

2025年度東京海洋大学海洋生命科学部・海洋資源環境学部 私費外国人留学生特別入試学力検査問題《外国語（英語）》（1 / 3）

※ 解答はすべて2ページ目以降の解答欄に書きなさい

受験番号

氏名

Read the article below and answer the questions in the following pages.

In recent years, (0)_____ elite US universities have been trying to promote ethnic diversity, which would enrich their academic environment. In the US, a policy called affirmative action has given advantages to some applicants in certain ethnic groups for college admission. It is aimed at making an active effort to improve educational opportunities for members of minority groups. However, some people refer (1)_____ it as “reverse discrimination.” In this essay, the original purpose of affirmative action will be introduced, and then discussed from both positive and negative perspectives.

The purpose of affirmative action was to amend the structural disadvantages of students (2)_____ to minority groups with lower socioeconomic backgrounds (Torres, 2019). In particular, African Americans have had difficulties accessing educational and financial resources caused by racist mistreatment for generations. Therefore, this affirmative action was taken as compensation for those who had been historically discriminated against.

From the positive perspective, those who stand for this policy expect it to help people to enhance the awareness of their unconscious bias against minority groups “that would otherwise be left (3)_____” (Kennedy, 2013, p.11). In 1964, a Civil Rights Act was passed, and some universities started to allocate a racial quota. It was one form of affirmative action admitting a number of applicants from certain ethnic groups.

However, using racial quotas as a form of affirmative action was challenged in 1978 in the US Supreme Court. The court decided that quota programs were illegal. This was (4)_____ the racial quotas may have denied a chance to white applicants. Since then, quota programs have not been widely employed in the US. Moreover, President Obama indicated that he would support class-based affirmative action (Shuford, 2009). In this plan, economic circumstances are taken into account. Such class-based affirmative action is to adequately assist students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, regardless of their ethnicity.

To conclude, affirmative action aims to be a helpful way to solve the problem of racial discrimination in American society. Supporters of this policy argue that it helps (5)_____ awareness of unconscious biases and promotes diversity in the academic environment. On the other hand, it can also be a form of reverse discrimination. Critics argue that giving advantages to a particular group may cause unfairness among all the groups. Ultimately, the goal is to create inclusive educational environments that provide equal access and support for students from diverse backgrounds. Achieving equal opportunities for all remains an ongoing challenge.

References

Kennedy, R. (2013). *For discrimination: race, affirmative action, and the law*. Pantheon Books.

Shuford, R. T. (2009). Why affirmative action remains essential in the age of Obama. *Campbell Law Review*, 31(3), 503-533.

Torres, G. B. (2019). Affirmative action in higher education: Relevance for today's racial justice battlegrounds. *Human Rights Magazine*, 44(4), 6-10.

Noriko Nakanishi, et al. eds. *Global Perspectives: Reading & Writing Book 1*, SEIBIDO, 2024, 70.

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1. Circle the appropriate words below to fill in the blanks (1)-(5) in the article. The first one (0) is already done as an example. [15 points]

- (0) many / much
(1) at / to
(2) belonging / belonged
(3) unhindering / unhindered
(4) because / because of
(5) raise / rise

2. Match the words (underlined in the article) on the left with the definitions on the right. The first one is already done as an example. [15 points]

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 0) <u>a</u> policy | a. a rule or principle that guides how something is done |
| 1) _____ admission | b. the judges, magistrates, and other officers who administer justice |
| 2) _____ compensation | c. the situation in which people are not treated in an equal way |
| 3) _____ quota | d. the process of being allowed to enter a place or organization |
| 4) _____ court | e. something awarded to someone in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury |
| 5) _____ unfairness | f. a fixed, limited amount or number that is officially allowed |

3. Circle T (True) if the sentence is true to the article. Circle F (False) if the sentence is not true to the article. [10 points]

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1) Affirmative action has kept ethnic minority groups out of university education. | T / F |
| 2) No one considers affirmative action as leading to reverse discrimination. | T / F |
| 3) The Civil Rights Act of 1964 led to the introduction of racial quotas in some universities. | T / F |
| 4) Former US President Obama suggested a system of support for economically disadvantaged students. | T / F |
| 5) Affirmative action aims to promote biodiversity in the natural environment. | T / F |

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