

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

I Read the text and answer the questions.

[1] Claire has worked at a major consulting company for six years. She enjoys her job and earns a good salary, but in the past six months, she’s started to feel nervous about the future of her career. The reason: artificial intelligence (AI).

[2] “I don’t think the quality of the work that I’m producing could be (1)_____ by a machine just yet,” says Claire. “But at the same time, I’m amazed at how quickly ChatGPT has advanced. Give it a few more years, and I can imagine a world in which AI does my job just as well as I can. I hate to think what that might mean for my job.”

[3] In recent years, as headlines about robots replacing human workers have increased — and as AI like ChatGPT have quickly become more accessible — (2)some workers report starting to feel nervous about their futures and whether the skills they have will be relevant to the labour market in years to come.

[4] In March, a report was published that showed AI could replace the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs. Last year, PwC’s annual global workforce survey showed that almost a third of respondents said they were worried about the prospect of their jobs being replaced by technology in three years.

[5] “I think a lot of creative people are concerned,” says Alys Marshall, a young worker. “We’re all just hoping that our clients will recognise our value, and choose a human over the price and convenience of AI.”

[6] Now, career coaches are saying that although some anxiety might be justified, employees need to focus on what they can control. Instead of panicking about possibly losing their jobs to machines, they should begin learning how to work alongside technology. If they treat it as a resource and not a threat, they’ll make themselves more valuable to potential employers — and feel less nervous.

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

Fear of the unknown ?

[7] (3) For some people, AI tools feel as if they’ve emerged with great speed. OpenAI’s ChatGPT broke out seemingly overnight, and the “AI arms race” is escalating every day, creating continuing uncertainty for workers.

[8] Carolyn Montrose, a career coach and lecturer at Columbia University in New York, acknowledges that the pace of technological innovation and change can be scary. “It is normal to feel nervous about the impact of AI because it is (4) unpredictable,” she says.

[9] But as worrisome as the new technology is, she also says workers don’t have to be scared. People have the power to make their own decisions about how much they worry: they can either “choose to feel nervous about AI, or empowered to learn about it and use it to their advantage.”

[10] PwC’s Scott Likens, who specialises in understanding issues around trust and technology, echoes this. “Technology advancements have shown us that technology makes the work processes smoother. However, individuals are often able to progress alongside these advancements,” he says. “In order to feel less (5) _____ about AI, employees must (6) _____ the technology. Education and training are key for employees to learn about AI and to develop their new skills. Instead of shying away from AI, employees should plan to embrace and learn about it.”

[11] It may also be helpful to remember that, according to Likens, “this isn’t the first time we have encountered industry disruptions — from automation and manufacturing to e-commerce and retail — we have found ways to adapt.” Indeed, the introduction of new technology has often been worrisome for some people, but Montrose explains that plenty of good has come from past new developments: she says technological change has always been a key factor for society’s advancement.

[12] Regardless of how people respond to AI technology, adds Montrose, it’s here to stay. And it can be a lot more helpful to remain positive and look forward. “If people feel nervous instead of acting to improve their skills, that will hurt them more than the AI itself,” she says.

[Adapted from BBC, April 19, 2023, <<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20230418-ai-anxiety-artificial-intelligence-replace-jobs>>]

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

〈Questions〉

1. Which of the following fits best in blank (1)?
- a. destroyed

b. matched

c. sold

d. viewed
2. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined part (2)?
- a. A report says some workers are convinced that AI will outperform humans in the future.

b. Some workers report that their skills will definitely be useless in the labour market in years to come.

c. Some workers worry about whether their skills will still be needed in the labour market in the future.

d. Some workers think that their skills will be strengthened by AI in the future.
3. Which of the following is showed by PwC’s annual global workforce survey?
- a. Almost a third of respondents are convinced that technology will be replaced by their skills.

b. Almost one-third of respondents worry that they will lose their jobs due to technological advancements in three years.

c. Around 300 respondents answered that they are confident about using AI.

d. Around 300 respondents said technology will replace their jobs within three years.
4. Translate the underlined sentence (3) into Japanese.

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

5. Which of the following is least similar in meaning to the underlined word (4)?

a. challenging to guess about
b. difficult to understand
c. hard to know about
d. impossible to solve
6. Which of the following combinations fits best in (5) and (6)?

a. (5) : curious (6) : stay away from
b. (5) : interested (6) : put up with
c. (5) : nervous (6) : make use of
d. (5) : worried (6) : take care of
7. According to the text, which is true about Carolyn Montrose’s observations ?

a. Regardless of how people respond to AI technology, it will cease to exist.
(Paragraph [12])
b. Technological development has always been necessary for society to progress.
(Paragraph [11])
c. Using AI does more harm than good because it makes people feel nervous.
(Paragraph [12])
d. We don’t have the power to decide whether to be nervous about AI or empowered by AI.
(Paragraph [9])

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

II Read the text and answer the questions.

Our current level of meat consumption is unsustainable. Animal farming is a major cause of global heating and tropical deforestation.

The food industry has committed to change — chains such as McDonald’s and Burger King have signed up to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and to zero deforestation by 2030. But how can these giant companies, and indeed the whole food sector, possibly achieve these changes when we consume 340 billion kilos of meat a year globally, and demand is still rising? Do we just hope that consumers will become vegan or (1)_____?

