

## Eiken Grade 1 2015-1A

No. 1 Do the pros of having only one superpower outweigh the cons?

*I believe that, overall, the benefits of having one superpower outweigh the cons. OF course, this depends on the superpower and how they use their power around the world. But having two or more superpowers causes many problems. It increases the chances of international conflict, large-scale economic waste and interference in the freedom of other countries to choose their own courses. Let me explain these points in a little more detail. First, superpowers are likely to compete with each other and may easily become adversaries. This can increase the possibilities of war. Smaller countries are less likely to risk going to war with a superpower, because they know they would lose. Second, due to the threat of conflict, superpowers are likely to invest heavily in arms and military buildup. This is money that could be used more productively in other areas, such as education and social services. Finally, superpowers that are competing with each other will try to influence smaller countries to join their bloc. In such cases, spying, corruption and international conflict in non-superpowers will likely increase. For these reasons, having only one superpower is better than having more.*

No. 2 Should the government make scientific research a greater priority?

*Scientific research affects our lives in important ways, both in our private lives and in our work lives, so it should definitely be a greater priority for government investment. There are three reasons why I believe government investment in scientific research is important. First, the well-being of modern economies depends on scientific and information technology innovation. If we look at different countries around the world, we can see that the main barriers that separate the “haves” from the “have nots” is the level of scientific research and innovation. It’s difficult to imagine that Japan or America could have reached their level of success without their scientific and technological breakthroughs. Second, scientific innovation has benefitted all our lives in many ways. IT allows people to live longer, healthier lives, allows them to communicate more easily to people all over the world, and enables them to expand human knowledge and increase access to that knowledge. Finally, investments in research also means investments in human resources, so making them would increase the number of scientists and the quality of their work. We need more people to focus on scientific innovation so that we can make more breakthroughs. These are the reason why I believe scientific research should be a bigger priority of the government.*

No. 3 Can the hunting of animals for sport be justified?

*Even though I do not personally hunt animals, I believe that we should not ban it. Hunting can be justified for several reasons. Firstly, humans have been hunting animals since the beginning of human history. I believe the thrill of the hunt is in our DNA and we cannot easily suppress our feelings. Secondly, it's not practical to take away the right of people to kill certain kinds of animals. Some animals might be more dangerous to us, like an infectious wild dog, and some less, like rat in our houses. But we cannot draw the line between the killable and the unkillable. Thirdly, our society depends on the killing of animals, whether hunting is permitted or not. Most of us eat meat and benefit from the nutrition that animal food sources provide. Many people who are against hunting for sport not only eat meat, but wear leather belts and shoes. Finally, the government can control which animals to hunt and which to protect. This can be useful for the management of ecosystems. Sometimes, animal populations are out of balance, and the number of such animals as rabbits or deer need to be reduced. Hunting is a way to accomplish this. If certain species are endangered, the hunting of those species can be banned. These are the reasons why I believe hunting as a sport is justifiable.*

No. 4 Agree or disagree: Lifetime employment is no longer practical in modern society

*I believe that lifetime employment is still practical for both companies and employees. I would like to present four reasons why lifetime employment is still relevant in modern society. First, lifetime employment can increase employees' motivation to work. The more they contribute to the company, the more the company can grow. The growth leads to increased salary and social status of its workers. Second, employees' loyalty to the company is strengthened. And, since they care about their company and may even identify with it, they will fight to help it survive during times of financial difficulty. Third, there is a low possibility of the leakage of confidential information. Every company has its own business secrets, such as client lists and marketing plans. When employees leave, the secrets can be at risk of exposure. In lifetime employment, such risk is low. Fourth, the security of long-term employment can let employees lead stable lives. With steady income, and without worrying about losing their job, they can live with less stress, concentrating on their work. In addition, lifetime employment makes it easy for employees to take out a housing loan. For these reasons, I feel that lifetime employment makes sense in modern society.*

No. 5      Are the potential dangers of artificial intelligence exaggerated?

*The potential dangers of artificial intelligence are very real. Not only that, the consequences could mean the end of humanity. Let me explain why I believe these things. First, as technological progress becomes faster and faster, there is a very real possibility that humans will lose control. Artificial intelligence, or AI, will become so advanced that robots with AI will be able to improve their own designs or create totally new ones, and manufacture these innovations by themselves, without human intervention. In order for humans to keep such robots under control, strict oversight is required. However, with more scientists involved in the development of AI around the world, the chances of losing control with only increase. Second, militaries around the world are investing more and more technologies capable of destruction, including warrior robots. Such technology is a great threat especially once control is lost. Third, some of the most respected scientists today clearly see the potential dangers of AI. They have warned that AI is a threat to the survival of the human race. Therefore, the dangers of artificial intelligence and the consequences for all humankind are issues that are too important to ignore, and cannot be exaggerated.*