems. I will take measures to protect personal information.

- (1) What is the right by which to protect one's private life from interference or unfair exposure?

☞ Answer: Right to privacy

◆ Let's check! ◆

- ★ When do you feel that your privacy is violated?
 1. Someone takes your picture without asking your permission.
 2. Someone told other people about your past life.
 3. A sales man visits your house and won't leave.
 4. Someone spreads a false rumor about your family.
 5. Your important data was leaked.
 6. Someone peeped into your house.
 7. I had harassing phone calls.

Let's discuss why you feel so!!



Chapter 3 Today's Democratic Government

(1) Ordinance

- ◆ What: Rules laid down by a local government (prefectures or cities, towns and villages) and effective only within that district.
- ◆ Why: Local rules are necessary, since circumstances differ from one district to another.
- ◆ An Example of Distinctive Ordinances
Wild Boar Ordinance (Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture)
What: Do not feed wild boars.
Why: In order to stop wild boars coming down a mountain and picking up the garbage or attacking people.

◆ Expected Question ◆

Rules laid down by prefectures or (1) are called (2). On the other hand, rules laid down by the central government are called (3).

☞ Answer : ①cities, towns or villages ②ordinances ③law

(2) Local Allocation Tax

- ◆ What: The government distributes a portion of the national taxes (income tax, corporate tax, etc.) to local governments that have a smaller amount of tax collected from the local people. All such local governments receive the local allocation tax grant. Tokyo is the only exception.

- ◆ Why: There be differences in local finances between local governments if different amount of taxes are collected. So the government distributes the local allocation tax to such local governments and does not specify how to use the money to eliminate the differences.

◆ Expected Question ◆

Q1. The government distributes money to local governments and does not specify how to use the money to eliminate the difference in local finances. What is the money called?

☞ Answer: Local allocation tax

Q2. Which of the following explanation is about local allocation tax?

- a. The money paid to help local governments perform the projects entrusted by the government.
- b. The money distributed to local governments by the government in accordance with their states of finance.
- c. The tax paid by the local people with which local governments cover their expenses.

☞ Answer: b

Q3. The bar graph below shows the ratio of Japan's general account expenditure of the 2005 fiscal year. Examine the graph and answer the item that corresponds to (1) – (3).

Expenses for social security 24.8%	Expenses for government bonds 22.4%	Distribution of local allocation tax 19.6%	Expenses for public works 9.2%	Expenses for scientific promotion 7.0%	Expenses for defense 5.9%	Others 11.1%
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(1) Payment of the national debt _____

(2) Expenditure for security for the life of the elderly and the needy _____

(3) Allocation for local governments in order to reduce disparities in their finance _____

☞ Answer: (1) Expenses for government bonds (2) Expenses for social security (3) Distribution of local allocation tax

(3) Direct Request

- ◆ What: People have the right to participate in politics.
People can make a variety of requests to the head of the local government (the governor of the prefecture or the mayor of the city, town, or village) by submitting the required number of signatures.
- ◆ What kind of requests:
People can make a request to enact, amend or abolish an ordinance.
People can make a request to inspect whether the local government is working properly.
People can make a request to dissolve the local assembly and elect new members.
People can make a request that the head of the local government or a member of the local assembly leave their office. (Recall system)

	Number of signatures required	To whom?
Enactment, amendment, or abolishment of an ordinance	More than one-fiftieth of the voters	Head of the local government
Inspection of the local government	More than one-fiftieth of the voters	Committee of inspection
Dissolution of the local assembly	More than one-third of the voters	Election administration commission
Recall of the head of the government or a member of the local assembly	More than one-third of the voters	Head of the local government / Election administration commission

◆ Expected Question ◆

People can make a request that the head of the local government or a member of the local assembly leave their office. What is that system called?

- ① squall ② equal ③ recall

☞ **Answer:** ②

(4) National Diet

- ◆ What: The National Diet is the center of Japanese politics.
 - The members are elected by the people (citizens 20 years of age or older).
 - The National Diet is authorized to determine the future course of Japan.
 - The bicameral system (the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors) is employed in order to decide on important matters carefully.

- ◆ What it does:
 - To enact laws.
 - To decide the national budget.
 - The National Diet determines how to spend the tax collected by the government.
 - To designate the Prime Minister.
 - The Prime Minister is elected from among the members of the two Houses and is appointed by the Emperor.
 - To set up the Judge Impeachment Court.
 - The Judge Impeachment Court tries judges accused of being inappropriate for their duties.
 - To approve the conclusion of treaties with other nations.

- ◆ Let's have a look at "The House of Councillors for Kids!"
 - <http://www.sangiin.go.jp/japanese/kids/>

◆ Types of Diet sessions: ordinary sessions, extraordinary sessions and special sessions

	Type	When is the Diet summoned?	Term
Diet	Ordinary sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once a year • Every January 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 days • Can be extended
	Extraordinary sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the Cabinet considers them necessary • When more than a quarter of the total members of either House request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by a vote of both Houses
	Special sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a general election following the dissolution of the House of Representatives • To be summoned within 30 days of the general election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Extraordinary sessions
Emergency session of the House of Councillors		To be held when an emergency occurs during the dissolution of the House of Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not determined

◆ **Expected Question** ◆

What is the session summoned after a general election following the dissolution of the House of Representatives?

