

Academic Year 2026

Round 1: Global Scholarship Examination

English

Time: 50 minutes, Total score: 100 points

Instructions for Examinees

1. Write your examination number and name on the answer sheet.
2. Write your answers in the designated areas on the answer sheet. Incorrectly written answers will not be scored.
3. At the end of the examination, both the answer sheet and the question papers will be collected.

Ikubunkan Junior High School

Listening Section

Please listen to the following talks and answer the questions. You may take notes. You will hear each talk only once.

Part 1 ~Conversation~

1. What sport are they mainly talking about?

- A. Soccer
- B. Ice hockey
- C. Basketball
- D. Tennis

2. Which statement is true about Daniel and his sister?

- A. Daniel likes the Canadiens, and his sister likes the Maple Leafs.
- B. Both Daniel and his sister like the Maple Leafs.
- C. Daniel likes the Maple Leafs, and his sister likes the Canadiens.
- D. Both Daniel and his sister like the Canadiens.

3. What will George probably do next Saturday?

- A. Watch a live hockey game with Daniel's family
- B. Play ice hockey with Daniel
- C. Watch a hockey game on TV alone
- D. Go to school for ice hockey practice

Part 2 ~Short News Report~

4. What caused the flooding in Australia?

- A. A tsunami
- B. Heavy rain
- C. A volcano eruption
- D. A sandstorm

5. What did community groups do after the floods?

- A. Built new supermarkets
- B. Stopped all farming activities
- C. Moved to another country
- D. Organized volunteer clean-up teams

6. Why may floods happen more often in the future?

- A. Because of fewer trees
- B. Because of earthquakes
- C. Because of rising car numbers
- D. Because of changes in the weather

Part 3 ~Social Studies Lecture~

7. What is special about the train explained in the lecture?

- A. It runs on coal.
- B. It uses clean energy and travels very fast.
- C. It is slower than old trains.
- D. It is only used for carrying goods.

8. How fast can the train travel?

- A. Over 100 km/h
- B. Over 200 km/h
- C. Over 300 km/h
- D. Over 400 km/h

9. What does the German government hope the new train will do?

- A. Help protect the environment
- B. Encourage people to use private cars
- C. Make air travel faster
- D. Reduce the number of train passengers

10. What are other European countries planning?

- A. Closing old train stations
- B. Building airports instead of railways
- C. Creating electric high-speed rail lines
- D. Stopping all long-distance travel

Reading Section [Passage 1] Protecting Coral Reefs

Read the following news story and answer the questions that follow.

Coral reefs are among the most important ecosystems on Earth. Though they cover less than 1% of the ocean floor, they support about 25% of all marine species, including fish, turtles, and many other sea creatures. These reefs provide food, jobs, and coastal protection for millions of people around the world. They also attract tourists who enjoy snorkeling and diving, bringing in billions of dollars each year. In some cultures, coral reefs hold deep spiritual and historical meaning, making them important both economically and culturally.

They may be important, but coral reefs are in serious danger. Rising ocean temperatures, caused by climate change, have led to a global coral bleaching event that has affected over 84% of reefs worldwide. Bleaching happens when corals become stressed by heat and lose the algae that give them color and nutrients, turning them white and weak. Pollution from land, such as plastic waste and dirty water, also harms reefs. Overfishing and destructive fishing practices make the problem worse. Without action, scientists warn that most coral reefs could disappear by 2050.

To help save coral reefs, people around the world are working on solutions. Some are creating marine protected areas where fishing and pollution are limited. Others are planting new corals or developing stronger "super corals" that can survive in warmer waters. In the Pacific Islands, communities are combining traditional knowledge with modern science to restore reefs. These efforts show that, with care and teamwork, it is possible to protect coral reefs for future generations.

Choose the most accurate answer to complete the question.

1. According to the passage, what percentage of marine species live in coral reefs?

- A. Less than 1%
- B. About 10%
- C. Around 25%
- D. More than 50%

2. What is coral bleaching?

- A. A process that makes coral grow faster
- B. A method used to clean the ocean floor
- C. A type of pollution caused by fishing
- D. When corals lose their color and become weak

3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a benefit of coral reefs?

- A. They help protect coastlines.
- B. They produce clean drinking water.
- C. They support tourism.
- D. They provide food and jobs.

4. Why are scientists worried about coral reefs?

- A. They are growing too quickly.
- B. Many people are moving near the coast.
- C. Reefs are dying due to heat and pollution.
- D. Coral reefs are attacking other sea life.

5. How are people helping to protect coral reefs?

- A. By planting new corals and limiting pollution
- B. By building more hotels near the beach
- C. By stopping ocean tourism completely
- D. By fishing more in reef areas

Reading Section [Passage 2] Solar power growth in Africa

Read the following news story and answer the questions that follow.

Power generation is an important part of life in every country. People need electricity to power their homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses. In many parts of Africa, however, access to electricity is still limited. Some areas have no power at all, while others experience frequent blackouts. This makes it difficult for children to study, for doctors to treat patients, and for people to stay safe and healthy.

