

2026(令和8)年度

小 論 文

10:00～11:30

文 学 部

英 文 学 科

学校推薦型選抜(一般)

注 意 事 項

1. 開始の合図があるまでこの冊子を開いてはいけません。
2. 合図があったら、最初に受験番号を小論文解答用紙の指定の欄に記入しなさい。
3. 解答は横書きで書きなさい。
4. 印刷の不鮮明な箇所があった場合は、すみやかに申し出てください。
5. 解答用紙は2枚配付しますが、1枚だけ提出しなさい。残りの1枚は下書きに使ってかまいません。
6. 冊子と下書きに用いた解答用紙は、持ち帰ってください。

I 以下の英文は、イギリスにおける地域の公共図書館の重要性に関して書かれた新聞記事である。この文章を読んで設問に答えなさい。

“There’s a random element to life, which I think is important to preserve. Browsing through books is not a rational activity; it’s not like using a computer search to find what you want. Serendipity is another word that comes to mind.”

For Jamie Page, 66, libraries can provide the kind of chance encounter that you cannot find in bookshops that mainly promote new titles. In 1980, he was an unemployed graduate wondering what sort of career he might have. One day, at Brompton Library in Kensington, he came across a book on bacteria. “I found it fascinating,” he says. “It started my career and I’ve been working in science ever since.”

The aptly named Page is one of scores of people to share with the *Guardian stories of how libraries affected their lives after reports of a decline in council-run libraries across the UK. According to an analysis by the *BBC, more than 180 have either closed or been handed to volunteer groups since 2016.

The author Lee Child told the BBC that his crime thriller protagonist Jack Reacher would not exist without Birmingham’s libraries, which are under threat of closure. “You speak to any writer and they’ll tell you the same thing: that those early years of reading, reading, reading, reading for decades — that’s what turns you into a writer,” Child said.

“I’m so sentimental about it and so emotional about it, because that building saved my life at the time, it enabled it. It largely created it.”

But libraries are not just training grounds for writers, retired accountant Gareth Thomas points out. For Thomas, 72, who is partially sighted, the library was a *haven for him growing up in Cardiff in the 50s and 60s.

“I can focus on things that are an inch or two away, but anything further away is unclear. That’s why I was no good at games at school. I got left out, so I did my own thing. So all I used to do was read.”

He started to borrow books every Saturday from the age of seven. “My family moved to an estate in Cardiff where the council had opened a new library. I liked having my own library tickets. As I went through school, the libraries in Cardiff were essential for me.”

These visits helped Thomas learn to read quickly — “and that’s always been helpful,” he says. “I couldn’t see the blackboard, even if I sat in front of the class. I’m not sure how I managed this, but the teachers used to dictate what they wrote on the board, so I wrote it all down in notebooks.”

For Maanuv Thiara, a 30-year-old writer and actor, his local library in Leamington Spa was a similar escape growing up. “I’m a *nerd, so I felt safe in libraries,” he says. “If I was being bullied or harassed at school, the library was a non-judgmental place I could go to.”

Thiara now lives in south London and uses the libraries there. But he says he notices cuts more when he visits his home town. “The library in Leamington is a shell of the place it used to be. All of the offerings are much smaller and there are fewer staff. You can see there’s no money behind it,” he said.

It’s the cuts to library staffing that do the most damage, Thiara says. Librarians do far more than stamp books, stack shelves and tell visitors to be silent. “I’ve seen these guys help people who don’t speak English print off a form for a visa and take them through the whole process. Then they’ll patiently help someone who’s homeless. Then they’ll help me with my inquiry about a book, and they’ll know all about it. And they’re extremely underpaid.”

Sarah Roller, who lives in Haringey in north London, is one of the library users concerned about the council’s proposed cuts to library budgets. “It would be deeply shortsighted,” she says. “I think the council only views a

library as part of the arts and culture budget. But it's about social care as well.^(B)

Roller, 27, is especially worried that the council might introduce some form of self-service system that replaces library staff. “It would make the libraries feel like very different places,” she says. “Librarians there always have time for a chat and are full of great recommendations.”

“Web searches aren't a real alternative to libraries, either,” Thiara says. “Yeah, the internet's free and we've all got smartphones. But I feel like when I'm *Googling stuff, I'm inherently distracted. I've got 17 tabs open at the same time. In the library, you can focus.”

Page agrees. “Quiet is a rare commodity nowadays. We live in a very noisy world, with machines playing loudly on trains and buses and airports and things. We all need quiet, and libraries provide it.”

出典 Adapted from Alfie Packham, “A Shell of the Place It Used to Be’: Readers on the Importance of Libraries — and Their Fragile Future.” *The Guardian*, 6 Sept. 2024.

注

*Guardian この本文の記事が掲載されているイギリスの日報『ガーディアン』(*The Guardian*)

*BBC イギリス放送協会 (British Broadcasting Corporation)

*haven 避難所、安息所

*nerd 《俗語》専門ばか、おたく

*Google (特に Google などのインターネット検索エンジンで) 検索する

問 1 以下の問いにそれぞれ 50 字以内の日本語で具体的に答えなさい。

- (1) What does the underlined (A) mean?
- (2) Why does Gareth Thomas think libraries were important to him?

問 2 以下の問いに日本語で具体的に答えなさい。

- (1) 下線部(B)について、it の内容を明示しつつ 50 字以内で説明しなさい。
- (2) 現代社会における地域の公共図書館の意義について、250 字以内で考えを述べなさい。

II Learning English takes time and patience. Give some advice in English (approximately 100 words) to junior high school students who do not like English classes. Write the number of words in () on the answer sheet.