新TOEFL 英作文演習

(「個別」型/エッセイ)

<u>設 問</u>

Directions: Read the question below. You have 30 minutes to plan, write, and revise your essay. Typically, an effective response will contain a minimum of 300 words.

(↑画面表示)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

All members of society should have the opportunity to attend university, regardless of their career interests or academic ability.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

(↑画面表示)

<解答例>

While some people may believe that a university education should be available to everyone, I feel that this type of advanced education should be provided only to those members of society who have the intelligence and academic ability to properly benefit from it. There are two reasons for this: relevance and aptitude.

To begin with, not everyone needs a university education. In fact, for most people the information learned at college has very little relevance to the jobs they eventually take. For example, how often would office workers use information related to the relative orbits of Neptune and Pluto? Would someone working on an assembly line ever need to understand how to write a software program? The former would be needed by an astronomer, of course, and might also be tangentially relevant to someone who becomes a commercial airline pilot, but would be of little value to the office worker. The latter might aid a researcher in a biotechnology laboratory or a top administrator in an electronics firm. However, it is unlikely the factory worker

would find such information useful. People should receive training in the specific skills they will need later in life. Extensive applied skills education should be made available for those who will actually use those skills.

Advanced education for everyone is an inefficient use of society's scarce resources. Consequently, a university education should be reserved for those people who will benefit from it, either directly or peripherally.

Furthermore, not everyone has the aptitude to fully take advantage of a post-secondary education. The concepts which are presented require intelligence and a mindset that not everyone possesses. Rather than watering down the content of the curriculum so that it is accessible to the general public, college students should be selected based on the academic ability they demonstrate in junior and senior high school. Six years is enough time for students to display this ability if they have it. It could perhaps be argued that some people are late bloomers, that they do not recognize their full potential until they become young adults. Such cases admittedly exist, but they are rare. Thus, as mentioned above, considering the competition for scarce resources, access to a university education should be limited to those who have proven they can derive benefit from it.

For these reasons, I disagree with the notion that a college education should be universally available.

(397 words)