

文教大学大学院 人間科学研究科

2024 年度 I 期

人間科学専攻

一般入学選考試験問題

【 英 語 】

受 験 番 号	氏 名	得 点

問 題

以下は 2022 年に出版された *Pandemic precarity* と題する評論の一部である。よく読んで次頁の問 1、問 2 に答えなさい。なお、解答は解答用紙に記入しなさい。

Like many crises, the Covid-19 pandemic is a magnifier and a catalyst. Among other things, it has magnified global and national inequality and reaffirmed old colonial fault lines. (a) The impact of the pandemic on livelihoods and everyday routines has been perceptible everywhere, but to some, it has been near catastrophic. This is not least the case for the many millions typically classified as working in the informal sector or as part of the so-called precariat. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO 2020), an estimated 1.6 billion have faced increased uncertainty during the pandemic. According to the same source, 60 per cent experienced a severe loss of income during the first months of lockdown.

The informal economy initially identified and described by Hart (1973) takes for granted as central to Africa what has supposedly become an anomaly or an aberration in the European context. (b) Many sub-Saharan Africans rely on their skills in 'survivalist improvisation' or 'having twelve professions' for their day-to-day sustenance, well-being and relationships (Ferguson 2015; Simon 2021).

However, informality is not exclusively or even mainly an African phenomenon. In India, one estimate suggests that nearly 90 per cent of the labour force is informal, with no job security, health insurance or social benefits (Bonnet et al. 2019). (c) Worldwide, an estimated 60 per cent of the world's labour force (2 billion workers) work for the informal economy, which accounts for some 90 per cent of the micro and small enterprises worldwide. An estimated 53 per cent (4.1 billion) worldwide obtain no income security (ILO 2022).

Likewise, project-based employment has become the order of the day in global academia, consultancy business and related fields, with dwindling job security and increasing precarity. (d) Like other crises, the Covid-19 pandemic can be viewed as a magnifying glass and a catalyst. Increased precarity had been a noticeable trend throughout the neoliberal era, and it had been at the forefront of labour research for about as long. The pandemic accelerated the trend by thrusting millions of formerly securely employed people into economic insecurity. Precarity became one of the typical expressions of pandemic consequences, even if it appeared in many guises depending on the social circumstances.

It would be irresponsible and inaccurate to speak of a post-Covid recovery in these areas now

that the dust is seeming to settle. Do schoolchildren and students 'recover' from dropping out after two years of missed teaching? Do families 'recover' from the increase in domestic violence during the pandemic? (e) We cannot romanticize the 'resilience' or 'flexibility' with which people find ways of getting by despite enormous hardship. At the same time, informal economies and 'forced creativity' have probably saved many lives during the two years of intermittent lockdowns and accompanying restrictions on public activities. The extreme conditions under which labour operates worldwide have resulted in renewed attention to precarity and the concept of the precariat.

First, it is necessary to move beyond two stereotypical ideas: the suffering *and* the resilient precariat. The discourse surrounding precarity can be misleading and patronizing. For example, it may point to the ways people transcend imputed victimhood and marginality. (f) In their everyday lives, people devise tactics - within larger structures and strategies beyond their control, such as the global pandemic - for making a living and striving to live lives they find worth living, which is not only about survival and economy in a narrow sense.

Moreover, the 'precariousness of life' (Butler 2006) is not only related to the economy but also deeply tied to issues of health, environment, politics, bodies and social networks, as the pandemic has painfully reaffirmed. Likewise, the practices of informality are not just essential for the economy but equally significant for getting access to institutions, political influence or a job. Informal 'know-who' and connections often become more important than official know-how, education and diplomas.

* 文中 () 内の引用資料は引用順に以下の通り：

ILO 2020. Impact of lockdown measures on the informal economy. ILO Brief Note, 5 May. <http://tinyurl.com/wcm5p5>.

Hart, K. 1973. Informal income opportunities and urban employment in Ghana. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 11(1): 61-89.

Ferguson, J. 2015. *Give a man a fish*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Simon, S. 2021. Gleaning time: Practice, pause and anticipation in the Sine-Saloum delta, Senegal. In F. Krause & M. Harris (eds) pp.151-170.

Bonnet, F. et al. 2019. *Women and men in the informal economy: A statistical brief*. Manchester: WIEGO.

ILO 2022. How to make the informal formal. 18 February. <https://tinyurl.com/ILOinform>.

Butler, J. 2006. *Precarious life: The powers of mourning and violence*. London: Verso.

問 1. 下線部 (a) ～ (f) を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 2. 本文のキーワード precarity および precariat について、文意に即して解説しなさい。

(以上)