

2011 年度大学院<2010 年 9 月 17 日実施>

## 政策科学研究科前期課程 入学試験問題

### 第 1 時限 外国語(英語)試験

試験時間 9 時 30 分 ~ 10 時 30 分  
(途中退室はできません)

- ・ 辞書等の持ち込みはできません。
- ・ 問題は試験終了後に回収します。

次の2つの文章 **A** **B** を読み、問 1～問 7 について簡潔に答えなさい。解答用紙に問題番号を表記してから解答すること。

**A**

**Japan: ending the culture of the 'honourable' suicide**

**Reducing the growing suicide rate in Japan will require tackling the cultural interpretation of it as a noble act**

Andrew Chambers

A recent report by the Royal College of Psychiatrists has noted "strong evidence of a link between economic hardship and suicide". In 2009 there was a 24% year-on-year increase in suicides in the Republic of Ireland, while the most recently available figures in the UK show that the beginning of the economic downturn in 2007-8 resulted in a 6% rise.

With the Samaritans' warning that it is "vital that the government is committed to a suicide prevention strategy", (a) it is worth considering Japan's experience. Japanese suicide rates rocketed following the Asian economic crisis in the late 1990s and, despite recent initiatives, Japan has struggled both politically and socially to fully address the problem.

For at least a decade now there have been more than 30,000 annual suicide cases – equating to almost one every 15 minutes. In 2007, cabinet minister Toshikatsu Matsuoka killed himself while facing investigation over an expenses scandal. Later that year the Japanese government launched a white paper to radically reform how suicide was perceived and treated, promising better counselling and helpline services.

Naoto Kan, who recently became prime minister, has repeatedly spoken about the suicide rate – seeing it as indicative of the social decline of the nation. He has stated that his primary political goal is to "minimise unhappiness" in the country.

In 2009, Japan's suicide total rose 2% to 32,845, equating to nearly 26 suicides per 100,000 people and significantly higher than for any other OECD country. As a comparison, the UK rate is about nine per 100,000, and the US rate around 11. In Japan, suicide is now the leading cause of death among men aged 20-44 and women aged 15-34.

This elevated suicide rate is the result of a complex interplay between healthcare provision, social attitudes, cultural influences and economic factors. Yuzo Kato, director of the Tokyo Suicide Prevention Centre, explains: "The most common factor behind suicide in Japan is depression caused by a failure to cope with [social pressure] either because of poverty or the demands of work." The stockmarket crash in 1997 precipitated business failures, loss of savings and unemployment. In 1998 the Japanese suicide total rose by 35%, and has remained above 30,000 a year ever since.

The National Police Agency records financial motivations in about a quarter of all suicides. Many of these are described as *inseki-jisatsu* (so-called "responsibility-driven" suicides), where people hope to take responsibility for outstanding debts through a life insurance payout. Finance companies regularly have the borrower take out an insurance policy in case of death. In 2005, more than 3,600 insurance payments to the big five finance companies were actually from suicides.

The financial crisis coincided with the longer-term market-driven restructuring of the Japanese economy. (b) Japan remains a patriarchal society with strong familial and social expectations – however the economic

upheaval that accelerated the end of the jobs-for-life culture has left men in particular struggling to cope with job insecurity or the stigma of unemployment. In this period, social inequality (measured on the GINI coefficient) has also increased – which has been shown in studies to have affected the suicide rates in Japan proportionally more than in other OECD countries.

In Japan, suicide does not have the Judaeo-Christian connotation of sin. Indeed, the inherited cultural notion of romanticised, noble suicide still lingers, especially among the older traditionalists. It would be a mistake to overplay this, but nevertheless the mindset is still apparent. Shintaro Ishihara, the right-wing governor of Tokyo, remarked that cabinet minister Matsuoka was a true Samurai because he had committed suicide to preserve his honour. Ishihara also recently wrote the screenplay for a film entitled "I go to die for you" – which glorified the kamikaze pilots' self-sacrifice in the second world war.

Mental health provision also needs to improve. Although Japan has a modern and well-equipped health service, the World Health Organisation assesses that it still has an "inadequate number of mental health staff providing community care". Research published in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology demonstrated that patient access to the latest anti-depressant drugs is still restricted. Meanwhile, a Lancet article noted that with counselling at private clinics not covered by national health insurance, many people are still not getting the help they need.

The Japan Times reports how the country's largest suicide helpline, *Inochi no Denwa* (literally, "the telephone of life") struggles to attract enough funding to maintain a free phone number. With 300 volunteers it takes 27,000 calls a year. When this is compared with the 2.4m phone calls the Samaritans in the UK receive it is clear that it needs to become more culturally acceptable to ask for help.