☞ Answer: Special session

◆ **Level-Up!** ◆

Basis of Japanese election	
General rule	Content
Universal election	No limitation except age
Equal election	One vote per person
Direct election	Elect a member directly
Secret election	Unsigned vote

(5) House of Representatives

- ◆ **What:** The Diet consists of the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. (Bicameral system)
- ◆ **Why:** The bicameral system guarantees diverse viewpoints and careful considerations on important issues.
- ◆ **Comparison of the Membership of the Two Houses**

House of Representatives		House of Councillors
480	Number of members	242
4 years (Membership ends with the dissolution of the House)	Term of office	6 years (with half of the Members elected every third year)
Citizens 20 years of age or older	Right to vote	Citizens 20 years of age or older
Citizens 25 years of age or older	Right to stand for office	Citizens 30 years of age or older
Possible	Dissolution	Not possible

◆ Expected Question ◆

Public opinions are more likely to be reflected in the House of Representatives than in the House of Councillors because, in the former, the term of the members are shorter and sometimes ends with dissolution. On that account, in the case where the two Houses make opposite decisions, those of the House of Representatives have priority. What is this system called?

☞ Answer: Supremacy of the House of Representatives

(6) Cabinet

- ◆ What: The highest organ of Japan's administration.
- ◆ Who: The cabinet consists of the prime minister and ministers of state.
- ◆ How they are elected:
 - The prime minister must be a member of the Diet, and is designated by the Diet.
 - The ministers of state are appointed by the prime minister, a majority of whom must be members of the Diet.
- ◆ What it does:

The cabinet controls and supervises the administrative branches, and practice what is ordained by law.

 - Drafting the law and budget (which must be approved by the Diet)
 - Enactment of cabinet orders
 - Granting of amnesty
 - Conclusion of treaties (with the consent of the Diet)

◆ Expected Question ◆

Fill in the blank.

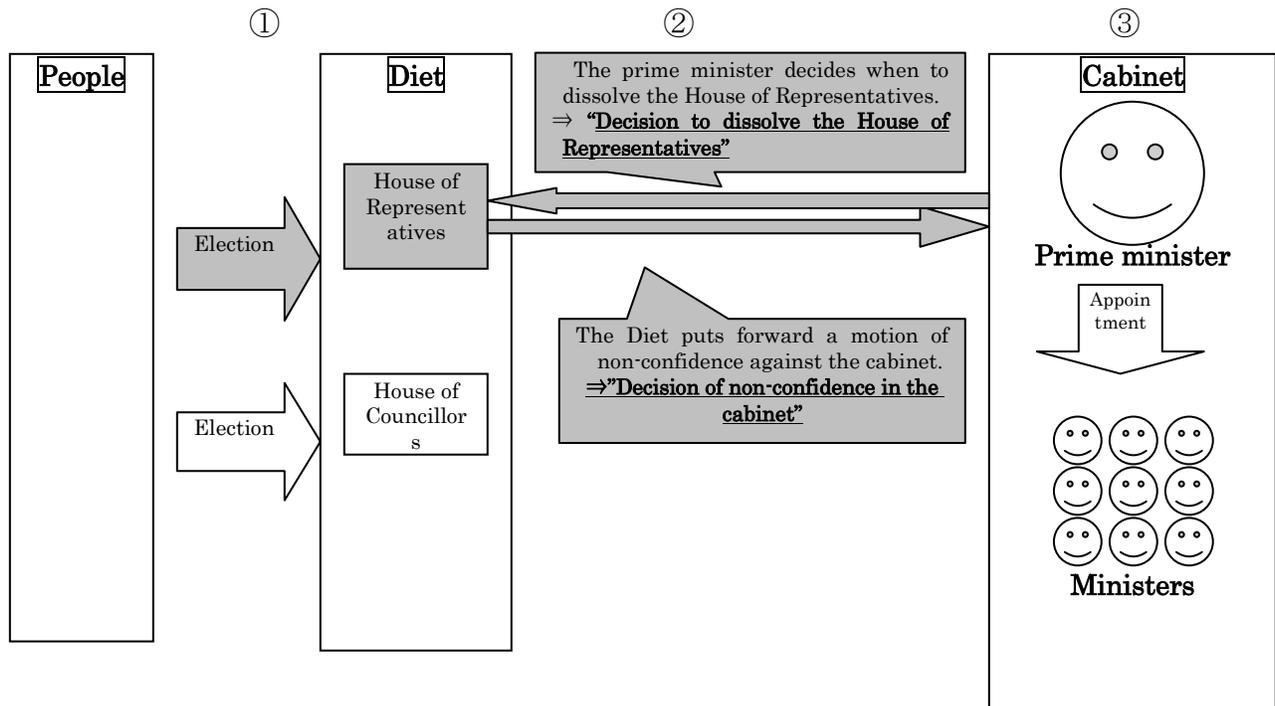
The cabinet is the highest organ of Japan's (_____).

- ① legislation (law-making) ② administration ③ judiciary

☞ **Answer:** ②

(7) Parliamentary Cabinet System

- ◆ What: The cabinet is collectively responsible to the Diet.
 - ① The people elect Diet members.
 - ② The Diet members designate the prime minister.
 - ③ The prime minister appoints ministers of state.



