

解答用紙 A（マークシート）の記入に関する注意事項

[1] から [33] までの解答は、解答用紙 A（マークシート）の解答欄にマークしなさい。

[例] (12) と表示のある問いに対して、「3」と解答する場合は、次の例のように解答欄 (12) の ③ にマークしなさい。

(12)
①
②
●
④
⑤
⑥
⑦
⑧
⑨
⑩
⊖

なお、解答欄にある ⊖ はマイナス符号 − を意味します。

問題文 I，II，III は解答を一つずつ選び、マークシートに記入しなさい。

I . Read the following article, and answer the questions as indicated.

“Unnecessary and Inefficient: the National Minimum Wage”

by Marc Etfoasses (2013)

① The idea of setting minimum wages has been around for hundreds of years. During that time minimum wages seem to have had little or no effect on poverty rates or global inequality. Our societies today are more unequal than ever. Poverty is a relative, not [1] concept, and along with inequality, poverty has actually grown too. Creating state regulations about pay will not make matters better. It will make them worse.

② The main problem with national minimum wage legislation is obvious: it needlessly prevents free market competition. Wages follow the laws of supply and demand, and vary naturally according to the availability and skills of the workers and general market conditions. Creating artificial barriers cannot be the right way to address the issue of cheap labor. Small businesses [A] the heart of most flourishing economies. Yet no one is more affected than small businesses and particularly start-ups. These organizations often need to take advantage of cheap labor, particularly in the early stages of development. Many of today's corporate giants [B] small. Yet how many might have collapsed, had early labor costs been too high?

③ Bureaucracy is never the solution to any business problem. Most able employers can easily find ways to evade the effects of minimum wage laws. They can cut worker hours or hire more workers part-time; they can reduce the number of staff or worker benefits. Employment contracts which guarantee no minimum working hours have become shockingly common in the UK since the National Minimum Wage was re-introduced in 1998. The only certain result of such legislation is a boost to the "black economy" – the informal, cash economy in which neither employer nor employee pays tax. That cannot be a desirable outcome. [3]

④ Furthermore, it is obvious that introducing such schemes can only result in inflation. Many firms who refuse to cut employee hours [4] do nothing but raise prices eventually. This feeds into the wider economy. One UK study in 2009 found that prices in the minimum wage sectors rose significantly faster in the four years following the minimum wage legislation.

⑤ Unemployment is no longer said to be a direct consequence of establishing a minimum wage. But in the UK, where a new National Living Wage is scheduled to be gradually introduced by 2020, even supporters of the legislation acknowledge that over 60,000 jobs will be lost. These job losses may involve the sole earners for many families, so the numbers affected will be far greater. It is [5] a co-incidence that France, which has one of the highest minimum wages (60% of the median wage for adults), has also very high rates of youth unemployment – over 25% in 2013 for those aged between 15 and 24.

⑥ [6] would argue that creating a national minimum wage will somehow miraculously revive the struggling economies in our rural areas. True, an increased circulation of cash in these regions would help. However, this measure alone will not prevent migration to the cities. In any case, these areas may well be attractive to investors for different, more compelling reasons, including land availability and cheap rents. Nations will always have areas which lag behind economically and this cannot be magically changed by legislation. Remote islands and mountain areas have their own special set of economic advantages and disadvantages. The national wage [7] these, for no special economic reason, and only marginal gain.

⑦ Worst of all is the realization that national minimum wage laws are never entirely fair. With jobs now so hard to find, the lowest-skilled workers usually suffer unemployment the most. Among this group are many young people, who need job experience to gain skills in the first place. Indeed, increased minimum wages may cause employers to discriminate at least temporarily on the basis of gender and race. Finally, where more than one person in a well-off family receives a minimum wage, the point is lost entirely. Without background checks, it is likely that many minimum-wage jobs will fall to those for whom the minimum wage was not intended. [8]

⑧ Everybody shares the goal of a fairer society. However, we should be cautious before applying a measure which can never be truly fair. Minimum wages will produce economic distortions, will slow the economy in general and will cause inflation. We should treat the idea with considerable skepticism. There are alternatives: tax reductions for poorer households, stronger labor unions, and better support for education. It is in these areas that progress should be made. [10]

Answer the questions [1]—[10] as indicated.

1. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [1] in Paragraph ① ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (1) on the mark sheet.

1. a concrete
2. a familiar
3. an absolute
4. a theoretical

2. Which of the following word combinations would best fill the gaps at [A] and [B] in Paragraph ② ? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (2) on the mark sheet.

[A] [B]

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. consist of | set in |
| 2. consist of | started out |
| 3. make up | set in |
| 4. make up | started out |

3. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of Paragraph ③ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (3) on the mark sheet.

1. Business becomes weakened by government regulations.
2. Companies will always find ways to avoid restrictive regulations.
3. Employment contracts are the main solution to minimum wage problems.
4. The black economy gives a tax-free advantage to small companies.

4. Which of the following would **NOT** fill the gap at [4] in Paragraph ④ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (4) on the mark sheet.

1. can
2. may
3. must
4. will

5. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [5] in Paragraph ⑤ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (5) on the mark sheet.
1. actually
 2. hardly
 3. merely
 4. only
6. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [6] in Paragraph ⑥ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (6) on the mark sheet.
1. Anyone
 2. Few
 3. No one
 4. Some
7. Which of the following best fills the gap at [7] in Paragraph ⑥ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (7) on the mark sheet.
1. had ignored
 2. ignores
 3. should ignore
 4. would ignore
8. Which of the following best summarizes the author's main argument about wage legislation in Paragraph ⑦ ? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (8) on the mark sheet.
1. It cannot help but ignore women and young people who need jobs.
 2. It discourages the least skilled workers, who would need to improve to qualify.
 3. It is difficult to make employers maintain the pay level demanded by law.
 4. It is unfair to those groups in society who need help the most.

9. The following four words all appear in the article. When pronounced, which one of them has a **different stress (アクセント) pattern** from the others? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (9) on the mark sheet.
1. consequence
 2. inflation
 3. obvious
 4. skepticism
10. Based on the whole article, with which of the following three statements (A, B, C) would the author most likely **agree**? Answer by choosing one of the eight options below and filling in the corresponding slot under the number (10) on the mark sheet.
- A. Governments need to regulate the labor market.
 - B. Inequalities can be addressed by adopting clear national standards.
 - C. We should trust market forces to set an appropriate wage level.
1. A only.
 2. B only.
 3. C only.
 4. A and B.
 5. A and C.
 6. B and C.
 7. All three.
 8. None.

II. Read the following article, and answer the questions as indicated.

“The National Minimum Wage: an idea whose time has come?”

by D. Saint-Paix (2015)

① We live in an era of undesirable inequality, both within and between nations. Legislation towards establishing a decent national minimum wage should be at the top of the political agenda in most countries.

② The idea behind the minimum wage is far from new. In medieval England it was first put into law in 1351 by Edward III. His legislation was designed to [11] wage, but labor at the time was so short that ironically the opposite resulted, and a wage floor was established instead. In the twentieth century, many countries adopted minimum wage laws. In the US, Massachusetts was the first US state to adopt a minimum wage in 1912, but many other states rapidly imitated. As President Roosevelt put it in 1933, “No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country.”

③ Critics of a nationally-agreed minimum wage usually protest about the supposed economic costs. Far from being too expensive, however, a decent national minimum wage would actually stimulate the domestic economy. Putting cash into the hands of the poorest ensures [12] locally, thus boosting consumption. As the bosses at two leading US discount retailers have stated recently, they are in favor of an increased federal minimum wage: most of their customers are among the poorly-paid.

④ Studies have confirmed that economic costs need not follow. In the 1990s, exceptional Princeton economists David Card and Alan B. Krueger studied the comparative effects on fast-food restaurants and low-wage employment in New Jersey, which raised the minimum wage, and Pennsylvania, where it remained at the federal level. [13]: their data demonstrated that a modest increase in wages did not appear to cause any significant harm to employment; in some cases, a rise in the minimum wage even resulted in a slight increase in employment.