In 2009 the government pledged a further ¥15.8bn (£115m) towards suicide prevention policies. However, Andrew Grimes, director of Tokyo Counseling Services warns that with economic problems persisting the government's aim to reduce suicide rates to 23,000 by 2016 will be difficult to achieve "unless very proactive and well-funded local and nationwide suicide prevention programmes and initiatives are taken immediately". Reducing the suicide rate will require tackling the cultural interpretation of suicide and mental health conditions, improving work environments, providing better access to mental health services, increasing welfare provision and driving economic growth. These measures also need to be undertaken in the UK – which has seen its own suicide levels increasing following the economic downturn. In Japan, reducing the suicide rate remains a huge task, but at least now there is a real political will to make it happen.

Source: The guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 3 August 2010

The Samaritans: 英国のボランティア団体  
precipitate: (ある状態に) 急に陥らせる  
patriarchal: 家父長制の  
upheaval: 激変  
jobs-for-life: 終身雇用の  
Judaeo-Christian: ユダヤ教の  
Lancet: 英国の医学専門誌

- 問 1. 表題が意味するところを説明しなさい（日本語 3 行以内）。
- 問 2. 下線部(a)に関して、ここではなぜ日本の経験を考察する価値があるとされているのか理由を述べなさい（日本語 3 行以内）。
- 問 3. Japan's suicide rate の高さをもたらす要因として複雑に影響し合う 4 つの事項を述べなさい（日本語 4 行以内）。
- 問 4. 下線部(b)を和訳しなさい。
- 問 5. Japan's suicide rate を減少させるための方策が述べられている箇所を抜き出しなさい。

**B.**

### **Centenarians 'missing' ahead of Japanese day honouring elderly**

**Authorities admit privacy laws and antiquated registration systems mean 200 elderly people are unaccounted for**

Justin McCurry in Tokyo

Authorities in Japan have admitted that almost 200 people aged 100 or over are missing, as embarrassed officials struggle to locate all of the country's oldest residents ahead of a national holiday honouring elderly citizens.

The number of people unaccounted for grew this week after officials in Kobe said they had lost track of 105 of the city's 847 centenarians.

They include 18 "super-centenarians" – among them a 125-year-old woman whose registered address was turned into a park in 1981 and who would be older than the woman recognised as Japan's oldest citizen, 113-year-old Chiyono Hasegawa.

In Osaka, 64 of 857 centenarians are missing. Officials in the city said today that one of them, a man registered as 127 years old, had in fact died in 1966.

Japan's failure to maintain accurate records of its oldest citizens is being blamed on antiquated record-keeping, strict privacy laws and weakening family and community ties.

"It is shocking that even relatives don't know if their parents are alive or dead," Professor Yoshinori Hiroi, a specialist in public welfare at Chiba University, told broadcaster NHK. "These cases were typical examples of thinning relationship among families and neighbours in Japan today."

The discovery that so many elderly people are missing has sparked fears of widespread pension fraud in one of the world's fastest-greying societies.

The health ministry is investigating the whereabouts of 840 people over the age of 85 in connection with potentially fraudulent pension claims. The inquiry was launched after police discovered the mummified corpse of Sogen Kato, listed as Tokyo's oldest man, in his family home 32 years after his death. Relatives have been arrested on suspicion of abandoning a body and receiving millions of yen in pension payments after his unreported death.

Days later came the discovery that a 113-year-old woman listed as Tokyo's oldest resident had not been seen by her family for more than 20 years. Welfare officials have yet to locate Fusa Furuya, who was last seen in about 1986.

With many of Japan's 47 prefectures yet to report the results of their search, the number of missing people

is expected to rise.

The fiasco is partly a symptom of Japan's impressive life expectancy: 86.4 years for women and 79.6 years for men. The country has 40,399 centenarians, more than triple the number a decade ago. According to one projection, that number will rise to well over half a million by the middle of the century.

The gaping hole in local government records came to light as officials attempted to update records ahead of "Respect for the Aged Day" on 20 September, when residents who have turned, or are about to turn, 100, receive a silver chalice and congratulatory letter from the prime minister. This year the gifts, which have often been sent by post in the past, will be handed to the recipients in person.

(c) Experts have called for reform of the residency registration system, which does not require face-to-face contact to verify an individual's address. Japan's strict privacy laws also prevent welfare officials from entering homes if the occupants object.

"We need to be able to identify people with something like a social security number, but there is opposition to that because of privacy concerns," said Ryuichi Kaneko of the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in Tokyo.

*Source: The guardian.co.uk, Thursday 12 August 2010*

fraud: 詐欺

fiasco: 大失敗

silver chalice 銀杯

問 6. Centenarians missing が生ずる要因を述べなさい（日本語 3 行以内）。

問 7. 下線部(c)を和訳しなさい。

以上