Meat alternatives are helping some convert to a plant-based lifestyle. They have grown rapidly in recent years and, on the face of it, offer a good taste while largely reducing the environmental impact of meat.

However, the pace of growth has not been fast enough to achieve the scale of change needed. In the US, for example, plant-based meat alternatives represented just (2) 1.4% of sales in 2021. McDonald’s recently started the McPlant plant-based burger, which was successful enough to stay on the menu in the UK, but not in the US.

(3) There is another way to reduce meat consumption. It uses a change in how food is produced to change what we consume. The meat in burgers or similar foods could be blended with plant-based meat alternatives, or with fresh ingredients such as mushrooms or beans.

The benefits of blended products have been discussed for a few years: in 2015, the James Beard Foundation started running a competition for chefs to make tastier blended burgers. The difference now is that, given the small market share of meat alternatives, and the need to cut meat consumption, blended products might be essential to achieve international sustainability targets quickly.

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

Using data on the environmental impacts of food, I estimated what would happen if two food companies which represent 2-3% of global beef purchases — Burger King and McDonald’s — replaced 50% of the beef in their burgers with plant-based meat to create blended burgers. Demand for global agricultural land would reduce by about 8.5 million hectares. That’s an area the size of Ireland. Given total agricultural area is actually declining at the global level, it is unlikely that new farmland would simply take the place of former grazing areas. Instead, as happened when wool demand collapsed during the 1990s, the land would probably revert to nature.

As well as the benefits for wildlife and biodiversity, this land could remove 17 million tonnes of CO₂ from the air each year for 100 years on average as trees regrow. The process could even be sped up by asking landowners to replant trees, as the “grain for green” programme did in China.

Cows also create substantial greenhouse gas emissions related to their feed, their excreta* and from methane-producing bacteria in their gut*. Substituting 50% of the beef in these fast-food chain burgers for plants would reduce these greenhouse gas emissions by 34 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents a year. Combined, this is a reduction of 51 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, and more than 80% of the way to both companies’ net zero targets.

If you eat meat, this is something you can try yourself — next time you use mince in a bolognese, burger, or chilli, substitute 50% of the volume with beans or chopped mushrooms. You may well even prefer it — in blind taste tests, a recent study found that consumers actually ranked the taste of blended burgers above beef burgers. Perhaps most interesting of all, preferences for blended burgers increased when the consumers were told they were blended, possibly because people valued their environmental credentials.

(4) However, some large companies have had only limited success trying to sell new blended products. They were trying to create a new product category, but they faced challenges in communicating their benefits. To achieve benefits soon, we probably just need to blend plants into existing meat products — in the UK, a “beef burger” is defined as having at least 62% beef, and ingredient lists make it clear what is in products.

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

Ultimately, these products are better for the environment than meat, and can taste better too: if we can get that message across, and change these products carefully, it might open up this essential solution.

* excreta 排泄物

* gut 腸

[Adapted from *The Guardian*, November 7, 2022,
〈<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/07/soaring-demand-meat-hybrid-burger-blending-benefits>〉]

〈Questions〉

1. Which of the following fits best in blank (1)?
- a. managers b. nutritionists c. producers d. vegetarian
2. What does the underlined number (2) 1.4% represent?
- a. McDonald’s is the only American restaurant chain using plant-based meat.
b. The UK has been less successful than the US in using plant-based meat.
c. The US is least interested in the world in using plant-based meat.
d. Plant-based meat has not been widely accepted yet in the US.
3. What does the underlined part (3) mean?
- a. We can be more environmentally friendly if we consume a lot of vegetables.
b. We can change our eating habits by reducing the amount of food we produce.
c. We can choose non-meat products to reduce meat consumption.
d. We can reduce meat consumption by changing food production methods.

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号	氏 名			採 点

4. What did the James Beard Foundation start?
- a. A competition for cheaper plant-based burgers

b. A competition for low-fat burgers

c. A contest for more delicious blended burgers

d. A contest for more nutritious beef burgers
5. Which is correct about the author’s predictions about what would happen if Burger King and McDonald’s replaced 50% of the beef in their burgers with plant-based meat?
- a. Biodiversity would decline because need for animals would decrease.

b. Greenhouse gas emissions would decrease by 3 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents a year.

c. Land that is no longer needed could be used for building houses.

d. The need for farmland would decrease by about 8.5 million hectares.
6. Translate the underlined sentence (4) into Japanese.
7. Which of the following is true about blended products?
- a. A study showed that consumers preferred blended burgers to beef burgers.

b. From the start, blended products were invented to be an effective method for reducing CO₂.

c. If the number of cows is reduced, it will be impossible to make quality blended products.

d. Blended products usually contain at least 62% fresh vegetables such as mushrooms or beans.

III Write a response in English to the following question in a paragraph of approximately 100 words:

Which country do you want to visit most and why?

科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号		氏 名		採 点

I

1		2		3	
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科 目	学 部	学 科	専攻・コース	
英 語	国際学部	国際学科		
受験番号		氏 名		採 点

III