⑤ Efficiency is actually encouraged by a minimum wage. Workers are encouraged to gain new skills and to invest in their surroundings. The low-paid often find employment at large corporations; yet these businesses often struggle with staff turnover. Poorly-paid workers quit early: in the US a mere 8 months is the average. Yet where hourly rates are higher, for example in Denmark, it is clear that workers are happy to stay and to master the business. This rewards the companies that invest in their workers and reduces hiring costs. Most long-established firms that have agreed to pay a decent living wage have reported a better standard of work. Furthermore, for employers, the minimum wage provides an indirect incentive to invest in technology and increase productivity. Firms can no longer simply count on cheap labor to maximize profits. [14]

⑥ Many positive social effects can follow. Two groups who are at present disadvantaged would clearly benefit. The young, who often have to work for very low pay, would find the means to study and improve their chances. [15], women, who make up the bulk of the lowly-paid, would be able to improve conditions not just for themselves, but also for their children, thus creating momentum towards a better society. [16], those women receiving or trying to gain the minimum wage would have greater incentives to get education. [17], older male workers already in lower-paid jobs would also be motivated to try harder for increased pay.

⑦ Because a minimum wage rewards work, it must surely be preferable to government payments. In fact, this is one way governments can reduce their welfare administration. Governments everywhere waste considerable sums on multiple programs to combat poverty. Wouldn't it be fairer, however, to make employers properly reward work than to have the state hand out free money? A decent wage for those who worked might also prevent many from turning to drugs or crime, and slow the growth of the underground loan businesses. Companies can and should contribute to social welfare. [18]

⑧ Today, the main questions about the minimum wage should not be [19] to require it, but at what level to fix it, and how to harmonize it across a nation. India, where there are 1,200 different minimum wages, illustrates the economic disadvantages of not creating a simple but fair regime. India is far from alone,

however. In many developed countries, minimum wages are set either by specific industries, or by local, not national authorities (e.g. Japan). On the other hand, failure to set a national living wage leaves citizens in remote areas at a profound disadvantage and contributes to undesirable urbanization, by drawing valuable human resources from the countryside to the big cities.

⑨ Fixing a national minimum wage is a vital step for most nations today. Many economists have long argued for it. Adam Smith himself believed that the poor “should have such a share of the produce of their own labor as to be themselves reasonably well fed, clothed and lodged.” That is what current campaigns for a standard minimum wage are all about. Ultimately, the minimum wage should be set at a level which would enable the person who earned it to lead a decent life. It simply needs political will. [20] [23]

Answer the questions [11] — [23] as indicated.

11. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [11] in Paragraph ② ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (11) on the mark sheet.
1. create a maximum
 2. create a minimum
 3. lower the maximum
 4. lower the minimum
12. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [12] in Paragraph ③ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (12) on the mark sheet.
1. it would be spent
 2. it would spend
 3. they were spent
 4. they would be spent

13. The seven words below fill the gap at [13] in Paragraph ④. Which word must come fifth in order for them to complete a grammatical sentence? Fill in the blank at the number (13) on the mark sheet.
1. academics
 2. conventional
 3. down
 4. turned
 5. two
 6. upside
 7. wisdom
14. According to Paragraph ⑤, why does the minimum wage encourage efficiency? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (14) on the mark sheet.
1. Firms could now also count on cheap labor to maximize profits.
 2. New staff working at big corporations have turned to investment.
 3. Staff are more willing to stay on and learn new skills.
 4. Traditional firms reported better standards under a minimum wage.
- 15, 16, 17. Place three of the words below into the most suitable of the gaps marked [15], [16], and [17] in Paragraph ⑥. The three words should be used only once. Fill in the corresponding slots under the numbers marked (15), (16) and (17) on the mark sheet.
1. Additionally
 2. Finally
 3. Firstly
 4. On the contrary
 5. Specifically

18. Reading Paragraph ⑦, which of the following appears to be the author's **unspoken** assumption? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (18) on the mark sheet.
1. Being at work can prevent many people from turning to drugs or crime.
 2. Employers usually do not reward workers fairly for their work.
 3. The private sector should become involved in poverty reduction.
 4. Welfare administration is usually both complex and wasteful.
19. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [19] in Paragraph ⑧? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (19) on the mark sheet.
1. if
 2. what
 3. whether
 4. who
20. Which of the following best explains why the author describes the issue as a matter requiring “political will”, the phrase underlined at [20] in Paragraph ⑨? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (20) on the mark sheet.
1. She acknowledges that this issue affects all members of society equally.
 2. She believes that without further debate, it will be hard to decide on action.
 3. She has made an economic argument; now we need to make the right laws.
 4. She has shown how politicians have failed to protect the poor in society.
- 21, 22. The following words both appear in the article. On which syllable is **the primary stress** (第一強勢) placed? Answer by filling the corresponding slots under the numbers (21) and (22) on the mark sheet.