Africa has many natural resources that can be used to produce electricity. These include sunlight, wind, rivers, and even underground heat. In recent years, more countries have started building solar farms and wind turbines to use clean, renewable energy. For example, countries like Kenya and Morocco have created large solar power projects that provide electricity to thousands of homes. Hydropower, which means using water from rivers and dams to make electricity, is also popular in Africa, especially in places like Ethiopia.

Despite these advances, many challenges remain in Africa's power networks. Building power stations and energy systems can be expensive, and some areas are far from cities where electricity is usually sent. To help with this, African governments and international partners are working together. They are investing in new technology and finding better ways to bring power to rural areas. Small, local solar systems are also helping families and schools that are far from big power plants.

Improving electricity access in Africa is important for development. When people have power, they can open businesses, go to school at night, and use machines that make life easier. Clean energy also helps protect the environment. With more support and smart planning, many experts believe Africa can build a strong, green energy future for its people.

Choose the most accurate answer to complete the question.

6. According to the passage, why is electricity important?

- A. It powers schools, hospitals, and homes.
- B. It allows people to make phone calls.
- C. It helps people travel more easily.
- D. It helps farmers grow more food.

7. What natural resources does Africa use to make electricity?

- A. Only coal and oil
- B. Sunlight, wind, water, and underground heat
- C. Natural gas and gold
- D. Salt, sand, and rocks

8. Which country is mentioned as having a large solar project?

- A. Egypt
- B. South Africa
- C. Nigeria
- D. Morocco

9. What is one big challenge to bringing power to all of Africa?

- A. Building energy systems is costly and hard in remote areas.
- B. People don't want electricity.
- C. Many power plants have closed.
- D. There are no rivers in Africa.

10. How do small solar systems help people?

- A. They store water for farming.
- B. They power homes and schools far from cities.
- C. They provide free food to families.
- D. They help people build better roads.

Writing Section

Write one essay of 70–90 words.

Give your opinion and two reasons for the following topic.

Topic:

In the age of AI, do you think it is important for students to develop what they like and what they are good at?

Listening Section

<Part 1 ~Conversation~>

In this part, you will listen to a conversation between two students. You will hear the conversation only once. Listen carefully and answer the questions. You may take notes.

George: Hi, Daniel. I've been curious about sports in Canada. I know ice hockey is famous, but is it really that popular?

Daniel: Oh yes, it is! Most people here grow up watching or playing it. I play on my school team, so I have practice twice a week.

George: Wow. Do you have a favorite professional team?

Daniel: I'm a big fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs. My sister, though, supports the Montreal Canadiens. It gets noisy at home when the two teams play each other.

George: Sounds fun! Do you watch games together?

Daniel: Sometimes. And next Saturday, there's a big game at the arena. My dad got three tickets, so my sister and I are going.

George: That's amazing. I'd love to experience a live game someday.

Daniel: Actually, you can come with us if you want. There might still be one extra ticket.

George: Really? Then maybe I'll join you!

Now, listen to the questions. They will be played only once.

1. What sport are they mainly talking about?
2. Which statement is true about Daniel and his sister?
3. What will George probably do next Saturday?

<Part 2 ~Short News Report~>

In this part, you will listen to a short news report. You will hear the report only once. Listen carefully and answer the questions. You may take notes.

Here is today's top story.

Severe flooding hit parts of eastern Australia this week after several days of unusually heavy rain. Towns near major rivers were especially affected, and thousands of residents had to be evacuated for safety. Local governments quickly prepared temporary shelters in schools and community centers, while medical teams visited the shelters to support elderly people and families with small children.

Community groups also organized volunteer teams to remove mud, repair damaged roads, and deliver clean drinking water. Many farmers lost crops, and wildlife experts are working to rescue animals trapped by the rising water.

Experts warn that, because of climate change, extreme weather such as floods, heatwaves, and powerful storms may occur more frequently. However, many towns are now creating emergency plans,

improving buildings, and holding disaster drills so that local people can respond more safely and effectively in the future.

Now, listen to the questions. They will be played only once.

4. What caused the flooding in Australia?
5. What did community groups do after the floods?
6. Why may floods happen more often in the future?

<Part 3 ~Social Studies Lecture~>

In this part, you will listen to a short lecture given in a social studies class. The teacher explains a topic using English. You will hear the lecture only once. Listen carefully and answer the questions. You may take notes.

Now, let's move on to today's social studies topic.

In recent years, many countries have been searching for cleaner and faster ways to move people between major cities. Germany offers an interesting example. The country recently introduced a new high-speed electric train designed specifically to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

This train is powered entirely by renewable energy, mainly from wind and solar farms. Because of this, it produces far less carbon dioxide than cars or airplanes. Another important feature is its speed. The train can travel at more than 300 kilometers per hour, which makes long-distance trips much quicker and more convenient. It is also quieter than older high-speed trains, making it more comfortable for passengers and for people living near the rail lines.

The German government hopes that by offering fast, clean, and reliable transportation, more people will choose public transport instead of driving. This shift could significantly reduce pollution in cities.

Inspired by Germany's project, many other European countries are now planning similar electric high-speed rail networks as part of their long-term strategies to fight climate change and improve regional travel.

Now, listen to the questions. They will be played only once.

7. What is special about the train explained in the lecture?
8. How fast can the train travel?
9. What does the German government hope the new train will do?
10. What are other European countries planning?

