

現代教養学部 人文学科 英語圏文化専攻

英語 / / 3

受験番号

I. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. Write your answers on the answer sheet.

Catalina Camacho, a brain researcher, spends a lot of time playing with children. They're not her children, but participants in her research, which looks at how young brains learn to process emotions and how that development relates to mental health. Camacho says, "I'm not sure if people know this, but our brains double in size in just the first two years of life. By the time you're eight years old, your brain's almost adult-sized. Our early experiences from those first eight years influence our later functioning. And (1) it also happens to be the age that we know the least about."

"Every kid is so different, and I love getting little insights into their worlds," says Camacho. "You really do come to appreciate just how much kids grow in such a short amount of time." She loves working with children exactly because there's much (2) social growth happening in a short amount of time. A lot of those really early basic elements of this growth – for example, how young children can identify their feelings, understand each other's feelings, or how they express their own emotions – all of those things are strong predictors for later mental health.

After Camacho, a first-generation college student, earned a bachelor's degree, she worked in a laboratory imaging infants' brains and was shocked at how quickly they changed. Camacho explained how she realized she wanted to become a brain researcher, "There was a specific moment that made me want to be a neuroscientist, specifically, and not any other kind of scientist. I was working full-time in a research lab, and we had just started a baby brain imaging study. It was my *first time working with children that young. And you could clearly see – you didn't have to do any measurements or any processing of the brain images – you (3) could just see changes in those brains in those children month to month.*"

出典 : McKenzie Prillaman, Science News, November 12, 2025. Used with permission.

1. 下線部(1)で著者が言いたいことを、日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。[10 点]
2. 下線部(2)が示す「social growth」を、本文の内容に即して日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。[10 点]
3. 下線部(3)の「could just see changes in those brains in those children month to month」とはどのようなことか、日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。[10 点]

II. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. Write your answers on the answer sheet.

A new genetic analysis offers evidence that between 5,400 and 1,900 years ago, it was the leopard cat that chased mice of ancient China. Modern house cats are descendants of the African wildcat. Humans must have brought them to China, but there were a lot of debates about when exactly this happened. Art and literature dating back to a few centuries B.C. talk about “cats” and even include their images. But some argued that this cat may not be the domestic cat we know today.

Researchers examined the mitochondrial DNA (passed down only from the mother’s side) from the bones of 22 cats found in human settlements dating from 5,400 years ago to the 20th century. The earliest of the house cats date to A.D. 730, when the feline species could have arrived in China via the Silk Road.

All the house cat remains had DNA that points to origins in the Middle East, meaning the mothers of those cats are closely related to modern African wildcats from the same region. But when the scientists analyzed samples from before A.D. 200, the DNA didn’t match that of house cats. It belonged to leopard cats — another cat local to China. It’s unlikely these were as cuddly as house cats. The leopard cats were probably exploiters, living near humans but not in their homes.

出典：Bethany Brookshire, Science News, December 3, 2025. Used with permission.

4. 上記のテキストによると、新しい研究は猫 (house cat) のルーツをどう説明しているか、簡潔に説明しなさい。[10 点]

5. 上記のテキストの最後の段落に出てくる「unlikely these were as cuddly」とはどのようなことか、日本語で簡潔に説明しなさい。[10 点]

III. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow. Write your answers on the answer sheet.

- (1) “Let them eat cake” is the most famous quote attributed to Marie-Antoinette, the queen of France during the French Revolution. As the story goes, it was the queen’s response when she was told that starving poor people had no bread. Because cake is more expensive than bread, the story has been an example of Marie-Antoinette’s blindness to the daily lives of ordinary people. But did she ever actually say those words? Probably not.
 - (2) For one thing, the original French phrase that Marie-Antoinette is supposed to have said doesn’t exactly translate as “Let them eat cake.” It translates as “Let them eat brioche.” Brioche is a rich bread made with eggs and butter, almost as luxurious as cake, but not the dessert that people often imagine. More importantly, there is no historical evidence that Marie-Antoinette ever said “Let them eat brioche” or anything like it. So where did the quote come from.
 - (3) Folklore scholars have found similar tales in other parts of the world, although the details differ from one version to another. In 16th-century German story, for instance, a noblewoman wonders why the hungry poor don’t simply eat *krosem* (a sweet bread). Essentially, stories of wealthy elites blind to their privileges are popular and widespread.
 - (4) The first person to put the specific phrase “Let them eat brioche” into print may have been the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. In Rousseau’s *Confessions* (written about 1767), he tells a version of the story, attributing the quote to “a great princess.” Although Marie-Antoinette was a princess at the time, she was still a child, so it is unlikely that she was the princess Rousseau wrote about.
 - (5) Since Rousseau’s writings inspired the revolutionaries, it has been supposed that they falsely credited the quote to Marie-Antoinette and spread it as propaganda against the monarchy. However, contemporary researchers are skeptical of such claims, having found no evidence of the quote in newspapers, pamphlets, and other materials published by the revolutionaries.
- 出典 : Adapted with permission from Encyclopædia Britannica, © 2025
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Using the information from the paragraph indicated, fill in the blank in each sentence below with one English word that is grammatically correct and keeps the meaning of the original text.

