

第78回 (令和6年10月) 文章入力スピード認定試験 (英語) 問題

We spend most of our time on the surface of the planet, yet the ground below us is also charming. Caves are home to complex ecosystem whose survival is linked to the face of the earth. In other words, the surface world. Important resources like water, tin and iron are also found below ground.

Although we rarely think about the land beneath our feet, the world below the ground contains a rich diversity of ecosystem and natural resource. Habitats of caves and other regions below ground are home to thousands of fish, insect, and animal species, as well as some human cultures. The water and minerals buried in the soil are critical power to nearly all of us. There is a growing notice of the need to preserve these special habitats and use their resources wisely.

Sinkholes and caves, known as karst terrains, are formed by the slow ending of rocks by rain and soil water. Totally lacking in light, these areas rely on nutrients which originate on the surface. Crickets, fish, and beetles are among the creatures that have learned to thrive below ground. Their striking changings include longer life spans, a loss of sight, and a highly developed sense of touch. For example, crayfish live to one hundred years or longer, and they do not start breeding until they are over thirty years old.

Many species of bats spend part of their time in caves, which make ideal maternity and hibernating sites. Colonies can be enormous and home to twenty million free tailed bats. Yet these ecosystems are fragile. A study of two hundred thirty cave systems in some other countries revealed that ninety percent of them were disturbed by people, to our regret, mostly by tourists. Entrances need to be properly gated to protect caves and their inhabitants.

For millennia, people have also taken advantage of the natural shelter provided by underground spaces. One region contained soft rock produced

millions of years ago by the slow hardening of volcanic ash. The	1,982
composition of the material allowed ancient civilizations to carve networks	2,058
of homes, storage spaces, and tunnels into the rock. One of the largest	2,131
underground cities in the world contained an incredible eleven levels.	2,204
Montreal is home to the sprawling underground metropolis in modern	2,272
times. Around thirty kilometers of connected areas are always comfortable,	2,348
even in the freezing winter. There are almost one thousand six hundred	2,420
shops, as well as hotels, apartments, and universities. Many locations	2,492
are, interestingly, extensions of aboveground structures like skyscrapers,	2,567
showing the interconnectedness of the surface and subterranean worlds.	2,640
Wherever people live, underground resources are essential to our	2,706
wellbeing. The most widely used natural resource, groundwater, is found	2,779
buried in layers of rock, soil, gravel, and clay. There aquifers supply	2,852
fifty percent of the drinking water in the world while irrigating countless	2,928
farms. In some countries, one hundred percent of all fresh water comes	3,000
from aquifers.	3,017
These repositories are slowly replenished by rain water and melting	3,086
snow, but the process can take years. The groundwater is often removed	3,158
faster than it can be replaced. A study of less than the forty largest	3,230
aquifers revealed that around twenty were in danger of being depleted. A	3,304
related problem is the sinking of the land above overused sites. Due to	3,377
groundwater removal, parts of some cities are sinking at a rate of two	3,448
point five centimeters per month. Care needs to be taken to use aquifers	3,522
responsibly and protect them from pollutants.	3,570
The mining industry is based on digging up the treasures beneath us to	3,642
provide raw materials for a plethora of businesses. By way of example, in	3,717
the constructions industry, sand, gravel, and bauxite are essential	3,785
materials. Precious metals like gold and silver are important not only for	3,861
coins and jewelry but also for electronics, scientific equipment, and	3,931

dentistry. Even earth friendly items such as solar panels are only possible because of mining.	3,999 4,029
However, all that digging has its downsides. Quarries and mines can devastate ecosystems and pollute water sources. Also, although around one percent of the workforce in the world is in mining, the field is responsible for eight percent of all fatal workplace accidents. What is more, changes in the global economy can have a dramatic impact on the mining industry, whose market value fell from one point six trillion dollars in the year of two thousand ten to four hundred ninety-four billion, only seven years later, in the year of two thousand seventeen.	4,099 4,174 4,239 4,312 4,382 4,451 4,519 4,593
The balance between the surface and the subterranean world is delicate. They are linked in a web of interdependence, and when it is disrupted, the consequences can be severe. We need to make smart decisions when it comes to protecting the soil, karst ecosystems, and aquifers. By using underground resources wisely, we can ensure they will be available for future generations.	4,656 4,727 4,803 4,877 4,950 4,976
The theme of these days on sustainable mining is green prosperity for people all over the world. Through presentations and discussions, we should focus on the following issues and think about them for our better future. First, many untapped caches of platinum group metals are located in developing countries. When mining them, we should consider how we partner with local government agencies and stake holders to create a satisfied situation for each and every sides. The second issue is how we can counter the perception that our industry is at odds with environmental protections. Third, consumers and utility companies enjoy tax incentives for installing solar panels and windmills. As the raw material suppliers for this equipment, it is no wonder we should make the case that we deserve similar tax breaks.	5,047 5,117 5,190 5,264 5,334 5,403 5,477 5,552 5,626 5,700 5,776 5,795