

RIPPLE ENGLISH

ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

Workbook for:
“Ethics of Competitive Societies”

問題は解きっぱなしにしないで！

英語資格試験の学習は、**解いた後の復習をしなければほとんど効果はありません。**

答え合わせをしておしまいせず、**テキストの音読練習やリスニング、多読学習などのインプット学習を何度も反復して記憶に定着させましょう。**ホームページからダウンロードできる音読練習用のテキストをぜひご活用ください。

また、数日置いてから再度解き直すのも効果的です。答えを記憶してしまっているかもしれませんが、回答の根拠をなぞりながら繰り返し解くことで有効な復習になります！



Ethics of Competitive Societies

1. We live in a fiercely competitive society, and those who land on top want to believe that they have earned their success on their own. For example, students who are admitted to prestigious universities often come to believe that their success was their own doing, and those who failed are to blame for their lack of effort. Similarly, when people hear the news of a case of child abuse, they often harshly criticize the parents for being immoral, and never consider the possibility that they might be in the same position if something had been different in their lives. However, when one is successful at something, it is mostly due to good luck. If one has behaved morally throughout life, it is, again, a matter of good fortune. But the more we think that our success and failure is solely our own doing, the harder it is to learn **gratitude** and humility.
2. We want to believe that success is not something we inherit, but something we earn by hard work and talent. However, this ideal is flawed. Putting aside the idea of effort, what we call “talent” consists of three elements. The first is about the genetic lottery; what we happen to be born with. The second one is environmental factors that discover and **nurture** our potential, especially during infancy when a large part of our nervous system is formed. Lastly, we have to live in a society that prizes the talents we happen to have. Shohei Ohtani is a great athlete who makes 4 billion yen playing baseball. Except for his tremendous effort and athletic gifts, he has been lucky to live in a society where baseball is hugely popular and people pay a lot of money to watch games. If he had lived in 17-century Holland where artists, not baseball players, were in high demand, he would not have been valued that much. A talent that we think of is composed of these three elements. If you have picked those factors on your own, you can claim credit for your talents and thus, you deserve success.

- (1) According to paragraph 1, which of the following is true?
 - A. Behaving morally throughout life is the sole factor in achieving success.
 - B. Abusive parents deserve harsh criticism.
 - C. Those who failed are to blame for their lack of effort.
 - D. Success is mostly due to what’s been given to us.
- (2) The word “gratitude” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. arrogance
 - B. appreciation
 - C. resentment
 - D. greed
- (3) The word “nurture” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. foster
 - B. hinder
 - C. neglect
 - D. fuel
- (4) According to paragraph 2, which of the following is not one of the three elements that make up a talent according to the passage?
 - A. The random chance of genetic traits we are born with
 - B. External conditions that help us develop and realize our potential
 - C. The cultural and societal factors that recognize and reward certain abilities
 - D. Luck in picking the right talent

3. Given that talents are due to luck, what about effort? Defenders of **meritocracy** argue that people who have become successful by working hard are responsible for the success and worthy of praise for their diligence. This is true up to a point. Effort matters. No one, however gifted, succeeds without working hard to cultivate his or her talent.
4. Nevertheless, there is also an element of luck involved here. If you have been successful because of your effort, what made it possible for you to work hard? In other words, why could you choose to stand rather than walk away when you faced difficulties? Why were you able to expect yourself to succeed after hard work, instead of failing? Isn't that due to people around you who expected and supported you to succeed? Isn't that thanks to the home environment that gave you a sense of security in the face of new challenges? Isn't that because you happened to have small successes in childhood which gave you greater self confidence? Our choices make our lives, but those choices are largely influenced by environmental factors beyond our control. The problem is that those who prevail in a competitive society tend to lose the humility to appreciate what has been given to them.
5. The excessive conception of personal responsibility is undermining our empathy and kindness. If our success is our own doing, conversely, those who have failed or committed a crime or some other mistakes are to blame for their own bad choices, so they deserve their poverty, misery and criticism. Many people seem to agree with this idea. When a child abuse case is widely reported, for instance, social media platforms get flooded with harsh criticisms of the parents.

- (5) The word "meritocracy" in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their family background.
 - B. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their luck.
 - C. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their abilities and achievements.
 - D. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their social status.
- (6) According to paragraph 4, which of the following is NOT true?
 - A. It is difficult to succeed in a competitive society without the support of others and the right environment.
 - B. People who are successful tend to become arrogant and unappreciative of the factors that contributed to their success.
 - C. People who are successful have had many advantages in life that have helped them along the way.
 - D. Success is due entirely to luck and the support of others, and hard work and effort play no role in achieving it.
- (7) According to paragraph 5, why does the excessive conception of personal responsibility undermine empathy and kindness?
 - A. Because it encourages people to take responsibility for the result of their actions.
 - B. Because it leads people to be too critical of others.
 - C. Because it makes people feel more responsible for others' misfortunes.
 - D. Because it causes people to be more empathetic and kind.

