

課題文 A

Koichi Wakata Speech at the US Ambassador's residence

Each time we work together, in space and on the ground as a team, we solidified the partnership between our two nations.

The successful continuation of the ISS operation for more than 15 years symbolizes a great example of international cooperation. Living in space for 6 months is tough, both physiologically and psychologically. No shower for six months, all our activities on-board are monitored by the ground and no playing baseball. The water supply is limited. We recycle our urine and sweat for potable water. In other words, in space, we turn yesterday's coffee into tomorrow's coffee. And no sushi for six months is a really tough one for me.

One of the many benefits of our international human space program is that we have food supplies from different countries. A variety of food available on board the station provides a big psychological boost, as we live and work in an isolated environment of space for many months.

JAXA already has 28 certified Japanese space food items, and currently there are 33 more in the process of certification testing. Today's human space exploration has become an international effort, and spans around the globe and reminds us that we all belong to one human race, and share one planet. Whenever different nations come together to work on common goals, there are many challenges to overcome, based on different cultural contexts. But the final product becomes a remarkable example of pooling visions to advance our human race in a peaceful manner.

I would like to close by quoting one of my heroes, Japanese American astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka of NASA, who had devoted his life to human space exploration before losing his life in 1986 Challenger incident. Following his mission into space in 1985, Ellison said "being in space, I observe the earth from a renewed perspective. There are no lines separating countries, nations, or states. From the window aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, the earth is one world, and we are one people."

Thank you very much for your attention.

(338 words)

課題文 B

Inauguration speech by Kamala Devi Harris

Women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality, liberty, and justice for all, including the Black women, who are too often overlooked, but so often prove that they are the backbone of our democracy.

All the women who worked to secure and protect the right to vote for over a century: 100 years ago with the 19th Amendment, 55 years ago with the Voting Rights Act, and now, in 2020, with a new generation of women in our country who cast their ballots and continued the fight for their fundamental right to vote and be heard.

Tonight, I reflect on their struggle, their determination and the strength of their vision — to see what can be unburdened by what has been — I stand on their shoulders.

And what a testament it is to Joe’s character that he had the audacity to break one of the most substantial barriers that exists in our country and select a woman as his vice president.

But while I may be the first woman in this office, I won’t be the last.

Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities.

And to the children of our country, regardless of your gender, our country has sent you a clear message:

Dream with ambition, lead with conviction, and see yourself in a way that others might not see you, simply because they’ve never seen it before.

And we will applaud you every step of the way.

To the American people:

No matter who you voted for, I will strive to be the vice president that Joe was to President Obama — loyal, honest, and prepared, waking up every day thinking of you and your families. Because now is when the real work begins.

The hard work. The necessary work. The good work.

The essential work to save lives and beat this pandemic.

To rebuild our economy so it works for working people.

To root out systemic racism in our justice system and society.

To combat the climate crisis.

To unite our country and heal the soul of our nation.

The road ahead will not be easy. But America is ready.

(338 words)

“Transcripts of victory speeches by Biden and Harris” The Japan Times

課題文 C

The most important part of the body

My mother used to ask me to guess which part of the body was the most important. Over the years, my answers would change.

When I was a small child, I loved listening to music, so I said, "My ears, Mommy."

She said, "No, not ears. Some people are deaf, and they can live without hearing. Keep thinking, and I will ask you again sometime soon."

Well, two years went by before she asked me again. I had been thinking about what might be the right answer. This time I said, "Mommy, everybody agrees that sight is very important, so it must be our eyes."

She said, "No, not eyes. Many people are blind, and they get along fine without seeing. Keep thinking."

Over the years she asked me a couple more times. I would answer, and she would always say, "No. But you are getting smarter every year. Keep thinking."

Then, last year, my grandfather died. Everyone in my family felt sad. Everyone was crying, even my father. It was the first time I could remember seeing him cry.

My mom looked at me when it was our turn to walk up and say our final goodbye to Grandpa. She asked, "Do you know the most important part of the body yet?" I was surprised. I had always thought this was a game between us, and this did not seem like the right time for games.

She saw the confusion on my face and said, "Today is the day you need to learn the answer." She smiled at me as only a mother can. I saw her eyes well up with tears.

She said, "The most important part of the body is your shoulder." I asked, "Because it holds up my head?"

She replied, "No, it is because it is a good place for loved ones to rest their heads when they cry. Everybody needs a shoulder to cry on sometimes. I hope that in your life you will have good friends who will offer you a shoulder to cry on when you need it."

(346 words)