6. (Paragraph 1) Marie-Antoinette did not _____ the conditions of poor, hungry people in France. [5 点]
7. (Paragraph 2) Cake and brioche are _____. [5 点]
8. (Paragraph 3) Folklore and stories about privileged, elite _____ are common throughout the world. [5 点]
9. (Paragraph 4) Though Marie-Antoinette was a princess at the time Rousseau wrote the phrase “Let them eat brioche,” she was too _____ to have said the phrase. [5 点]
10. (Paragraph 5) Revolutionaries might have _____ Rousseau’s writings. [5 点]
11. (Paragraph 5) While some believe that Rousseau’s writings were used as propaganda, researchers _____ these claims. [5 点]
12. Write a 50-word summary of the passage, explaining the meaning and relevance of the quote, “Let them eat cake.” [20 点]

I.

出題のねらい

本設問は、新生児や幼児の脳画像を分析した結果に関する英語で書かれた課題文を理解したうえで、設問文に沿って提示された問いに対し、簡潔に日本語で説明する能力を測るものである。

解答例

1. 科学者たちが最も理解できていないのは、脳が著しく成長・発達する子どもの最初の8年間である。
2. 「social growth」とは、子どもが自分自身の感情を認識し、他者の感情を理解し、自分の感情を表現するなどの社会的スキルを発達させていくことを指す。
3. 脳画像を肉眼で見るだけで、若い脳が月ごとに急速に変化していく様子を容易に確認することができた。

II.

出題のねらい

出題文である「猫のルーツに関する新しい研究結果の説明」を受験生が正しく把握しているかを評価する設問である。本文中に用いられている一般的な英単語や文法を理解を前提とし、その内容を簡潔に日本語で伝える能力を試すことを目的としている。

解答例

4. 西暦200年頃以前に中国で人の近くにいた猫は中国固有の leopard cat であり、現在の中国の house cat は、後に中東からシルクロードを通じて伝わった可能性が高い。
5. Leopard cat はおそらく家畜化されておらず、人々はイエネコのように触ったり撫でたりすることはできなかったと考えられる。

III.

出題のねらい

「パンがなければ、ケーキを食べればいいじゃない」というマリーアントワネットの発言に関する課題文を理解し、設問ごとに英単語で空欄を埋める問題である。解答にあたって、文脈的に意味をなすか、文法的に正しい文となるかを判断する必要がある。更に問12では、50語以内の英語で内容を要約する能力も問う。この解答にあたっては、パラグラフの構成に留意しながら出題文を要領よくまとめることが必要である。

解答例

6. see, understand
7. different, similar
8. people, rulers, leaders, nobles, monarchs
9. young, little, immature
10. used, borrowed, spread, liked
11. doubt, reject, question
12. The expression “let them eat cake” might sound like it means that everyone, regardless of class, should be able to enjoy the same things. From another perspective, it could mean that powerful people don’t understand the reality of poor, powerless people. The phrase illustrates the importance of context and perspective. [50 words]

2026 年度 外国人留学生 （英語圏文化専攻） 解答用紙一覧

人文学科 英語圏文化専攻

解答用紙

I 1
 2 } … B4 判（横書き） 3 行罫
 3 }

解答用紙

II 4
 5 } … B4 判（横書き） 3 行罫

解答用紙

III 6
 7 } … B4 判（横書き） 1 行罫
 8
 9
 10 }
 11
 12 } … B4 判（横書き） 8 行罫