平 成 24 年 度 入 学 試 験 問 題（前期）

# 英　　語

注　　意

1. 合図があるまで表紙をあけないこと。
2. 受験票は机上に出しておくこと。

# 英　語（前　期）　（その１）

Ⅰ　下線部を和訳せよ。

Is man an ape or an angel, as Benjamin Disraeli* asked in a famous debate about Darwin's theory of evolution? Are we merely chimps with a software upgrade? Or are we in some true sense *special*, a species that transcends the mindless fluxions of chemistry and instinct? (1) Many scientists, beginning with Darwin himself, have argued the former: that human mental abilities are merely elaborations of faculties that are ultimately of the same *kind* we see in other apes. This was a radical and controversial proposal in the nineteenth century — some people are still not over it — but ever since Darwin published his world-shattering treatise on the theory of evolution, the case for man's primate origins has been bolstered a thousandfold. Today it is impossible to seriously refute this point: We are anatomically, neurologically, genetically, physiologically apes. Anyone who has ever been struck by the uncanny near-humanness of the great apes at the zoo has felt the truth of this.

I find it odd how some people are so ardently drawn to either-or dichotomies. "Are apes self-aware *or* are they automata?" "Is life meaningful *or* is it meaningless?" "Are humans 'just' animals *or* are we exalted?" As a scientist I am perfectly comfortable with settling on categorical conclusions — when it makes sense. But with many of these supposedly urgent metaphysical dilemmas, I must admit I don't see the conflict. For instance, why can't we be a branch of the animal kingdom *and* a wholly unique and gloriously novel *phenomenon* in the universe?

I also find it odd how people so often slip words like "merely" and "nothing but" into statements about our origins. Humans are apes. So too we are mammals. We are vertebrates. We are pulpy, throbbing colonies of tens of trillions of cells. We are all of these things, but we are not "merely" these things. And we are, in addition to all these things, something unique, something unprecedented, something transcendent. We are something truly new under the sun, with uncharted and perhaps limitless potential. We are the first and only species whose fate has rested in its own hands, and *not* just in the hands of chemistry and instinct. (2) On the great evolutionary stage we call Earth, I would argue there has not been an upheaval as big as us since the origin of life itself. When I think about what we are and what we may yet achieve, I can't see any place for snide** little "merelies."

Any ape can reach for a banana, but only humans can reach for the stars. Apes live, contend, breed, and die in forests — end of story. Humans write, investigate, create, and quest. We splice genes, split atoms, launch rockets. We peer upward into the heart of the Big Bang and delve deeply into the digits of pi. Perhaps most remarkably of all, we gaze inward, piecing together the puzzle of our own unique and marvelous brain. It makes the mind reel. (3) How can a three-pound mass of jelly that you can hold in your palm imagine angels, contemplate the meaning of infinity, and even question its own place in the cosmos? Especially awe inspiring is the fact that any single brain, including yours, is made up of atoms that were forged in the hearts of countless, far-flung stars billions of years ago. These particles drifted for eons and light-years until gravity and chance brought them together here, now. (4) These atoms now form a conglomerate*** — your brain — that can not only ponder the very stars that gave it birth but can also think about its own ability to think and wonder about its own ability to wonder. With the arrival of humans, it has been said, the universe has suddenly become conscious of itself. This, truly, is the greatest mystery of all.

（出典：V. S. Ramachandran, *The Tell-Tale Brain*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2011. 一部変更あり）

*Benjamin Disraeli: British statesman and writer (1804–81)

**snide: unkind, cynical

***conglomerate: a group of different things gathered together

Ⅱ　下線部を和訳せよ。

We like to think of ourselves as rational creatures. We watch our backs, weigh the odds, pack an umbrella. But both neuroscience and social science suggest that we are more optimistic than realistic. On average, we expect things to turn out better than they wind up being. People hugely underestimate their chances of getting divorced, losing their job or being diagnosed with cancer; expect their children to be extraordinarily gifted; envision themselves achieving more than their peers; and overestimate their likely life span (sometimes by 20 years or more).

The belief that the future will be much better than the past and present is known as the optimism bias. It abides in every race, region and socioeconomic bracket. (1) Schoolchildren playing when-I-grow-up are rampant optimists, but so are grown-ups: A 2005 study found that adults over 60 are just as likely to see the glass half full as young adults.

You might expect optimism to erode under the tide of news about violent conflicts, high unemployment, tornadoes and floods and all the threats and failures that shape human life. Collectively we can grow pessimistic — about the direction of our country or the ability of our leaders to improve education and reduce crime. But private optimism, about our personal future, remains incredibly resilient. A survey conducted in 2007 found that while 70 % thought families in general were less successful than in their parents' day, 76 % of respondents were optimistic about the future of their own family.

Overly positive assumptions can lead to disastrous miscalculations — make us less likely to get health checkups, apply sunscreen or open a savings account, and more likely to bet the farm on a bad investment. But the bias also protects and inspires us: It keeps us moving forward rather than to the nearest high-rise ledge*. (2) Without optimism, our ancestors might never have ventured far from their tribes and we might all be cave dwellers, still huddled together and dreaming of light and heat.

To make progress, we need to be able to imagine alternative realities — better ones — and we need to believe that we can achieve them. Such faith helps motivate us to pursue our goals. Optimists in general work longer hours and tend to earn more. Economists at Duke University found that optimists even save more. And although they are not less likely to divorce, they are more likely to remarry.

Even if that better future is often an illusion, optimism has clear benefits in the present. Hope keeps our minds at ease, lowers stress and improves physical health. Researchers studying heart-disease patients found that optimists were more likely than nonoptimistic patients to take vitamins, eat low-fat diets and exercise, thereby reducing their overall coronary risk. A study of cancer patients revealed that pessimistic patients under the age of 60 were more likely to die within eight months than nonpessimistic patients of the same initial health, status and age.

In fact, a growing body of scientific evidence points to the conclusion that optimism may be hardwired by evolution into the human brain. The science of optimism, once scorned as an intellectually suspect province of pep rallies** and smiley faces, is opening a new window on the workings of human consciousness. (3) What it shows could fuel a revolution in psychology, as the field comes to grips with accumulating evidence that our brains aren't just stamped by the past. They are constantly being shaped by the future.

（出典：*Time*, June 6, 2011. 一部変更あり）

*ledge: a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff, or other surface

**pep rally: a meeting at a school before a sports event, when cheerleaders lead the students in encouraging their team to win

Ⅲ　英訳せよ。

(1)　米国の学校教育ではここ十年の間，リーディングと数学が重視されていたために，歴史や社会科といった他の科目の成績が下がってきている。

(2)　教育の専門家が言っているように，子供たちが自国の政治や文化がどのように発展してきたかを知り，どうすればよりよい国民になれるかを学ぶ上で，歴史は必要不可欠である。

(3)　私たちの人生の質は概して，自分の起源を学ぶことによってのみ高められるのであり，過去を知らなければ未来もないのである。

大阪医科大学

# 英　語（前　期）

| 受験番号 | | 氏名 | |
|---|---|---|---|

| 受験番号 |
|---|
| |

Ⅰ (1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

Ⅱ (1)

(2)

(3)

Ⅲ (1)

(2)

(3)