

早稲田大学国際教養学部 AO 入試

模擬試験 05 (制限時間 120 分)

I. Structure and Written Expression

Carefully read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

Green Between the Cracks: Reflections of an Urban Engineer

① When I first joined the city planning bureau five years ago, my task was to convert an abandoned railway yard into a community garden. The site was full of weeds, rust, and local mistrust. “No one will come,” an old engineer said. “They’ll just dump garbage.” But people did come—neighbors, students, retirees. What began as a cleanup day became a weekly gathering that (1) _____ loneliness _____ soil.

② Since then, I’ve helped create nearly 50 such gardens. Each has its own story: an immigrant mother growing vegetables from her home, a retired mechanic teaching children to build benches from scrap metal. These places (2) _____ the boundaries between strangers, turning vacant land into shared memory.

③ Yet success in urban greening is never guaranteed. Budgets shrink, volunteers move away, and politics (3) _____ priorities overnight. Too much regulation stifles creativity; too little invites disorder. My work, I’ve learned, is about designing balance, not control.

④ Three years ago, the city launched a new program pairing neighborhoods with professional mentors. I helped draft the policy. Its core principle was community stewardship: the city would supply tools and irrigation, while residents provided long-term care. The result exceeded expectations—lower vandalism, stronger trust, cleaner streets. It felt as though the city itself (4) _____ to listen. (A) Had the mayor (a) not insisted on measurable ecological outcomes, (b) the program might (c) yield a fewer long-term benefits, (d) since data justified renewed investment.

viewed as collaboration (b) rather as correction, (c) the engineer's role would evolve (d) from authority to ally, though institutional culture resists such change.

(12) What keeps me here is not pride but wonder. Each season brings new volunteers, new arguments, new lessons. Over time I've realized that gardens, like people, thrive on imperfection. To cultivate them well, we must accept that decay and renewal (12) _____ parts of the same cycle.

(13) A colleague once said, "We don't just plant trees—we plant trust." That stayed with me. Perhaps the most important element in any city is invisible: the web of relationships that (13) _____ its life together.

(14) Policy may frame ambition, but empathy gives it roots. The true purpose of design, I think, is not control but connection—to (14) _____ space into community, and structure into care. (E) The final audience, which several officials dismissed at first, (b) revealed later (c) that citizen participation (d) proved critical in sustaining outcomes.

(15) When I walk through the gardens now, I no longer see "plots." I see stories—each plot a chapter in the city's memory. If cities are mirrors for their people, then how we share their spaces (15) _____ who we hope to become.

Questions

Part 1: Choose the ONE best word or phrase that completes each blank.

- (1)
(a) alleviated
(b) disturbed
(c) replaced
(d) compounded

- (2)
(a) dissolve
(b) bridge

- B. transformed
- C. mastered
- D. dismantled
- E. evolved
- F. underpins

(1) What is the main purpose of the passage?

- (a) British democracy has failed to adapt to modern challenges.
- (b) Britain's democracy developed through gradual, adaptive reform rather than revolution.
- (c) The British monarchy prevented democratic progress.
- (d) British democracy is more rigid than that of other countries.

(2) According to the author, what is one weakness of Britain's gradual approach?

- (a) It often delays fairness in the name of order.
- (b) It leads to frequent constitutional crises.
- (c) It causes excessive political violence.
- (d) It depends too heavily on foreign influence.

(3) What does the author imply about the absence of a written constitution?

- (a) It ensures that politicians behave morally.
- (b) It provides greater legal certainty in times of crisis.
- (c) It can lead to ambiguity and confusion.
- (d) It prevents the growth of democratic institutions.

(4) Which of the following best captures the tone of the passage?

- (a) Ironic yet respectful
 - (b) Harsh and accusatory
 - (c) Pessimistic and cynical
 - (d) Distant and academic
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III. Essay 2

Plants and the Human Heart — A Global Conversation

Original Post: “Do Plants Really Heal Us?”

By Ingrid (Sweden)

① Every spring, when the birches begin to leaf, I feel a quiet sense of order returning to my mind. Many of my friends say the same: nature steadies the nerves. But I wonder whether this is biology or belief. Are we responding to chemicals in the air—or to centuries of stories that tell us the best lives are green?

② Modern psychology tells us that “green environments” reduce stress and improve attention. Yet we also romanticize plants, treating them as moral companions rather than silent organisms. In Sweden, the term *friluftsliv*—living in open air—is almost a secular religion. It teaches balance, but sometimes borders on superstition. People who prefer the city are quietly judged as less “authentic,” as if soil itself had a virtue.

③ I’m not sure whether plants truly “heal” or whether they simply give shape to our need for meaning. Still, I prefer a culture that seeks calm among trees to one that finds it only through screens. Perhaps the truth lies in both—the physiology of calm and the poetry we attach to it. Either way, our relationship with plants says less about them, and more about us.

Comment 1: “Faith in Green”

By Layla (Jordan)

④ Ingrid raises a fair question, but I lean toward belief. In Amman, where the land is dry and beige most of the year, people plant mint and jasmine on balconies, not for aesthetics but for comfort. The Qur’an describes paradise as “gardens beneath which rivers flow.” Our attachment to plants is not sentiment—it is continuity. Even in scarcity, the sight of green carries moral reassurance: life persists.

Part C — Essay

Imagine you are the fourth person joining this discussion. Write a comment responding to the question:

Do plants truly heal the human heart, or do they merely reflect what the human heart brings forth?

You may agree with a previous comment, or propose a new view. Refer to examples from your own country, community, or experience to support your opinion.