

令和8年度入学者一般選抜入学試験問題

(A日程 国際経済学部)

英 語

注 意 事 項

- 1 試験時間は、午前10時から午前11時30分までである。
- 2 試験開始の合図があるまで、問題冊子を開かないこと。
- 3 この試験では、問題冊子（6ページ）、解答用紙2枚及び下書き用紙1枚を配付する。
- 4 試験開始の合図があってから、解答用紙に受験番号を必ず記入すること（氏名の記入は不要）。解答用紙は2枚あるので、必ず2枚すべてに記入すること。
- 5 解答は、解答用紙の所定の欄に横書きで記入すること。所定の解答欄以外に記入した解答は無効である。
- 6 問題冊子及び解答用紙にページの欠落や印刷不鮮明な部分等がある場合は、手をあげて、試験監督者がそばに来てからその旨申し出ること。
- 7 原則として、試験時間中の途中退室は認めない。
ただし、具合が悪くなった場合、トイレに行きたくなった場合等は、手をあげて、試験監督者がそばに来てからその旨申し出ること。
- 8 試験終了の合図があったら直ちに筆記用具を置くこと。
- 9 試験終了の合図があって筆記用具を置いたら、机の上に問題冊子と下書き用紙を重ねて置き、その上に表にした解答用紙を問①の解答用紙が上になるように重ねて置くこと。
- 10 試験監督者の許可があるまで退室しないこと。

※ 解答は解答用紙に書きなさい。

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Read the following article and answer the questions on pages 4 and 5.

Fewer Workers, Bigger Problems: Strategies for Tackling Labor Shortages in Japan and Germany

- 1 Labor shortages are increasingly affecting major economies* worldwide, particularly in sectors like construction and services. Causes include shifts in the age of populations, changes in the global economy, and expectations held by workers that have changed with the new century. Countries such as Japan and Germany are experiencing these challenges, each adopting unique strategies to address them.
- 2 In Japan, labor shortages are common across sectors such as healthcare, distribution, the travel and hotel industry, and agriculture. The situation is so severe that it has led to tragic consequences. For instance, in the Noto Peninsula, which was damaged by a major earthquake on January 1, 2024, over 60,000 houses and buildings were destroyed. The area faces significant challenges with recovery due to a 30% decline in construction workers since 1997. This shortage also contributed to the doubling of costs for the Osaka World Expo 2025, driven by inflation in raw material prices and a lack of construction workers. Projections* suggest that Japan, with a current population of 123.3 million, could be lacking 11 million workers by 2040. Causes for this are thought to be due to an aging population and low birth rates, with 2023 recording 1,590,503 deaths compared to only 758,631 births — a 5.1% decline in births from the previous year.
- 3 To reduce the continuing labor shortages, Japan has relaxed its traditionally strict immigration* policies, resulting in over 2 million foreign workers — twice as many as two decades ago. At the same time, the country has been expanding its domestic labor base by encouraging greater participation from women and older adults. As of 2024, the female labor force reached a record high of approximately 31.6 million, yet many women remain in part-time or non-regular employment due to structural disincentives. One key factor is the spousal* tax deduction*, which offers tax benefits if secondary earners* — typically women — keep their income below 1.03 million yen during a year. As a result, nearly 40% of women who earn under this point choose to limit their working hours to avoid higher taxes. In response, the government has been considering raising the current threshold to a higher income level as part of a new package meant to stimulate the economy and raise the appeal of full-time work. Additional efforts include proposals to raise the retirement age for taxi drivers from 75 to 80 to address gaps in rural transport services. To further support working families, Tokyo has introduced a four-day workweek for public

employees starting in April 2025, part of broader efforts to make raising children easier to manage and encourage greater workforce* participation as birth rates continue to decline.

4 Recognizing that these measures may not be sufficient, Japan is increasingly turning to new technologies. In 2017, the government launched “Society 5.0.” It aims to build a society where everyone can live comfortable lives, while also tackling issues like aging, pollution, and fewer births, and helping the economy grow. One aspect of the plan is to transform the country through combining digital* technologies with human imagination to solve problems. Businesses are matching this vision, with investment in digital technology rising by 23% in 2023. A record 40.9% of companies surveyed are relying on digital solutions to address labor shortages.

5 Germany, Europe’s largest economy, is also struggling with significant labor shortages, particularly in jobs that require skills and in engineering. It is projected that the country will face a shortage of 7 million of these skilled workers by 2035, which poses a substantial risk to economic growth. In response, the German government is considering financial incentives to encourage older workers to remain in the workforce longer, looking at unemployment benefits again, and increasing efforts to attract immigrants* by making it easier to become a citizen, or get a visa*, and recognizing foreign qualifications.

6 One significant challenge in Germany is the situation that the potential of women’s labor is high but not fully made use of. Despite higher female employment rates, 50% of working women in Germany work part-time compared to only 13% of men, one of the highest gaps among OECD* countries. This is largely due to limited childcare* options and tax laws that decrease the appeal for women to work longer hours. Reforms such as adjusting the married couple tax scheme are being debated to make use of the potential of women in the workforce. Major companies are beginning to address the issue by providing on-site* childcare services and experimenting with flexible work arrangements.

