

次の英文は、自閉症（autism）について述べているものです。英文を読んで以下の設問に答えなさい。

What is autism?

Autism is a life-long developmental disability that prevents individuals from properly understanding what they see, hear, and otherwise sense. This results in severe problems of social relationships, communication, and behavior. Individuals with autism have to painstakingly^(注1) learn normal patterns of speech and communication, and appropriate ways to relate to people, objects, and events, in a similar manner to those who have had a stroke.^(注2)

Autism is a brain disorder, present from birth, which affects the way the brain uses information. The cause of autism is still unknown. Autism may indeed result from a combination of several “causes”. No factors in the psychological environment of the child cause autism.

Autism is one of the four major developmental disabilities. It occurs in one to two of every 1,000 births. Autism is distributed throughout the world among all races, nationalities, and social classes. Four of every five people with autism are male.

What are the characteristics of autism?

The degree of severity of ①characteristics differs from person to person, but usually includes the following:

Severe delays in language development

Language is slow to develop, if it develops at all. If it does develop, it usually includes peculiar speech patterns or the use of words without attachment to their normal meaning.

Severe delays in understanding social relationships

The autistic child often avoids eye contact, resists being picked up, and seems to “tune out” the world around him.

Inconsistent patterns of sensory responses

The child who has autism at times may appear to be deaf and fail to respond to words or other sounds. At other times, the same child may be extremely distressed by an everyday noise such as a vacuum cleaner or a dog's barking.

Uneven patterns of intellectual functioning

The individual may have peak skills - scattered things done quite well in relation to overall functioning - such as drawing, music, computations in math, or memorization of facts with no regard to importance or lack of it.

Marked restriction of activity and interests

② A person who has autism may also display repetition by following the same route, the same order of dressing, or the same schedule everyday, etc. If changes occur in these routines, the preoccupied child or adult usually becomes very distressed.

What kinds of jobs can individuals with autism do?

In general, individuals with autism perform best at jobs which are structured and involve a degree of repetition. Some people who have autism are working as artists, piano tuners, painters, farm workers, office workers, computer operators, dishwashers, assembly line workers, or competent employees of sheltered workshops or other sheltered work settings.

What additional services are needed for children with autism ?

Children with autism need: before and after-school care, summer programs, recreational programs, group homes, other residential living options, prevocational training, summer school programs.

(Autism Primer: Twenty Questions and Answers Third Edition (1999) より作成)

(注1) painstakingly 苦勞して (注2) stroke 脳卒中

問題 I

問1 下線部①が具体的に示すものについて、日本語で5つあげなさい。

問2 下線部②を日本語に訳しなさい。

問3 次の(1)から(5)の文章について、本文の内容と一致していれば○を、一致していなければ×を解答欄に記入しなさい。

- (1) 登校前と放課後のケアは、自閉症の子どもにとって必要なものである。
- (2) 自閉症の性差については、5人中4人の割合で男性である。
- (3) 自閉症の原因の1つとして、心理的な要因があげられる。
- (4) 1,000人に対し1人か2人の割合で自閉症の子どもが生れる。
- (5) 自閉症は、耳が聞こえないので言葉に反応できない。

問4 本文では、自閉症の人の仕事について、いくつかの具体例をあげ、どのような仕事でよい成果をあげているかが述べられている。これらの仕事に共通する特徴を2つ日本語で答えなさい。

問題 II

この英文を参考にして、自閉症の人とともに生きることについて、あなたの考えを日本語700字以上800字以内で述べなさい。(字数は厳守すること。字数には段落、句読点を含む。)