

## 第77回 (令和6年7月) 文章入力スピード認定試験 (英語) 問題

Modern life styles could lead to heavy energy use. That is true at 69  
home, school, work, and even during vacations. One unhappy result is 139  
climate change, which is related to the burning of fossil fuels. Luckily, 214  
we can take steps to improve the situation. 260

The threat caused by climate change is familiar to all of us. Every 330  
day, we burn fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy. That releases tons 406  
of carbon dioxide in the air, leading to global warming, rising sea levels, 482  
and other serious problems. One way that people, firms, and officials are 557  
meeting the treat is by going carbon neutral. The idea is to release a net 633  
balance of zero carbon dioxide. If enough people get involved, it could 706  
have a real impact in the fight to protect our planet. 763

Many of our daily lives produce carbon dioxide. From driving, flying, 835  
using computers to heating our homes, all add to the problem. Carbon 905  
checkers can show you how much carbon dioxide you are in charge of. For 978  
example, flying by airplane about for ten hours releases almost one ton of 1,053  
carbon dioxide per person. Driving twenty kilometers to work produces 1,124  
around two tons a year. 1,150

Once you know how much carbon dioxide you produce, you can start 1,216  
lowering your carbon footprint. That can be done by buying energy 1,283  
efficient light bulbs and home appliances like fridges and stoves. By 1,354  
installing solar panels, we ourselves can make our homes and businesses 1,426  
much greener. Also, walking or riding a bicycle to work and driving hybrid 1,502  
cars all reduce carbon dioxide levels. 1,543

Even after taking steps to save energy, we still create some 1,605  
pollutions. So the next step in going carbon neutral is to offset that 1,677  
amount. Offsetting means supporting energy saving projects that balance 1,750  
out the carbon dioxide that you produce now. Some examples are tree 1,819  
planting groups, solar energy efforts, and wind farms. Let us say your 1,891  
lifestyle produces thirty tons of carbon dioxide. You could offset that 1,964

total by giving money to a wind farm that produces the equivalent of thirty tons of clean energy. The net balance is zero. 2,040  
2,090

You can see that efforts to go carbon neutral are showing up everywhere. For example, the Olympics are now carbon neutral. So are some schools and colleges. In the music industry, some bands are offsetting new compact disks. Some people are even offsetting their weddings. 2,152  
2,228  
2,304  
2,370

Climate change is a matter of urgency. Many scientists say we need to lower carbon dioxide levels by sixty percent over the next forty years. If we do not, there could be terrible consequences. That means both for the environment and the world economy. Though governments are talking about ways to lower pollution levels, these steps may not be enough. By going carbon neutral, individuals and businesses can do something meaningful to meet this global challenge. 2,442  
2,518  
2,592  
2,665  
2,738  
2,812  
2,842

The recent growth of a big country in Asia has had a major impact on the global economy. Perhaps not surprisingly, this rapid growth is also affecting the environment. One result is worsening dust storms, which blow harmful dirt across great distances. 2,912  
2,985  
3,061  
3,100

As the economic growth continues, the country faces all kinds of environmental problems. One of the biggest is the yearly dust storms which blow across the country. They pose a health risk, cost businesses billions of dollars, and leave parts of the country coated in yellow dust. The problem is so severe that it is affecting neighboring countries as well as countries thousands of kilometers away. 3,166  
3,242  
3,318  
3,389  
3,464  
3,506

The dust storm season lasts from March to May. Strong winds pick up dirt from the vast deserts and plains of northern and northwestern parts of the country. The dirt is then carried eastward across the land. Along the way, it mixes with air pollution from factories. The toxic mix is then dumped on cities. The storms then continue on, often dropping dust on neighboring countries. In fact, some storms move all the way across the 3,576  
3,652  
3,728  
3,800  
3,871  
3,944

ocean, affecting the western countries.	3,986
The storms result in a number of problems. Cities are covered in	4,053
layers of dust, so buildings, streets, and homes must be frequently	4,121
cleaned. During serious storms, children, elderly people, and those with	4,195
respiratory problems are advised to stay indoors. Schools and airports are	4,271
sometimes closed, and poor visibility makes driving dangerous. What is	4,343
more, as the storms cause factories to shut down, financial losses can be	4,417
huge.	4,425
Although dust storms are nothing new in the country, they have become	4,496
more frequent and serious in recent years. A key reason is the overuse of	4,571
land. Farmers work the land too intensively, weakening the soil. The	4,642
massive livestock population, which is more than six billion animals,	4,712
strips grasslands of their protective covering. In its weakened state, the	4,788
soil is easily lifted by strong winds. Also, the lack of tree and grass	4,861
cover makes it easier for deserts to spread. As a result, the cycle of	4,933
dust storms grows even worse.	4,965
That big country is taking steps to tackle this crisis. The top	5,031
priority is to stop desertification by way of improving the strength of the	5,107
soil. Under a government program which started in the year of two	5,174
thousand, vast areas are being converted to grassland and woodland. The	5,247
goal is to restore two hundred five thousand square kilometers of land.	5,321
There is a pressing need to solve the problem soon. Sadly, millions	5,391
of people have already been forced from their homes due to the spread of	5,464
deserts. Many forests and grasslands across the world have been shrinking,	5,540
or even disappearing, in recent years. Many others are suffering from the	5,615
yearly storm. Not only that big country but also our country is attacked	5,689
by disasters more frequently than ever. Meeting the problem is a key test	5,764
of the ability to balance economic growth and environmental protection.	5,835