Coming-of-Age Day ceremonies held across Japan

１　The second Monday of January is Coming-of-Age Day. Though the age of adulthood was lowered from 20 to 18 in 2022, most cities still hold Coming-of-Age ceremonies for 20-year-olds, because it is difficult to celebrate 18-year-olds who are busy with university entrance exams or job-hunting.

２　Young women in colorful kimonos and smartly-dressed men celebrated Coming-of-Age Day across Japan. Most of them were maskless in ceremonies held for the first time since COVID-19 restrictions were lifted last spring.

３　The new adults have several characteristics.

1. When they were children, using smartphones and social media was normal.
2. They faced the COVID-19 pandemic while they were in high school.
3. They value “using time effectively.” They call it “Time Performance” in Japanese-English.

They try to do a lot of work in a short time, and want answers quickly.

４）They can use AI effectively, but some of them are in danger of losing ability to think by themselves.

coming of age day成人の日　　 though ～：～けれども　　　　age年齢　　　　adulthood大人時代　　　　lower下げる

celebrate祝う　　　entrance exam入学試験　　　　job-hunting就職活動　　　 smartly-dressedおしゃれな服装の

restriction規制　　　lift解除する　　　characteristic特徴　　　social media：InstagramやTikTokなど(※SNSは和製英語なので注意)　　　　　face直面する　　　　value大事にする　　　　　effectively有効に・効果的に　　　　　ability能力

Q1 What was the date of Coming-of-Age Day this year?

Q2 What is the age of adulthood in Japan?

Q3 成人式を、18歳になった若者達のために開催しない理由を、本文を参考に説明しましょう。

Q4　　Did you see young women in colorful kimonos and smartly-dressed men on Coming-of-Age Day?

Q5 Why were the new adults maskless?

Q6 今年20歳になった若者たちの特徴について、次の質問に答えましょう。

1. When they were children, what did they use normally?
2. When did they face the COVID-19 pandemic?
3. 彼らが大切にする「タイパ」（和製英語のタイムパフォーマンス）とは、どのような考え方ですか。
4. AIは、何の略語ですか。
5. AIを上手く使いこなす若者たちには、どんな危険性がありますか。
6. Do you use social media, such as Instagram, TikTok, or X?

★次の文を3回以上読んで、暗唱しましょう。※本文にない例文もあります。

１）What do you want to do when you turn 20 years old?

２）When they were children, using smartphones was normal.

３）They faced the COVID-19 pandemic while they were in high school.

［Writing］

★外国人の友人Samから、Eメールで受け取った２つの質問に、わかりやすく答える返信メールを書きなさい。

|  |
| --- |
| Hi! When I was watching TV news, I saw many Japanese ladies in kimono.  Most men were wearing cool suits, but some were wearing hakama.  I heard that they had a Coming-of-Age ceremony. They looked amazing.  Do you want to wear kimono/hakama when you turn 20 years old?  I have one more question.  The news says, these days, young people in Japan value using time effectively.  How about you?  Your friend, Sam |

|  |
| --- |
| Hi, Sam. Thank you for your e-mail.  Best wishes, |

◆今日の文法：接続詞

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| when 主語 ＋ 動詞 | ～時 |
| while 主語 ＋ 動詞 | ～の間 |
| because 主語 ＋ 動詞 | なぜなら～なので |
| since 主語 ＋ 動詞 | ～以来 |
| though 主語 ＋ 動詞 | ～けれども・～にもかかわらず |

１　Fill in the blanks. 　※［　　　］には接続詞を、（　　　　）には動詞を入れましょう。

１）彼らが子供の時、スマートフォンやSNSを使うことは普通のことでした。

［　　　　　　］ they were children, ( ) smartphones and social media was normal.

２）私は二十歳になったら、着物を着てセレモニーに出席したいです。

［　　　　　　］ I ( ) 20 years old, I want to wear kimono and attend the ceremony.

３）成人年齢は18歳に下げられたが、ほとんどの市町村がいまだに20歳の若者達に成人式を主催している

［　　　　　　］ the age of adulthood was lowered to 18, most cities still ( ) Coming-of-Age ceremonies for 20-year-olds.

４）18歳は忙しいのである。なぜなら、大学入試や就職活動の準備をしているからだ。

18-year-olds are busy, ［　　　　　　　］they are ( ) for university entrance exams

or job-hunting.

５）それは、昨年の春にコロナウィルスの規制が緩和されて以来、初めてのセレモニーだった。  
It has been the first ceremony ［　　　　　　　　］COVID-19 restrictions were lifted   
last spring.

２　次の語句を並べ替えましょう。※ただし、文頭に来る単語の頭文字も、小文字になっています。

１）大人になったら、何がしたいですか。

［ grow up / do / do / when / what / want / you / you / to / ? ］

２）私達は、高校に通っている間にコロナウィルスの大流行に直面しました。

　［ a COVID-19 pandemic / going to / faced / were / while / we / we / high school / . ］

３）大きな地震が石川県を襲ってから、２週間がたちました。

［ Ishikawa prefecture / have passed / a big earthquake / hit / two weeks / since / . ］