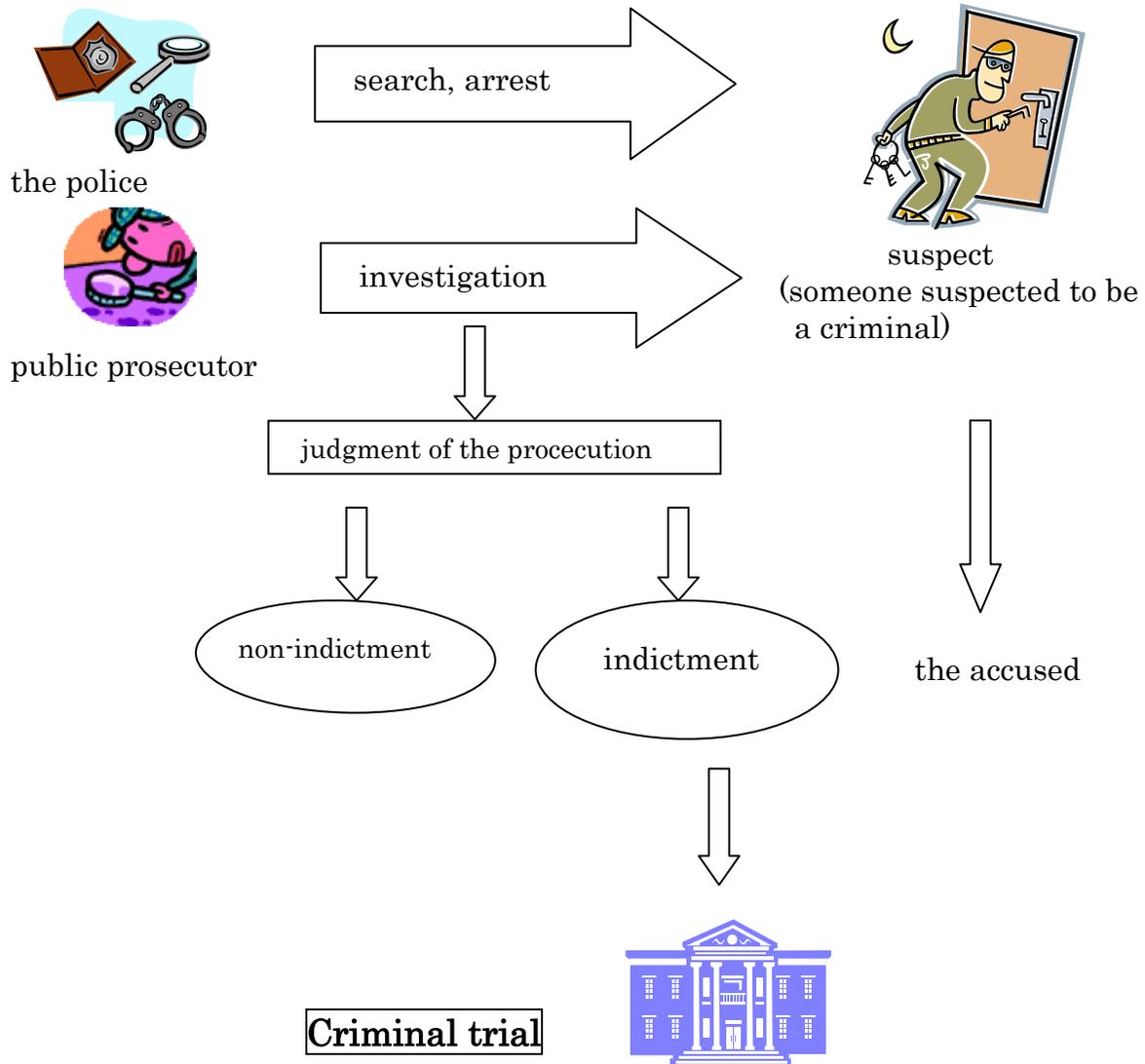
◆ Question of past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo Prefecture, adapted)

The Constitution of Japan says that the cabinet is formed with the confidence of the Diet and has joint responsibility for the Diet. What is this system?

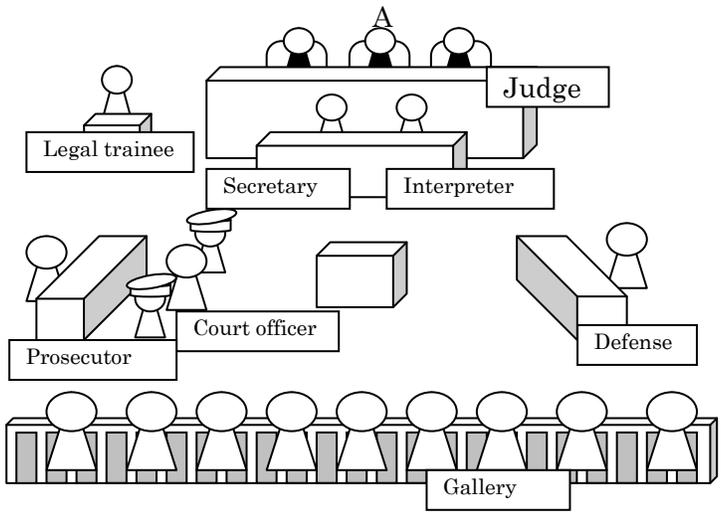
☞ Answer: Parliamentary cabinet system

(8) Criminal Trial

- ◆ What: The place where a criminal is judged. A judge listens to what both a public prosecutor and defendant say, and determines whether the criminal is guilty or innocent.



◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo prefecture, adapted)



- A : Judge
- B : Public prosecutor
- C : Defense

URL referred to: <http://www.yama-ben.jp/>

(1) The above picture shows a trial process in a courtroom. What kind of trial is this? Choose the correct one from the following.
A: Civic trial B: Criminal trial C: Impeachment trial

☞ Answer: B

(2) Which explanation is wrong on the trial shown in the above picture?
Choose one from the following.

- A: The judge decides a case.
- B: The public prosecutor charges a defendant.
- C: The defense defends witness.
- D: As a rule, a trial opens to public.

☞ Answer: C

(9) Public Prosecutor

A public prosecutor investigates a criminal case and decides whether to bring it to trial or not.

First the police investigate a case and search for a suspect. Then a public prosecutor confirms whether the suspected person is actually a criminal or not, and decides whether to bring him/her to trial. This procedure is called “indictment”. In Japan, only public prosecutors have the right to indict suspects. No trial starts without indictment.

◆ Useful URL: <http://www.kensatsu.go.jp/>

◆ Expected Question ◆

Fill in the blank.

A () is a public servant who indicts a suspect to bring to trial.

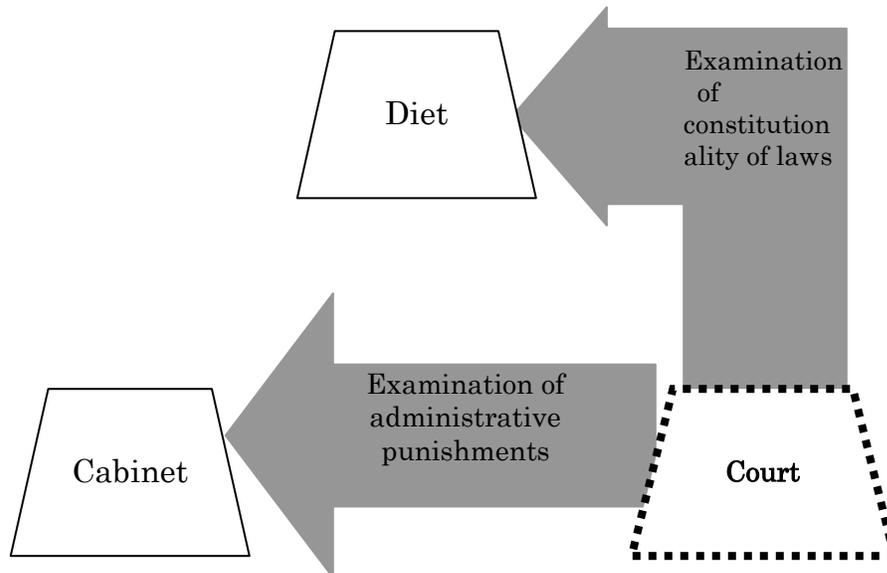
☞ Answer: public prosecutor

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

There are some other kinds of trials. Let's check them!

(10) Power to Determine the Constitutionality

◆ What: A court of justice is authorized to determine the constitutionality of any law, order, or regulation enacted by the Diet.



◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo Prefecture)

In 1993, the Supreme Court made the final determination that the general election of the House of Representatives carried out in 1990 was against the Constitution because there was a difference more than three times in the weight of one vote. The Supreme Court has a power to determine whether laws, regulations and orders are in accordance with the Constitution. What is this power called?

☞ Answer: Power to determine the constitutionality

(11) National Review for Supreme Court Judges

- ◆ What: The national review through which judges of the Supreme Court are judged whether they are qualified for their office.
- ◆ When: At the same time with the first general election after the appointment, and after ten years of that, in every general election.
- ◆ How: The people judge each one whether he/she is qualified for the office, and if they judge that he/she is not, they can write X in the ballot form.

	×			× を 書 く 欄 <small>か らん</small>	Space to fill X in
裁判 花子 <small>さいばん はなこ</small>	裁判 太郎 <small>さいばん たろう</small>	衆議 院花子 <small>しゅうぎ いんはなこ</small>	衆議 院太郎 <small>しゅうぎ いんたろう</small>	裁判官の 名 <small>さいばん かんの な</small>	Names of the judges under review

◆ Expected Question ◆

What is the ballot called through which Supreme Court judges appointed after the most recent general election are judged whether they are qualified for the office?

- ① Impeachment trial ② Committee for judicial review
- ③ National review for Supreme Court judges

