# 第８１回（令和７年７月）　文章入力スピード認定試験（英語）問題

At the end of twentieth century, one marine venturer came across a 68
huge area of the sea on his way home. The area was piled up huge amount of 144
plastic garbage everywhere from oceanic currents. Later, one marine 213
scientist named the area of the sea, the great garbage patch. 277

Floating somewhere in the northern ocean was a pile of garbage about 347
four and a half times larger than our country. Made up from mostly plastic 423
trash, this great garbage patch is a clear sign of the damage being done to 499
our oceans and sea life. Many sea animals suffer from mistaking pieces of 574
plastic garbage for food, and others get tangled in discarded materials 646
such as fishing nets and starve or drown. Although plastics have made our 721
lives easier in countless ways, they can be very dangerous to our oceans 794
when roughly discarded. 820

Plastics, as we know today, are materials made with synthetic 883
chemicals not found in nature. The first plastics were invented in the 955
middle of nineteen centuries out of necessity to replace natural resources 1,030
that were hard to find. Since then, the popular favor of plastics 1,097
increased greatly as they became cheaper to produce and were used in 1,166
anything from straws to cars. However, the abundance of plastic led to a 1,240
new problem, that is, disposal. Many plastics are not materials changed 1,313
naturally by bacteria, not to harm the habitat. It means, unlike natural 1,387
stuffs, plastic garbage does not wear down and are no dissolved naturally 1,461
over time. If not properly recycled, plastics last forever in the habitat, 1,537
and in many cases, end up in our oceans. 1,580

The great garbage patch is actually made up of two separate swirling 1,650
collection of debris caught by connected oceanic currents. One patch is 1,723
located in an area of the northern sea, and the other is off the coast of 1,797
our country. A variety of items, from shoes to computer monitors, can be 1,871
seen floating there, but plastic makes up the majority of these huge 1,940
collections of trash. Some pieces of plastic also break apart and remain 2,014

as tinier pieces called micro plastics. In addition to sea life eating 2,086
these plastic bits, ocean surfaces polluted with micro plastics become 2,157
dirty and allow less sunlight through to the algae and plankton below, 2,228
which some fish eat. In this way, the persistent plastic garbage in our 2,301
ocean endangers the entire marine food chain, and by extension, people as 2,375
well. 2,383

The trash floating in the great garbage patch in the ocean gathers 2,451
from far and wide. Roughly eighty percent of it originates from land-based 2,527
garbage, including plastic water bottles, bags, and cups. An estimated 2,599
twenty percent come from lost, and sometimes intentionally dumped, trash 2,672
from boaters, offshore oil rigs, and large cargo ships. Sadly, figuring 2,745
out exactly how much debris is contained in the garbage patch is 2,810
practically impossible. Not only too large is the area of floating rubbish 2,886
to catch and weigh with nets, it also too dense to float on the surface 2,958
includes pieces of debris. In fact, seventy percent of marine debris 3,028
actually sinks to the bottom of the oceans. 3,074

Cleaning the garbage from our oceans has been an uphill battle for 3,142
many reasons. The scale of the pollution is the first problem. One 3,211
scientific study estimated seventy ships working for a full year would only 3,287
be able to clean less than one percent of the northern oceans. According 3,361
to the adventurer, who discovered the floating disaster, any country that 3,435
tried to clean the garbage patch alone would probably go bankrupt. Because 3,511
of this and the fact that the great garbage patch is far enough from most 3,585
countries for them to ignore it, no countries are currently willing to 3,656
spend their own money on cleaning it. 3,696

Many private organizations are instead stepping up to the difficult 3,765
challenge of saving our oceans. One organization focuses on cleaning 3,835
coastlines. They claim to have recovered over seven point nine million 3,907
kilograms of ocean trash since the year of two thousand seventeen. Another 3,983

organization boldly aims to remove half of the plastic in the great garbage patch every five years. They also plan to keep eighty percent of plastic waste from ever reaching the ocean by placing interceptors in rivers all over the world. With the help of private organizations like these, we may have a chance to undo the damage we have caused to our environment. But there is still much more that needs to be done. 4,059 4,133 4,206 4,281 4,354 4,404

Big changes need to happen in order to preserve our oceans. Cleaning up the mess we have made is a necessary first step. However, in order to keep our oceans lean, scientists agree that we have to limit our use of disposable plastics and non-biodegradable materials. It is up to us to be more responsible with our trash. Our oceans are estimated to be billions of years old, and if we can take better care of them, we might be able to keep them for a while longer. 4,475 4,549 4,621 4,696 4,770 4,844 4,876

Let us review what plastics are and where they come from. Plastics is a word that originally meant pliable and easily shaped. It only recently became a name for a category of materials called polymers. The word means of many parts, and polymers are made of long chains of molecules. Polymers abound in nature. Cellulose, the material that makes up the cell walls of plants, is a very common natural polymer. 4,948 5,022 5,097 5,173 5,248 5,292

Over the last century, humans have learned how to make synthetic polymers, sometimes using natural substances like cellulose, but more often using the plentiful carbon atoms provided by petroleum and other fossil fuels. Synthetic polymers are made up of long chains of atoms, arranged in repeating units, often much longer than those found in nature. It is the length of these chains and the patterns in which they are arrayed that makes polymers strong, lightweight, and flexible. In other words, it is what makes them so plastic. 5,358 5,434 5,506 5,582 5,656 5,727 5,800 5,827