

STEP 1級検定 模擬演習

<解答例>

- Write an essay on the given TOPIC covering three of the POINTS below.
- Structure: Three or more paragraphs, including an introduction and conclusion
- Length: Around 200 words

TOPIC:

Problems about the decreasing birthrate in Japan

POINTS (Cover three of the below)

- *Labor force*
- *Tax burden*
- *Pensions*
- *Reduced production*
- *Japan's position in Asia*
- *Family life*

Japan, along with the majority of industrial nations, is experiencing a decline in its birthrate. Many opinions have been voiced, both pro and con, regarding the shrinking of populations. I would like to speculate on several reasons why this decline might pose a problem for Japan in the future.

One disadvantage of a declining birthrate could be a resulting smaller labor force. And, if Japan's policies continue to restrict foreign immigration, there are few ways to maintain the labor force necessary to keep the present production standards.

In addition to the increased labor burdens, the younger generation might also have to contend with paying a larger portion of taxes, too. The amount of money that the young taxpayer would be taxed would have to be greater to pay for the services for the disproportionate number of retirees.

As we have seen, the burdens of labor and taxes on the young would most likely increase. But the senior sector might see a decrease in the expected pension payments, which they had worked so hard for.

It seems that all sectors of society could be affected adversely from a shrinking population. However, careful planning now could not only prevent many hardships, but possibly result in an even higher quality of life.

(209 words)