

Eiken Grade 1 2016-2A

No. 1 Does more need to be done to create a sustainable global fishing industry?

The global fishing industry is now threatened. More must be done to create a sustainable fishing industry for current and future generations. I will present three reasons to support my opinion. First, fish populations are now in decline around the world. Newer and more efficient technologies are being used to find fish schools and capture as many fish as possible. Many popular species, such as blue-fin tuna are in danger of becoming extinct if overfishing is not halted. Second, illegal fishing is carried out on a large scale, contributing to the depletion of fish supply. In fact, it is estimated that unregulated fishing accounts for around 20% of the world's catch. Finally, mankind is harming the fishing industry in other ways, such as causing global warming. As seas grow warmer, certain species disappear and the food chain is disrupted. Humans must realize that waters of the world need to be protected by dumping less waste into them and reducing the use of fossil fuels. For these reasons, I believe that the entire world's fishing industry is now in serious danger. Greater efforts need to be made to make it sustainable for future generations.

No. 2 Are the police doing enough to combat crime?

Overall, the police in Japan are doing an excellent job combating crime. In fact, Japan can be proud of its low rate of crimes, effectiveness in solving crimes and high conviction rate. Let me explain these points in more detail. First, Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. The Japanese sometimes do not appreciate this until they have lived in or traveled to other countries. Residents of Japan can walk the streets late at night in almost every part of the country, including large cities, and not feel threatened. This is the envy of many other nations. Second, Japanese police are very good at catching criminals. They have a very high level of training and discipline. Moreover, Japanese police make use of the latest technologies to achieve their world-famous rate of crime solving. Finally, Japanese police work closely with the public and other agencies to fight crime. Japanese police boxes put police officers in contact with people in local neighborhoods, building stronger networks and trust. They also work closely with the judicial system to make sure that guilty criminals are prosecuted. The success in arrests and convictions has the additional benefit of deterring crime. For these reasons, I believe Japanese police are very effective at fighting crime.

No. 3 Should domestic issues take priority over international issue?

Today, domestic issues cannot take priority over international issues. I will introduce three arguments to show that international issues now affect all Japanese people directly. To begin with, the Japanese can no longer think of their country as an isolated island nation. Our society has truly become globalized. More and more tourists come to Japan. Our economy is closely tied to those of many other countries. The Japanese travel and work abroad in bigger and bigger numbers. And the world's media affects Japanese people in many ways. The idea that the world is growing smaller is very true for the Japanese. Secondly, Japan faces various threats from other nations and foreign groups. International terrorism is increasing and Japan can expect a terrorist attack in the future. Certain countries threaten war and their weapons are becoming more powerful. Japan must always be prepared for attack. Finally, the world's environment suffers from human activities and this threatens Japanese as well as their future offspring. Global warming is directly affecting Japan and its environment. The oceans are being overfished, affecting Japanese fisheries. And pollution is reaching Japan from neighboring countries. For these reasons, the Japanese can no longer afford to focus primarily on domestic problems, for it has become impossible to separate global and domestic issues.

No. 4 Is there too much emphasis on individualism in society today?

There is too much selfishness today which is a direct result of increasing individualism. Let me explain how the emphasis on individualism hurts society and the individual. First, an overemphasis on individualism gives children a false sense of entitlement. Families in Japan are smaller than in past generations which strengthens individualism. Parents dote on their children and hesitate to scold or punish them when they do bad things. Because of this, children tend to feel they are special, thinking whatever they do is right. Second, Japanese people have also become too materialistic due to individualism. They feel that they deserve more wealth and material goods. As a result of this obsession with material wealth, people have become poor in spirit and think more about their own wants and needs and the less about the needs of others. Finally, technology reinforces individualism. Think about social networking sites and how people use them to brag about their wonderful lifestyles. Moreover, smartphones are now so absorbing that users often have no thoughts of the others around them. They are lost in their own little worlds of games, social networks and the like. I'm not saying individualism in itself is wrong; all I'd like to say is that it should not go too far.

People have become so individualistic that society suffers, which means that people suffer too.

No. 5 Do labor unions have a role to play in the business world today?

In Japan, labor unions have lost their effectiveness and no longer play necessary role in the business world. I will now give you three reasons I believe this to be the case. First, labor unions are no longer needed to defend workers against abuse, as they once were. Unions played an important role when there were sweatshops and child labor. While corporate abuses such as overworking employees still exists, the government has passed regulations to protect workers. The individual has ways to fight the remaining abuses. Second, there is a shortage of labor in Japan. This means workers don't need labor unions to improve working conditions. If a company abuses workers or fails to provide an adequate salary or benefits, workers can simply find another job that provides better compensations. The unemployment rate in Japan is extremely low, giving individual workers various options. Finally, labor unions have been responsible for damaging companies and workers. They protect slackers and often promote the seniority system, which discourages skilled and hard workers. Strikes often harm companies and cause inconvenience to the public, such as train strikes. Labor unions once played an important role in protecting worker rights, but the benefits provided are now outweighed by the negatives. In short, unions are no longer relevant.