6. Of course, child abuse is a violation of human rights and should never be tolerated. However, to what extent should one be condemned as one's own fault? Statistics show that over 80 percent of abusive parents were mistreated by their own parents in their childhood. It is probably because adversity in infancy causes irreversible damage to the developing brain. A study from University of Wisconsin-Madison indicates that people who went through child abuse are more reactive to angry faces and less sensitive to smiles. Their painful experiences in their early days negatively affect the development of social skills in the brain, so they cannot control their abusive selves.
7. If you have proceeded down the right path, that is mostly because of what has been given. This realization can inspire a certain humility when you see someone failing or misbehaving: **“If anything had been different in my life, I might have done the same thing.”**
8. If our success and failure are due to luck, is our future already determined? Do we have no will of our own? What is it all about making an effort when there is no such thing as free will? There is an interesting experiment done in 2016. The first group of the participants read a passage that denies the existence of free will, and the second group of people didn't read it. Then the experimenters measured brain activities of the subjects. The result was that people who read the suggestion that there is no free will showed less activity in the region of the brain related to autonomy and voluntary actions. This study implies that, as for free will, our belief matters more than the fact. Whether or not it exists, believing in free will gives us strength to make a difference.
9. When you find yourself in trouble, acknowledge the influence of the environment you happen to have, and find a way to get past it. You should not blame your laziness or weakness; rather, turn your eyes to factors that ruin your diligence, and strive thoughtfully to negate them. If you are successful now, it is a great opportunity to develop modesty to appreciate your good fortune and give back to society. When you see someone failing, you need to have insightful kindness to ponder their misfortune and the environment that prompted their failure. Such humility is the beginning of the way to restore social bonds and respect for one another.

- (8) According to paragraph 6, people who go through child abuse are likely to be abusive parents because
- A. they become more reactive to angry faces.
 - B. adverse experiences in childhood prevent interferes with the development of the brain.
 - C. they have never seen other parenting than abusive one.
 - D. they learn from their own experience that it is effective to control children.
- (9) Which of the following text best expresses the meaning of the highlighted sentence?
- “If anything had been different in my life, I might have done the same thing.”**
- A. If I wasn't lucky enough, I might not be able to stay humble.
 - B. If I had ever make any wrong choice in my life, I might be in misery.
 - C. If I didn't have all the good fortune I inherited, I might not have been this successful.
 - D. If I wasn't blessed with the good environment and opportunities that I have enjoyed, I might have committed the same sin.
- (10) Which of the following is suggested by the experiment mentioned in paragraph 8?
- A. People who don't believe in free will have less brain activity in the region related to autonomous actions.
 - B. People who believe in free will are more likely to be successful.
 - C. People who don't believe in free will have more brain activity in the region related to autonomous actions.
 - D. People who believe in free will are less likely to make an effort.
- (10) Within the whole passage, all of the following were mentioned, EXCEPT
- A. Child abuse is partly the product of the parent's misfortune.
 - B. Successful people need to have modesty to appreciate their good fortune.
 - C. Environmental factors in infancy are particularly important for one's success.
 - D. When we are in trouble, we should go hard on ourselves to inspire our diligence.

Answers

- (1) D
- (2) B
- (3) A
- (4) D
- (5) C
- (6) D
- (7) A
- (8) B
- (9) D
- (10) A
- (11) D

(1) 1 段落の内容に合致するのは

- A. Behaving morally throughout life is the sole factor in achieving success. (道徳的に振る舞い続けることだけが成功の要因だ)
- B. Abusive parents deserve harsh criticism. (虐待をする親が厳しい非難を受けるのは当然の報いだ)
- C. Those who failed are to blame for their lack of effort. (失敗した人は本人の努力不足を責められてしかるべきだ)
- D. Success is mostly due to what's been given to us. (成功はほとんど与えられたものによるものだ)**

(2) 文中の“gratitude”と意味が最も近いのは

- A. arrogance (傲慢さ)
- B. appreciation (感謝)**
- C. resentment (憤慨)
- D. greed (強欲)

(3) 文中の“nurture”と意味が最も近いのは

- A. foster (育む)**
- B. hinder (妨げる)
- C. neglect (怠る)
- D. fuel (燃料補給する)

(4) 2段落によると、才能を構成する3つの要素として言及されていないものは以下のうちどれか？

- A. The random chance of genetic traits we are born with (生まれ持ったランダムな遺伝的特徴)
 - B. External conditions that help us develop and realize our potential (可能性を育み実現する外的状況)
 - C. The cultural and societal factors that recognize and reward certain abilities (ある能力を評価し報いる文化的・社会的要因)
 - D. Luck in picking the right talent (適切な才能を選び取る幸運)**
- 何が「right talent」になるかは社会や環境によって決まるので、pick (選ぶ) ことはできないという本文の趣旨に反するためDの内容が誤り。