☞ Answer: ③



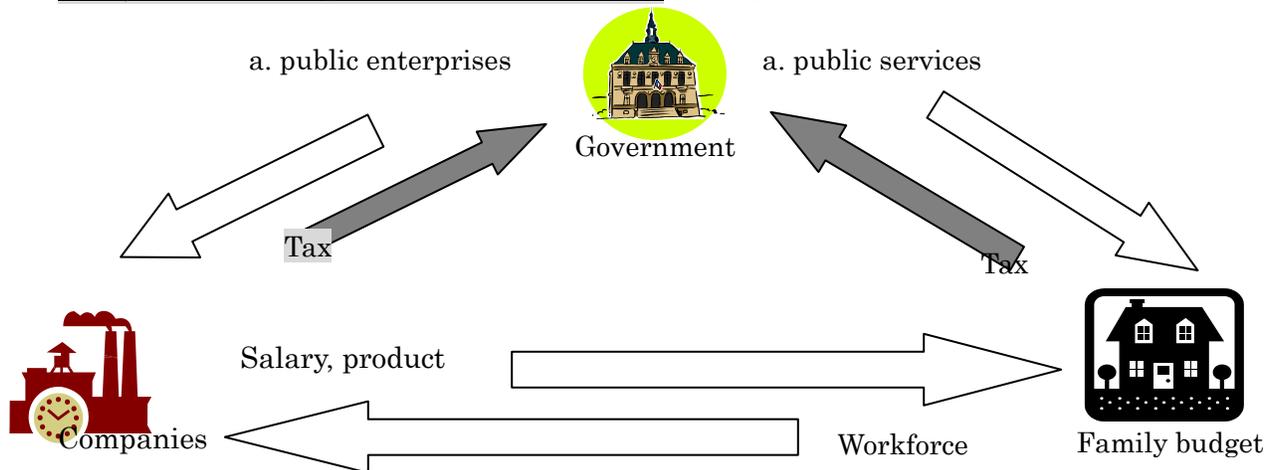
(1) Public Utility Charges

- ◆ Meaning: Public = (1) Relating to all the people in a country or community.
(2) Sharing things that are done for the people by the nation.

Charge = The amount of money that is paid by a person or organization for a particular job or service.

- ◆ What: The central government or local governments decide how much we have to pay for public utilities such as electricity, gas, water and so on. These are called “public utility charges”.

◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo Prefecture)



The above figure shows economic flow. Choose one wrong explanation on public enterprises/services shown in the figure from the following.

- A. Facilities fundamental to industry and modern life, such as roads and parks are called social capital.
- B. The prevention of epidemics is the responsibility of public health, part of the social security system.
- C. The Basic Environment Law was established to prevent environmental pollution and to comprehensively address environmental issues.
- D. The local government is involved in deciding movie ticket prices as a type of public utility charge.

Answer: D

(2) Cooling-off System

- ◆ **What:** The cooling-off system allows consumers to demand within a certain period of time unconditional cancellation of purchase contracts made not in accordance with their will (e.g. door-to-door selling). To "cool off" means "to calm down and reconsider".

- ◆ **How:** By sending a cancellation notice to the seller. It should include:
 - date of purchase
 - item purchased
 - price of the item
 - name of the store or the seller
 - your statement that you do not need the item
 - your name and address

- ◆ **Cases in which the cooling-off system cannot be applied**
 - expendable supplies, if used
 - items less than ¥3,000 and purchased in cash
 - automobiles

◆ Expected Questions ◆

Q1. What is the system called by which a contract made by door-to-door selling can be cancelled within a certain period of time.

☞ Answer: Cooling-off system

Q2. Who is the cooling-off system for?

☞ Answer: Consumers

(3) Product Liability Law (PL Law)

- ◆ What: The Product Liability Law requires the manufacturer to compensate the victim for damages caused by a defect in the product.

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

Read the following explanation about the Product Liability Law and fill in the blanks.

- ① I went to a convenience store leaving the TV on. When I returned home, half of my house was destroyed by fire caused by the wall socket where the TV was plugged in.



- ② If your house was destroyed by fire and you are in trouble, you should talk to (). You should calculate the damages and send proof of the disaster to ().



- ③ The burnt TV will be checked to find out what was the cause of the fire.



- ④ The TV manufacturer will pay settlement money to you. If you can agree and accept this money, this case will be settled.

Answer: Home Appliances PL Center (both)

(4) Antimonopoly Law

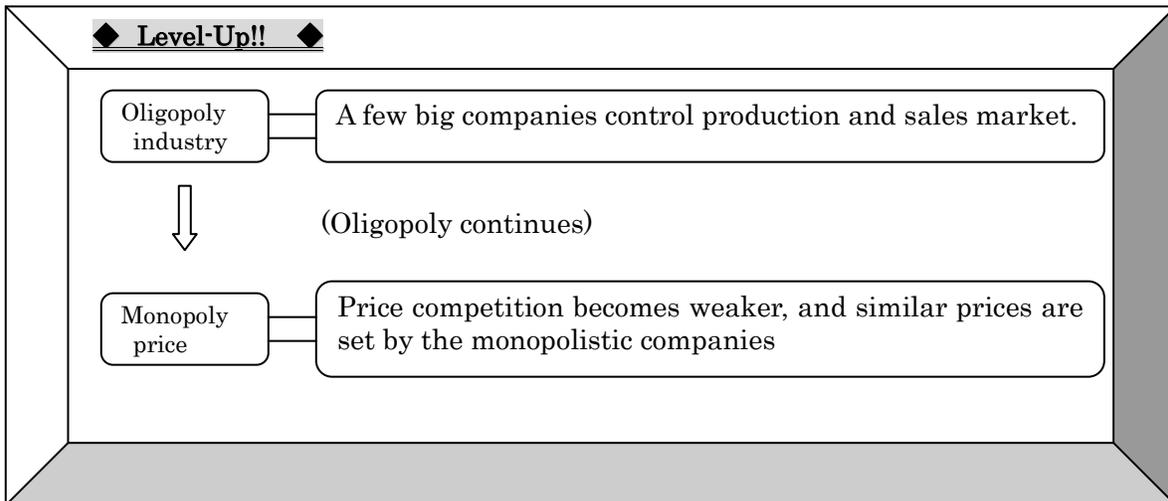
◆ When: Enacted in 1947

◆ What: If one or only a few entrepreneurs continue to monopolize the market, they are likely to determine product prices and volumes one-sidedly. As the result of this, consumers will be in a disadvantageous position. The Antimonopoly Law was established in order to protect the interests of consumers by keeping fair and free competition in the market. The Fair Trade Commission is responsible for putting this law into practice.

