

令和2（2020）年度 第3・4学年4月編入学選抜検査

Spring Entrance Examination 2020 for 3rd and 4th Grade Applicants

外国語作文（英語）

Foreign Language Essay (English)

令和2（2020）年2月3日（月）実施

Monday, February 3, 2020

Attention

- 1 Keep your test booklet closed until you are instructed to open this booklet.
- 2 You may freely use blank space in the booklet. Any marks in this booklet will not be scored.
- 3 There is a separate answer sheet. All answers should be written within the space provided on the answer sheet **in English**.
- 4 You will be given 45 minutes to complete the Foreign Language Essay.
- 5 Remain silent during test time.
- 6 Write your name and registration number on the test booklet, and write your registration number on your answer sheet.
- 7 No questions concerning the test content will be answered.
- 8 Both your test booklet and your answer sheet will be collected after the test.

受検番号

Registration number

氏名

Name

東京学芸大学附属国際中等教育学校

TOKYO GAKUGEI UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Read the passage below and answer the following question.

It may be 1AM but Tokyo's omnipresent convenience stores, known as *konbini*, are busy with customers dropping in for everything from milk to underwear.

Visitors to Tokyo are often amazed at the sheer volume of stores. There are 56,000 across Japan, and in the capital, it is not uncommon to see different *konbini* at all four corners of a crossroads. They provide a bewildering array of products, from toilet paper to bento boxes to hot chicken yakitori skewers. In addition, customers can do their photocopying, take out cash, pick up deliveries, and even pay their bills.

Day or night, they are rarely short of customers, but the much-loved stores are now at the centre of a row over whether they should stay open 24 hours a day, every day of the year- a debate that strikes at the heart of crippling labour shortages in ageing Japan.

A franchise owner made national headlines when he started closing his convenience store between 1AM and 6AM, bringing him into conflict with the company headquarters. The 57-year-old began shutting up shop in February when his wife, who helped him run the store, died. But the company insisted he continue the 24-hour service.

“The company thinks we should run 24 hours no matter what, even if we collapse from overwork,” he tells AFP, adding he once worked for 38 hours straight due to a lack of staff.

However, convenience stores also play a social role, providing a well-lit and always-staffed sanctuary, as well as a gathering point during natural disasters.

Modified from:
AFP April 26, 2019.

QUESTION

Based on the controversy presented in the passage, state if you agree or disagree with convenience stores continuing to stay open 24 hours a day. Include reasons based on your knowledge and/or experience.

