

〔 A類英語コース, B類英語コース 対象 〕

学校推薦型選抜 問題 令和7年度

034

小論文

(1枚目)

I 次の文章を読んで、下線部に留意しながら、本文の内容を400字程度の日本語で要約しなさい。

Over the past few centuries, we have dug, chopped, burned, drilled, pumped, stripped, forged, flared, lit, launched, driven, and flown our way to adding 2.4 trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide to Earth's atmosphere. That's as much CO₂ as would be emitted annually by 522 billion cars, or 65 cars per person living today.

On a lonely lunar-like valley 20 miles outside of Reykjavík, Iceland, Edda Aradóttír is on a mission to put it back where it came from.

She's returning a tiny bit of it today but much, much more of it in the years ahead. In sending CO₂ deep beneath the surface of the planet, she's aiming to reverse one of the most significant acts of human history: the unearthing of massive amounts of carbon under the ground as fossil fuels, the lifeblood of modern civilization but now its curse as well.

She doesn't have much time. Nor do the rest of us. The extreme weather and record-hot temperatures from climate change are already here—and virtually certain to get worse.

Inside an aluminum igloo on this patch of volcanic dirt, Aradóttír—a chemical and reservoir engineer who is chief executive officer of an Icelandic company called Carbfix—shows me how captured CO₂ is mixed with water, then fed through an elaborate system of pipes that descend downward 2,500 feet or so. There, the dissolved carbon dioxide meets porous basalt, creating a marking of cream-colored spots in the volcanic rock below.

She hands me a sample to inspect. All those dots and stripes represent an ambition that is simple but breathtakingly daring, because small as the amount may be, this particular bit of CO₂—removed from the air, mineralized, and turned to stone—is no longer heating up our planet.

Scientists and entrepreneurs like Aradóttír are embarking on ambitious—and sometimes controversial—projects to remove carbon dioxide from surrounding air and lock it away. In Arizona, an engineering professor shows me his “mechanical tree,” a single one of which he says may someday be able to do the work of a thousand regular trees in capturing and storing CO₂. In Australia, a leading oceanographer tells me that seaweed is salvation, if only we'd help it grow in giant aqua-gardens of kelp and wakame that could hold billions of tons of carbon dioxide. On top of a university building in Zürich, an Uruguayan inventor with a twinkle in his eye presents me with a small container of fuel made from nothing but sunlight and air. That may be the most fascinating of all the forms of carbon capture I've come across, as it suggests we may one day be able to utilize carbon in a continuous virtuous cycle of zero-emission energy. Maybe. One day.

What these efforts have in common is that they are geared in the long run to drag downward a number that climate experts agree holds the key to the health of the planet. That number is the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, which for thousands of years had held stable at or a bit below

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280 ppm, until the industrial revolution kicked off in the middle of the 19th century. Today this critical number stands at some 420 ppm—in other words, the percentage of CO₂ in the atmosphere has risen roughly 50 percent since 1850. As it rises, the added carbon traps heat, causing the Earth to warm to increasingly dangerous levels. Carbon-capture promoters say their work—to capture the main driver of climate change, radically scaled up in coming decades—will help bring this number down.

But what all these efforts *also* have in common is that to their many opponents, the very idea of sucking all this carbon out of the air is a diversion from the far more urgent task of radically cutting carbon dioxide emissions to begin with.

More than 500 environmental groups, for instance, have signed a petition urging U.S. and Canadian leaders to “abandon the dirty, dangerous myth of CCS,” or carbon capture and storage, a major form of carbon removal. The petition severely criticizes the concepts as “a dangerous distraction driven by the same big polluters who created the climate emergency,” a reference to plans announced by ExxonMobil, Chevron, and other traditional oil giants to jump into the carbon-capture business. It is very frustrating, critics say, that the forces most responsible for getting us into this global mess now stand to profit from promises that they can clean it up.

The term “moral hazard,” the idea that people will continue to take risks if they believe they’re protected from the consequences, comes up often in this debate. If policymakers, not to mention average people, start thinking that maybe we have a magic solution for all this troublesome CO₂, perhaps they’ll start worrying less about the oil, gas, and coal we keep extracting from the Earth. But carbon-removal advocates say we desperately need to do both things at once: cut future emissions and reverse the impacts of what we’ve already emitted.

“It’s very clear to me that this is a solution to the problem, even if it’s not *the* solution,” Aradottir says. “Basically, we are going to have to do this on top of everything else the world must do to decarbonize all the energy we use.”

出典：Verhovek, Sam Howe. “Clearing the Air.” *National Geographic*, November 2023.

注：trillion 兆

metric tons メートルトン (= 1,000kg)

igloo ドーム型の建物

porous 多孔質の

basalt 玄武岩

oceanographer 海洋学者

kelp ケルプ (コンブなど大型で褐色の海藻)

a virtuous cycle 好循環

[A類英語コース, B類英語コース 対象]

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小論文

(3枚目)

II 「人は見た目がすべてである」という意見に対するあなたの考えを、200語程度の英語で書きなさい。