◆ **Question from past entrance exam**◆ (Hyogo Prefecture, adapted)

If one or only a few companies monopolize the market, consumers will be in a disadvantageous position. So a law was established in 1947 to protect the interests of consumers and healthy development of national economy by keeping fair and free competition. The Fair Trade Commission is in charge of this law. What is this law called?

☞ Answer: Antimonopoly Law



(5) Fair Trade Commission

◆ What: The commission that is responsible for bringing the Antimonopoly Law into practice. Established in 1947. The Fair Trade Commission is one of the Japan's administrative organs and is under the control of the prime minister.

◆ Expected Question ◆

What commission is in charge of the Antimonopoly Law?

☞ Answer: Fair Trade Commission

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

Q1. Fill in the blanks with the right word. Choices are given below.

The Antimonopoly Law is established to protect ___ A ___'s ___ B ___ by controlling and ___ C ___ ___ D ___'s ___ E ___ and unfair ___ F ___.

interests	monopoly	market	consumers
prohibiting	dealing		

☞ Answer: A. consumer B. interests C. prohibiting D. market E. monopoly F. dealing

(6) Bank Rate

◆ What:

- The interest rate applied when the Bank of Japan loans commercial banks.
- The Bank of Japan is the central bank of Japan established based on the Bank of Japan Law.
- The Bank of Japan has the following three important roles, and bank rate has to do with (3).

(1) The Bank of Japan issues the national currency.
→ “Bank of Japan Note” is printed on paper currency.

(2) The Bank of Japan is the government’s bank
→ Tax money collected from the people is deposited in the Bank of Japan.

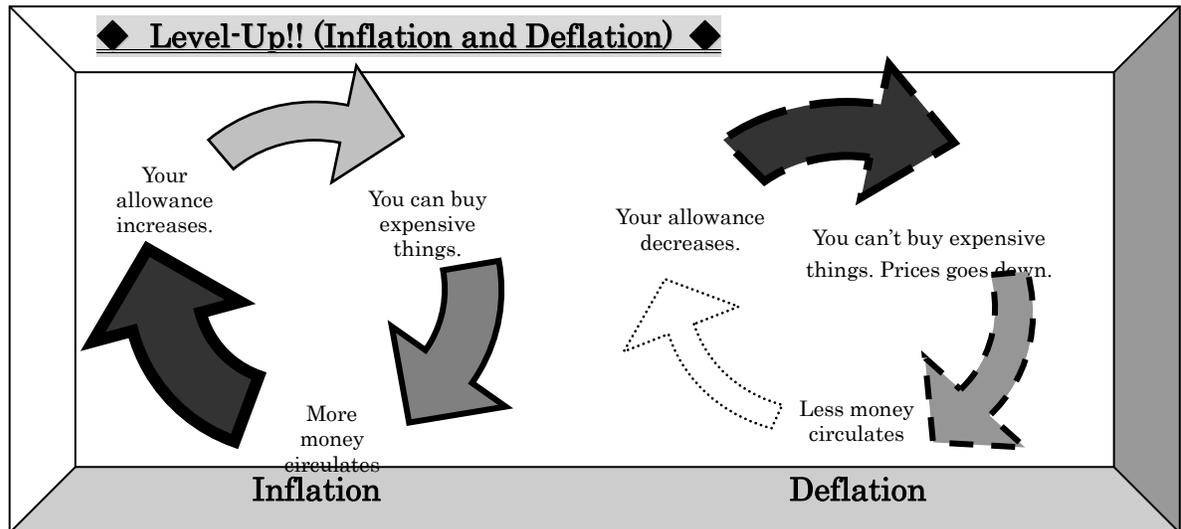
(3) The Bank of Japan is the bank for commercial banks.
→ As we deposit money in and obtain a loan from banks, commercial banks deposit money in and obtain a loan from the Bank of Japan.

When we obtain a loan from commercial banks, we have to pay back with interest.

“Interest” is the extra money that you have to pay if you have borrowed money on credit. Similarly, the commercial banks have to pay the interest to the Bank of Japan. Such interest rate is called “bank rate”. The bank rate is lowered when business is bad, and is raised when business is good.

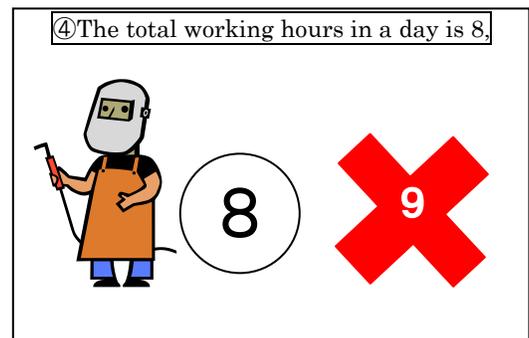
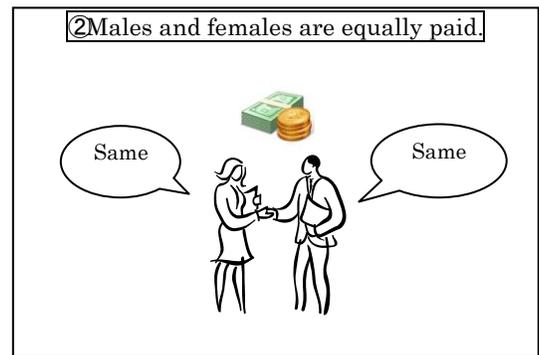
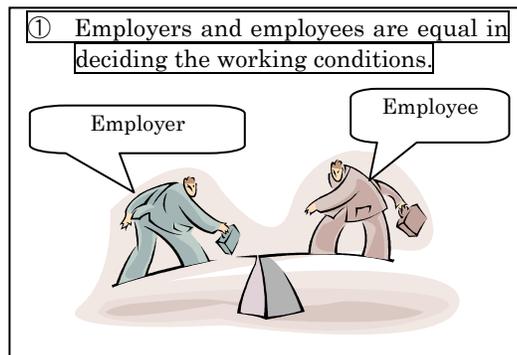
(7) Bubble Economy

