

Year 2025

Otsuma Nakano Junior High School

Entrance Exam

December 20, 2024

English

Attention:

1. This test has two reading tasks and one essay writing task.
2. Write your name and your application ID number on the booklet and your answer sheet.
3. The test duration is 40 minutes.
4. Write your answers on your answer sheet.
5. The full score of this test is 60 points.

Application ID. No.		Name in Kanji	
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Reading 1-A

Instructions: Read the passage carefully. Answer each question by choosing the correct letter.

The Dodo

Many plants and animals went extinct due to human activity. Few are as well-known as the dodo. What stories have you heard about the dodo? You may have heard that they were fat, slow, and stupid. You may have heard that humans hunted them to the point of extinction. Legends and folktales do not tell the whole story.

The only place the dodo ever lived was the island of Mauritius (pronounced like "more-ish-us"). Mauritius is smaller than Rhode Island. It is off the coast of Madagascar, a much larger island east of Africa. There were no mammals on Mauritius before humans arrived. The dodo descended from pigeons that had flown to Mauritius. These pigeons found that this island had clean water and lots of fruit. Also, no predators lived there. They could relax and live in peace. Over millions of years, they evolved to become big and flightless. They became dodos.

Humans discovered Mauritius during the Age of Exploration. The Dutch colonized the island in 1638. They tried to farm and settle the land. They wanted to produce exports. They wanted the island to be more like their homes in the Netherlands. They brought pigs, chickens, cats, and other animals, even deer. They also brought the rats that hid on their ships.

The colonists hunted and ate many dodos. The birds had never faced predators. They were not stupid though. They learned to run from humans. They might have even adapted and survived, if it weren't for the other new mammals on Mauritius.

The cats and rats ate the dodos' eggs. Since dodos could not fly, they were unable to hide their eggs in trees like other birds. The new pigs, chickens, and livestock on the island now competed with the dodos for food. The dodos had to go deeper and deeper into the forests of Mauritius to survive. At the same time, the colonists were clearing the forests to make farmland. This total ecological attack was too much for these great birds.

The last recorded encounter with a dodo happened in 1662. A shipwrecked sailor wrote that he and his friends had caught a dodo. He said that the bird made a great noise and all the bird's friends ran to assist it. The men then captured them all. Truly this bird was too noble for this world.

No one noticed the extinction of the dodo when it happened. The concept didn't even exist at the time. The word "extinction" wouldn't even be used in that way for another 100 years. People just weren't aware of their impact on the environment. They didn't know about the delicate balance of life. In 1833, a study of the dodo helped to prove the concept of human-induced extinction.

To make things worse, the Dutch colonies failed. The Dutch abandoned Mauritius in 1710. Sadly, the dodo was not the only animal that was wiped out. It was only the most popular. Hundreds of plants and animals from Mauritius are now gone forever due to human activity.

1. Which statement is FALSE?

- a) Mauritius had a lot of fruit trees in the past.
- b) Mauritius is off the coast of Rhode Island.
- c) Mauritius is a very small island.
- d) Mauritius had no mammals on it for most of time.

2. Which bird is an ancestor of the dodo?

- a) the penguin
- b) the turkey
- c) the ostrich
- d) the pigeon

3. Which best explains WHY dodos lost the ability to fly?

- a) The forest was so dense in Mauritius that birds couldn't fly.
- b) Dodo wings adapted to swimming, like penguins.
- c) The dodos had no predators on Mauritius.
- d) Mauritius was too windy and flying there was dangerous.

4. How did people feel about the extinction of the dodo when it happened?

- a) Most people didn't notice or care.
- b) Animal protection groups were formed.
- c) Many people were really upset.
- d) Governments started preserving wildlife.

5. Which event happened LAST?

- a) The Dutch brought mammals to Mauritius.
- b) A sailor had the last recorded encounter with a dodo.
- c) The Dutch abandoned Mauritius.
- d) The concept of human-induced extinction was proven

Reading 1-B

Instructions: Read the passage carefully. Answer each question by choosing the correct letter.

London - The Insider's Guide to Where to Stay

Maybe I'm biased as it's my hometown, but there's something so special about London. To the uninitiated, this city, packed with more than 9 million people, is a mystery. There are so many things to do and places to see in London that it can be a boggle. Well, worry no more – I've written a guide to the best areas to stay in London and where to stay in London to help you choose the perfect spot to suit your travels.

How Do You Get Around in London?

The simplest way to get around in London is the Underground (what Londoners call The Tube). London's subway system is old but very reliable, with stations at every landmark, tourist attraction, and area that you might find yourself in. You can also take a taxi, if you prefer. London's black cabs are iconic and their drivers know London's streets better than anyone.

Where Should I Stay for my First Visit in London?

If it's your first time in London and you've got the money, you'll want to be as central as possible, and surrounded by all the best sights and things to do. For that, you'll want to stay in the West End or Westminster. In London's West End you have all the best theatres, shopping and shows at your fingertips, and Westminster features most of the must-see sights of London. This is absolutely the best area to stay in London for tourists.

What is the Best Neighborhood to Stay in London?

That depends on what you're looking for but, as a London native, I don't think there's a better neighborhood in London than Shoreditch. The hipster capital of London is where all the young Londoners like to hang out. There, you've got the best bars and cafes, cool street art, and awesome food markets to explore. Far removed from the glamorous tourist attractions of Westminster, Shoreditch is what you could call the 'real London experience'.

1. London's underground system....

- a) often has problems because it's old.
- b) has stops at all the most important sites.
- c) isn't very well-liked by Londoners.

2. Taking a taxi...

- a) isn't as good as taking the Tube.
- b) is recommended because drivers can help you.
- c) is only possible in certain tourist areas.

3. Staying in the center

- a) isn't a good idea on your first time in London.
- b) is too busy if you don't know the area well.
- c) is more expensive than other areas.

4. The West End...

- a) is too far away from the main tourist attractions.
- b) is the best location if you want to see a musical.
- c) is much better than staying in Westminster.

5. The Shoreditch neighborhood...

- a) is a great place for young people to meet friends.
- b) is usually only visited by people from London.
- c) is one of the most central areas in the city.

Writing

The purpose of this essay is to test your ability to write in English.

Instructions:

Answer the following question in English (100-150 words):

Assume that you have the ability to bring peace to the world in your lifetime. Explain how you would go about achieving peace and why you would use these means.

Present your ideas clearly and logically, with an introduction, body, and conclusion, while giving at least 2 reasons to support your answer. Your essay should be 3 paragraphs.

You may use the space below to plan your essay.