7 Similar to the situation in Japan, Germany’s labor shortage is made even worse by demographic* changes, including an aging population and low birth rates. The economically active population aged 20 to 66 years is projected to decrease significantly, leading to a substantial decline in the labor force. Particularly, the number of people in this age group is expected to fall by approximately 4 to 6 million by 2035, reducing the working-age population from 51.8 million in 2018 to between 45.8 and 47.4 million. This decline is anticipated to continue, with projections indicating a further decrease to between 40 and 46 million by 2060, depending on immigration levels. At the same time, the number of individuals aged 67 and over is projected to rise by about 4 million, reaching at least 20 million by the mid-2030s.

8 Comparing the approaches of Japan and Germany, both countries are investing

in technology and seeking to employ people who are not participating or not fully participating in the workforce, such as women and the elderly. However, Japan is placing a stronger emphasis on automatic and robot technologies, while Germany is focusing more on policy reforms and immigration. Labor shortages in Japan and Germany are pushed by demographic challenges and are being addressed through a combination of technological investments, policy reforms, and efforts to better use existing labor pools. While their strategies have a different emphasis, both countries recognize the issue of fewer workers is urgent and are taking steps to reduce its impact on their economies.

- * economy：ここでは country とほぼ同義。
- * projection：予測、推定
- * immigration：入国、移民
- * spousal：配偶者の、配偶者に関する
- * tax deduction：課税所得控除
- * earner：稼ぎ手
- * workforce：労働力、労働人口
- * digital：デジタル（式）の
- * immigrant：（外国からの）移民、移住者
- * visa：ビザ、査証
- * OECD：経済協力開発機構（Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development）
- * childcare：育児（の）、保育（の）
- * on-site：現場（で）の、現地（で）の
- * demographic：人口動態の、人口統計（学）の

From choices A to D, choose the most appropriate answer to the questions below.

- (1) In paragraph 1, what is the main reason why Japan and Germany are having labor shortages?
 - A. People don't want to work in construction or services.
 - B. Population and work expectations have changed.
 - C. There is too much competition from other countries.
 - D. Too many young people are moving abroad.

- (2) Which of the following is consistent with the information in paragraph 2?
 - A. Labor shortages have been limited to a few industries in Japan.
 - B. Labor shortages in Japan are projected to be even more serious due to a decrease in youth population.
 - C. The number of construction workers in the Noto area decreased by 30% due to the January 2024 earthquake.
 - D. The Osaka World Expo 2025 has caused the recent material price inflation and construction worker shortage.

- (3) In paragraph 3, the word "disincentive" can be replaced with which of the following?
 - A. benefit
 - B. mistake
 - C. obstacle
 - D. reward

- (4) In paragraph 3, the word "threshold" can be replaced with which of the following?
 - A. agreement
 - B. limit
 - C. opportunity
 - D. salary

- (5) What is the main purpose of Japan's "Society 5.0" plan mentioned in paragraph 4?
 - A. bringing more workers from other countries
 - B. building more houses for older adults
 - C. improving the balance between nature and cities
 - D. using technology to solve worker shortages

- (6) Which of the following is NOT consistent with the information in paragraphs 5 and 6?
- A. Germany is one of the top countries in the OECD in terms of female employment rates.
 - B. Labor shortages are especially serious among skilled workers in Germany.
 - C. The current childcare and tax systems are discouraging German women from working long hours.
 - D. The German government policy focuses on older and immigrant workers for tackling the country's labor shortage problem.
- (7) According to paragraph 6, what kind of measures are being introduced in Germany to stimulate women's participation in the labor force?
- A. In-house childcare services are fully subsidized by the government.
 - B. Major firms are adopting flexible working options.
 - C. New childcare centers have been built across the country.
 - D. The tax limits have been increased to make full-time work more attractive.
- (8) Which of the following is consistent with the information provided in paragraph 7 regarding Germany's demographic challenges?
- A. The birthrates in the economically active population aged 20-66 are declining.
 - B. The current decrease in the labor force is expected to be replaced by foreign workers by 2060.
 - C. The population aged 67 and above is likely to reach 20 million by the mid-2030s.
 - D. The working-age population is expected to decrease by more than 45.8 million by 2035.
- (9) What is the main focus of paragraph 8?
- A. the causes of labor shortages in Japan and Germany
 - B. the comparison of the approaches to labor shortages in Japan and Germany
 - C. the comparison of using technology to solve labor issues in Japan and Germany
 - D. the criticism of the problems of labor shortages in Japan and Germany
- (10) Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the article as a potential solution to the labor shortages in Japan?
- A. encouraging greater participation from women and older workers
 - B. introducing new technology such as the launch of "Society 5.0"
 - C. keeping the spousal tax deduction level at 1.03 million yen
 - D. relaxing immigration policies to attract foreign workers to Japan

2

Write a paragraph between 120 and 150 words in English to answer the following question. (語数を記入する必要はありません。)

Question: What is one habit or skill that everyone should have? Explain your answer and give two reasons why it is important.