- ◆ What: “Bubble Economy” refers to Japan’s economic situation in the late 1980s and the early 1990s, when stock and land prices rose sharply. During the bubble economy period, some abnormal fever for speculation (the desire to make a large profit by buying and selling) raised real estate and property prices. “Bubble” here means “something empty, short-lived, or easy to burst.”



(8) Labor Standards Law

- ◆ What: The law that protects workers.
One of three major labor laws. The others are the Labor Union Law and the Labor Relations Adjustment Law.
- ◆ When: Established in 1947.



◆ **Question from past entrance exam** ◆ (Okinawa Prefecture)

What is the law that established the minimum standards of working conditions?

☞ Answer: Fair Trade Commission

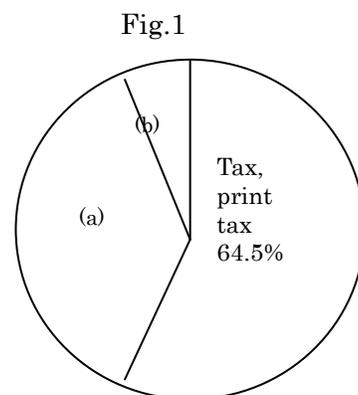
(9) Graduated Tax

- ◆ **What:** A tax by which the tax rate increases as the taxable income increases. People with more income pay a higher percentage of that income in tax than do those with less income. In Japan this system applies to income taxes.
- ◆ **Result:** This system aims to reduce the gap between rich and poor by redistributing wealth.

◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo Prefecture)

Income tax is included in Tax in Fig 1. We have a high tax rate if we have a high income. What is this tax imposition system?

Note: (a) Public debt expenditure 30.7%
(b) Others 4.8%



☞ **Answer: Graduated tax**

◆ Expected Question ◆

You have to pay high income tax and resident tax if you have a high income. What is this system called?

☞ **Answer: Graduated tax system**

◆ Level Up!! (Tax rate of income tax in2011) ◆

Taxable Income (Amount less than one thousand yen are to be disregarded.)	Income Rate	Amount of Deduction
1,950,000 yen or less	5%	0
Over 1,950,000 yen to 3,30,000 yen or less	10%	97,500 yen
Over 3,300,000 yen to 6,950,000 yen or less	20%	427,500 yen
Over 6,950,000 yen to 9,000,000 yen or less	23%	636,000 yen
Over 9,000,000 yen to 18,000,000 yen	33%	1,536,000 yen
Over 18,000,000 yen	40%	2,796,000 yen

A certain amount is deducted from the income tax according to the amount of taxable income.

For example, when “taxable income” is 6,500,000yen”, you have to pay 872,500 yen according to the following formula: $6,500,000 \text{ yen} \times 0.2 - 427,500 = 872,500 \text{ yen}$

(10) Income Tax

- ◆ What: A tax put on our income.
- ◆ For example: If people work, they earn money. This is their income. They have to pay tax to the government according to their income.

◆ Question from past entrance exam ◆ (Hyogo Prefecture)

The following figure shows the details of the national taxes in 2000. Fill in the blank with the correct kind of tax.

Fig. National taxes in 2000 (%)

()	Corporate tax	Consumption tax	Other
36.9	19.6	19.5	20.3



Liquor tax 3.7

(『NIHON NO TOKEI 2001 Edition』)

☞ Answer: Income tax

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

Answer the following questions.

- (1) We pay money when we buy something. The amount of money we pay then is called (①) .
- (2) We pay money for services, such as mail, electricity, gas, water, etc. This is called (②) .
- (3) What do you call a person who buys something from a store? (③)
- (4) What do you call a person who makes, grows, or supplies goods for sale? (④)
- (5) We have to pay tax according to our income. What is this tax called? (⑤)

☞ Answer: ① Price ② Public utility charge ③ Consumer ④ Producer ⑤ Income tax

(11) Consumption Tax

- ◆ What: A tax on the money people spend on goods and services. For example, when you buy something whose price is 100 yen, you have to pay 105 yen (including consumption tax). The rate of consumption tax as of 2012 is 5 percent.
- ◆ Useful URL: <http://www.nta.go.jp>

◆ Expected Question ◆

You have to pay an indirect tax when you buy something or receive services. What is the tax?

☞ Answer: Consumption tax

◆ Level-Up Question ◆

You bought one ¥500 book, two ¥100 erasers, and two ¥250 notebooks. How much consumption tax did you pay?

☞ Answer: 60 yen

(12) Social Insurance

- ◆ What: A type of social security.

