

## Eiken P1 Speaking Exercise 2017-2

### 1. **Can the consumption of meat be morally justified?**

I believe that the consumption of meat can be morally justified. I have three reasons to support my opinion. Firstly, and most importantly, meat is necessary for good health. Meat is known to be the best sources of protein, which is essential for muscles, organs and other parts of a body. Without meat, you cannot keep your body healthy and strong. There is a famous Japanese skier over 80 who is known for eating steak regularly. You can also get protein from plants, but they lack some other important nutrients. Secondly, humans have eaten meat throughout history. In fact, our digestive system is made to digest meat and get necessary nutrition from it. Why do we have to avoid eating meat when history and biology prove it's natural to us? Finally, there is no clear ethical reason to avoid eating meat. Humans must eat living things, whether it is meat, fish, or plants. While we need to be conscientious about how we raise and treat these living things, we cannot simply stop eating them. For these reasons, I believe meat should remain an important part of the human diet.

### 2. **Is the Japanese economy too dependent on manufacturing?**

While Japan is certainly dependent on manufacturing, I do not believe it is overly dependent. I will give three reasons why I believe this to be true. First, Japan has fewer natural resources than other large countries, so it must import well over 80% of necessary resources. We need the capital to buy these resources, which manufacturing helps provide. Second, industry has played an important role in Japan's success, helping our nation achieve the third largest economy in the world. Japanese manufacturing is very diversified, from the manufacture of cars to the latest technologies, including computers and integrated circuits. Toyota is the world's largest automobile manufacturer. Moreover, Japanese products are known for their high quality. Japan faces increasing competition from such countries as China, South Korea, and the United States, but it must continue to remain a leader in manufacturing if it is important to Japan's economy, as industry makes up only about 25% of the nation's GDP, which means the service sector and other sectors are already increasing in importance. This diversification is healthy, because it means that the Japanese economy, though strengthened by manufacturing, is not overly dependent on it.

### 3. **Can efforts of individuals change society for the better?**

I feel strongly that the efforts of individuals can change society for the better. In fact, history provides many examples of single individuals who have brought about important changes. First, individuals with vision and great interpersonal skills are able to get other people to change in positive ways. Think of people in the world who, through their ability to communicate, were instrumental in social change—people like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Martin Luther King. They brought independence and greater human rights to millions of people. Second, individuals with imagination, special skills, and motivation invent new things or systems that change society for the better. Steve Jobs, for example, created a revolutionary computer used easily by millions of people. Henry Ford modernized the automobile industry through an efficient assembly line, which gave workers a high salary and a better lifestyle. And finally, we should not forget that common individuals can create change by forming groups or initiating new programs that lead to positive changes. After all, groups are at first formed by the efforts of individuals. For these reasons, I believe that individuals have more power than they realize to make society better.

### 4. **Are enough public funds invested in the arts?**

Although I feel that enough public funds are currently invested in the arts, I don't think that public funding is as

beneficial as some people believe. In fact, it is not an essential way to support art. First, committees that have public funds to award to artistic productions often make their decisions based on narrow tastes or political leanings, which can lead to the failure of the projects. Public-supported theater, for example, is often boring and unpopular. Commercial theaters is produced for profit with much greater consideration of its chances for recognition and success. Second, there are more important causes that need public funding, such as investments in education, medical care, defense, and public support of the poor and elderly. I don't mean art is not important, of course, but these causes are more emergent. Finally, even if public investment for the arts is decreased, artists will continue to work on their individual projects anyway. Animation, for example, is a field Japan is famous for. Some people believe it flourishes today just because it used to be generally despised and criticized. Artists made their efforts to create excellent works so that the genre would be approved by the public. For these reasons, I believe that further investment of public money in the arts is unnecessary.

#### 5. **Should more be done to combat extremism on the Internet?**

I believe it is important to do more to combat extremism on the internet. I would like to present three reasons to support my argument. Firstly, the internet today is increasingly being used to inflame hatred, violence, and terrorism. Terrorist groups have used the internet to spread hateful propaganda and to recruit new terrorists who aim to take innocent lives. This must be stopped. Secondly, though all citizens in a free country have the right to free speech, no one has the right to make threats or incite violence. Please imagine for a moment what would happen if someone screamed "Fire!" in a movie theater. This is one simple word is unlawful in such a context because of the harm it may cause. In the same way, no one has the right to use the internet to increase hate and violence. Thirdly, search engine companies are especially not making enough efforts. They need to take responsibility and actively remove posts from extremists and supporters of terrorism. They should also remove posts from extremists and supporters of terrorism. They should also work closely with law enforcement agencies when the serious threats are identified. In this age of extremism, we must reach a more logical balance between safety and privacy. That is why we have to do more to fight extremism on the internet.