21. ec-o-nom-ic

1 2 3 4

22. val-u-a-ble

1 2 3 4

23. Based on the whole article, with which of the following three statements (A, B, C) would the author **agree**? Answer by choosing one of the eight options below and filling in the corresponding slot under the number (23) on the mark sheet.

- A. Government welfare programs are usually inefficient.
- B. Employers should be free to set their workers' wages.
- C. Inequality can be addressed by setting a standard minimum wage across a nation.

- 1. A only.
- 2. B only.
- 3. C only.
- 4. A and B.
- 5. A and C.
- 6. B and C.
- 7. All three.
- 8. None.

III. Read the following article, and answer the questions as indicated.

“Taxed to Death? The Estate Tax Reconsidered?”

by Lou Sitall (2015)

① As of 2015, Japan's **inheritance tax** [相続税] rate, at 55%, was the highest in the world. After reforms which entered into force on January 1, 2015, assets over 30 million yen on death (down from 50 million), are liable for tax, with an extra allowance of extra 6 million yen for each child. Among the developed nations which still retain this tax, only France has a lower exemption rate (half as much). Inheritance tax revenue in Japan peaked in 1993, at 3 trillion yen. Today, however, the government collects around half that amount. Perhaps the new law will [24] this momentum. But is it actually right to have an inheritance tax at all?

② Not all countries have an inheritance or estate tax. Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, and Thailand, for example, all do not. Yet the idea is far from new: the first Roman emperor, Augustus, established one – the *vicesima hereditatium* (“twentieth of inheritance”). In the UK and the US, the tax was incorporated into the system in the late nineteenth century, and has been the source of controversy ever since. In the US, indeed, it has been both abolished and successfully restored.

③ Inequality, both real and perceived, makes this kind of tax attractive. Since the Industrial Revolution, entrepreneurs have made vast fortunes. Why should their children inherit this enormous wealth, for which they personally have never worked a day? Some have argued that, in the interests of social harmony, the rich should be encouraged to either give much of their wealth away, or risk [25] by the state.

④ Critics of inheritance taxes, however, focus on three main areas. Some dislike the state interfering with the efforts of individuals. They argue that this is a tax which punishes hard work and success, hurting not the [26], who can always find ways to hide or protect their money, but the wealthier among the [27], who often cannot. For many others who are opposed to the tax, it is simply a form of double taxation. Estate taxes, they argue, take again from someone who has already paid taxes throughout a working life. Finally, in places such as the UK, where a considerable amount of the nation’s heritage has been held by the [28] (in great country castles with art collections and large gardens), the tax has been criticized as the single greatest cause of the nation’s loss of historic treasures.

⑤ Even were all of these objections valid, however, there is another side to the story. When assets gain massively in value over a lifetime, it is clear that an insufficient amount of tax has been paid. It is hard to feel sympathy for today’s super-rich, who by and large have gained their wealth as assets rose rather than by years of effort. That is doubly true when the extent of the exemptions is taken into account, and many rich people plan years ahead to limit their losses.

⑥ Much about the estate tax remains debatable. What moneys are raised by

the tax may appear small when compared to the government's main sources of cash – the corporation tax and income tax. However, even at just 1% of total US tax earnings, the estate tax can still fund vital social programs. On the other hand, abolishment of the tax might, it has been argued, provide an economic stimulus. One 2015 study found that abolition of the U.S. estate tax would boost GDP and create around 140,000 jobs.