(5) 文中の“meritocracy (能力主義・実績主義)”に意味が最も近いのは

- A. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their family background. (生まれの過程によって個人が報われる仕組み)
- B. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their luck. (運・不運によって個人が報われる仕組み)
- C. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their abilities and achievements. (能力や業績によって個人が報われる仕組み)**
- D. A system in which individuals are rewarded based on their social status. (社会的なステータスによって個人が報われる仕組み)

(6) 4段落の内容に合致しないものは

- A. It is difficult to succeed in a competitive society without the support of others and the right environment. (周囲の支援や正しい環境なしに競争社会で成功するのは難しい)
- B. People who are successful tend to become arrogant and unappreciative of the factors that contributed to their success. (成功者は傲慢になりがちで、成功に寄与した要因への感謝を忘れがちである)
- C. People who are successful have had many advantages in life that have helped them along the way. (成功者は、その成功を助けてくれた様々なアドバンテージに恵まれてきた)

D. Success is due entirely to luck and the support of others, and hard work and effort play no role in achieving it. (成功は完全に運や周囲の支援によるものであり、努力や勤勉は成功を勝ち取ることにまったく寄与しない)

Dは「勤勉と努力は成功にまったく寄与しない」と言っており、本文の「努力は必要だが、努力できる性質は運によって得られるものだ」という内容に反するので誤り。

(7) 5段落によると、行き過ぎた自己責任論の考え方が我々の共感性と優しさを蝕むのはなぜか？

- A. Because it encourages people to take responsibility for their actions. (自分の行動の結果に対して責任を持つように個人に促すため)**
- B. Because it leads people to be too critical of others. (他者に対して批判的にさせるから)
- C. Because it makes people feel more responsible for others' misfortunes. (他者の不幸に対して責任を感じるようになるから)
- D. Because it causes people to be more empathetic and kind. (人々をより共感的で優しくさせるから)

(8) 6段落によると、子供のころに虐待を経験した人が虐待を繰り返してしまう理由は

- A. they become more reactive to angry faces.
 - B. adverse experiences in childhood prevent interferes with the development of the brain .**
 - C. they have never seen other parenting than abusive one.
 - D. they learn from their own experience that it is effective to control children.
- Cも内容としては正しいかもしれないが、本文中では述べられていない

(9) ハイライトされた次の文章の意味を最もよく表しているのは以下のうちどれか？

“If anything had been different in my life, I might have done the same thing.”
(自分の人生において何か1つでも違っていたら、自分も同じことをしていたかもしれない)

- A. If I wasn't lucky enough, I might not be able to stay humble. (十分な運に恵まれていなければ、自分は謙虚であり続けられなかったかもしれない)
- B. If I had ever make any wrong choice in my life, I might be in misery. (人生において何か1つでも間違った選択をしていたら、自分も惨めな状況に置かれていたかもしれない)
- C. If I didn't have all the good fortune I inherited, I might not have been this successful. (自分が受けることができた幸運がもしなかったら、自分はこれほど成功していなかったかもしれない)
- D. If I wasn't blessed with the good environment and opportunities that I have enjoyed, I might have committed the same sin. (自分が浴することができた良い環境や機会にもし恵まれていなければ、同じような罪を犯してしまっていたかもしれない)**

(10) ⑧段落で述べられている実験から得られる示唆は以下のうちどれか？

- A. People who don't believe in free will have less brain activity in the region related to autonomous actions. (自由意志の存在を信じていない人の脳では自律的な行動に関わる脳の活動が低い)**
- B. People who believe in free will are more likely to be successful. (自由意志の存在を信じている人ほど成功しやすい)
- C. People who don't believe in free will have more brain activity in the region related to autonomous actions. (自由意志を信じていない人の脳では自律的な行動に関わる脳の活動が高い)
- D. People who believe in free will are less likely to make an effort. (自由意志の存在を信じている人ほど努力をしない傾向がある)

(11) 本文中で述べられていないのは次のうちどれか

- A. Child abuse is partly the product of the parent's misfortune. (児童虐待は、親自身の不運の産物という面もある)
- B. Successful people need to have modesty to appreciate their good fortune. (成功者は幸運に感謝する謙虚さを持つ必要がある)
- C. Environmental factors in infancy are particularly important for one's success. (幼少期の環境要因は、その人の成功においてとりわけ重要だ)
- D. When we are in trouble, we should go hard on ourselves to inspire our diligence. (困難な状況にあるときは、自分に厳しくして勤勉さを喚起するべきだ) ←最後の段落で述べられている”When you find yourself in trouble, acknowledge the influence of the environment you happen to have, and find a way to get past it. You should not blame your laziness or weakness”の内容に反する。**