Social insurance provides protection against various economic difficulties (e.g. loss of income due to sickness or injury, unemployment, or old age). People have to pay contributions on a regular basis to receive benefits.

- ◆ What is social security?

A monetary assistance system by which the state or society as a whole guarantees people's minimum standard of living. Social security includes social insurance, public assistance, social welfare, etc.

- ◆ Why social insurance is necessary?

With the development of democracy and the spread of the idea of human rights people have realized that uncertainties about individual people's lives (e.g. poverty, unemployment, sickness) should be reduced by the state or society as a whole. The development of the capitalist economy and the increased complication of society have made it difficult for one individual to go through such uncertainties on his/her own.

◆ Estimated Question ◆

Q1. Which statement is incorrect as an explanation about the present welfare in Japan? Also correct the mistake.

a. As the number of elderly people in need of care increases, people over 20 years of age are required to pay long-term care insurance premium.

b. It is estimated that in the first half of the 21st century, one-quarter of Japan's population will be 65 years of age or older.

☞ Answer: a. 20 → 40

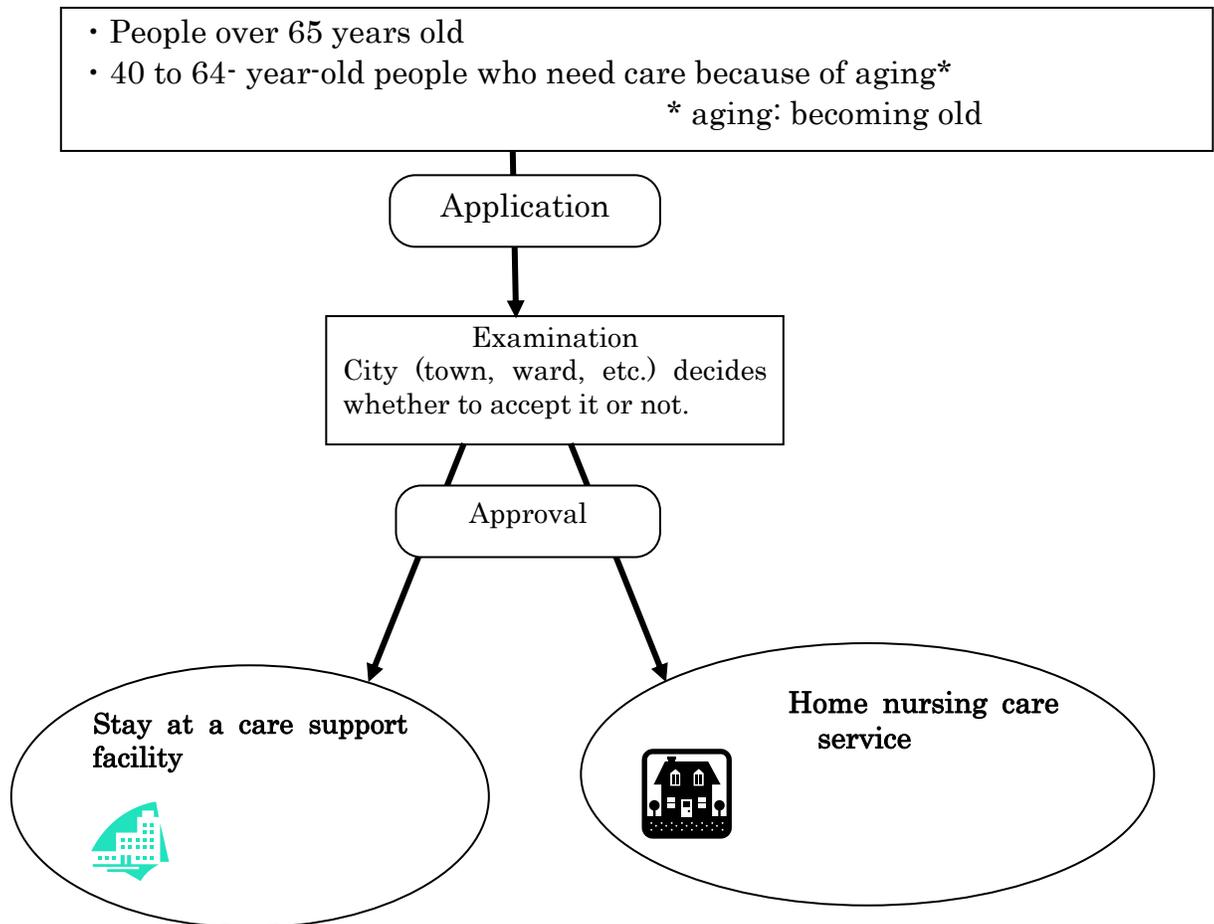
Q2. Answer the type of social insurance that corresponds to (1) and (2).

(1) This insurance is for workers fallen ill or injured at work. Benefits for absence from work are provided.

(2) This insurance is for people who have just left their jobs and are now unemployed. Paid for a certain period of time.

☞ Answer: (1) Workers' compensation insurance (2) Unemployment insurance

(13) Long-term Care Insurance System



Breakdown of nursing care expenses:

People who receive the service: 10%

Public funds (tax and insurance premium) 90%

◆ Expected Question ◆

The basic social right is called the right to life, that is “the right to have a minimum standard of living”. In order to ensure this right against the coming aging society, a new social security system has been introduced since 2000.

What is this system called?

☞ Answer: Long-term Care Insurance System