⑦ In fact, abolishing the tax is equally open to debate. Might canceling of the tax provide more motivation for today's youth to work harder for their futures? Yet even if that were so, it would be hard by the same logic not to target income tax, since this also clearly discourages work. Further, in many countries abolition would have, as all agree, a profound impact on charity. Henry Ford would undoubtedly not have left most of his wealth to be used for the public welfare through the Ford Foundation, if the maximum estate tax rate when he died [29]. Today, many charities gain considerable funding because the moneys would, if left untouched, fall to the government via the estate tax. For this reason, if for no other, the estate tax in the US is even supported by people who have immense wealth such as Bill Gates and Warren Buffett. [30]

⑧ Estate taxes can have many indirect effects. To begin with, having an inheritance tax means that individuals will ironically try to save more, not less. That way they can leave more to their children. Furthermore, an estate tax provides plenty of work for both lawyers and tax experts. Yet, despite their best efforts to reduce the government's intake, 90% of the estate tax still ends up as government revenue.

⑨ As the success of Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the 21st Century* (2014) has shown, growing inequality has become a central issue of our times. When someone acquires vast wealth without participating in its creation, we should naturally be concerned. Whether to address that by an inheritance tax or not remains, however, open to debate. [31, 32, 33]

Answer the questions [24] — [33] as indicated.

24. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [24] in Paragraph ① ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (24) on the mark sheet.

1. cease
2. increase
3. reverse
4. straighten

25. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [25] in Paragraph ③ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (25) on the mark sheet.

1. having it to be taken
2. it being taken
3. it having been taken
4. seeing them take it

26, 27, 28. Place three of the words below into the most suitable of the gaps marked [26], [27], and [28] in Paragraph ④. Three words should be used only once. Fill in the corresponding slots under the numbers marked (26), (27) and (28) on the mark sheet.

1. middle class
2. noble families
3. poor
4. pop stars
5. rich

29. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [29] in Paragraph ⑦ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (29) on the mark sheet.

1. had been 5%
2. had been 80%
3. were 5%
4. were 80%

30. Which of the following is **NOT** discussed as an issue when considering the abolition of the inheritance tax in Paragraphs ⑥ and ⑦? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (30) on the mark sheet.

1. an increased motivation to work among young people
2. possible effects on donations by the wealthy
3. the relatively insignificant amount of the money raised
4. the significant exemptions offered to the rich

31, 32, 33. Read the three statements below. Then, based on the article as a whole, under the corresponding number (31), (32), or (33) on the mark sheet, fill in **slot 1** if you think the author would **agree with the statement**, or fill in **slot 2** if you think the author would **disagree with the statement**.

31. It is unfair to leave wealth to accumulate tax-free over generations.
32. Inheritance tax revenues usually account for a large portion of government funds.
33. Once an estate tax is abolished, it cannot be successfully reintroduced.

ここからは 解答用紙 B を使用しなさい。

IV. 以下の問題文は大学 1 年生 A と B の会話です。英語に直して、解答用紙 B の IV. の A, B 1, B 2 と記載されている行に書きなさい。

注意点：

日本語の表現をうまく英語にできない場合は、別の言い方に変えてから英語にしてみましょう。(例) 難解 → 分かりにくい → hard to understand

問題文：

A : 今週末、テニス部の合宿に行かないって聞いたけど、本当？

B 1 : うん、週明けに経済学の試験が二つもあって、それどころではないんだよね…。

B 2 : でも、テストが終わったら、思いっきり練習するから、今は我慢するよ。

V. 以下の設問 (A), (B) の中から一つ選んで, 問題文 I ~ III をもとにして, 自分の意見を解答用紙 B の V. 欄に英語で書きなさい。注意点をよく読んでから書くこと。

(A) Should the Japanese government set a national minimum wage? Why, or why not?

(B) Should the Japanese government abolish the inheritance tax? Why, or why not?

注意点:

- (1) 箇条書きは不可。
- (2) 問題文 I, II または III で言及されている見解やことがらを最低一つ引用して, 自分の意見をまとめること。
- (3) 自分の意見と異なる見解にも言及すること。
- (4) 引用する際には, 下の例を参考にすること。

引用例:

- In her 2010 article “Against Zoos”, Faerrer claims, “Nature is not ours to control.” However, I strongly disagree with that statement, because ...
- I agree to a certain extent with Eve N. Suzuki who argues, “Schools do not protect the rights of students enough” in the essay by Foane (2010).
- According to O’Werke (2012, paragraph 7), one option is indirect taxation. Although this argument ...