

Entrance examination of the HIGO program, Kumamoto University

Short Essay

Duration of examination 90 min

Attention

1. Please check to ensure all pages are present in the correct order. There are 9 pages (this cover sheet, 2 pages of question sheets and 6 pages of answer sheets).
2. There are two questions, I and II. Select either question to be answered.
3. Use the answer sheets of the selected question and write your applicant number at the top of each answer sheet.

I Read the sentences below and answer the following questions:

Ms. Bach is a thirty-eight-year-old professional artist with diabetes and end stage renal disease. She has been on dialysis for a little over a year and is on a waiting list to receive a cadaveric* kidney, but transplantation is not likely for at least three years. No family member or friend has volunteered as a living donor.

Although she tolerates dialysis quite well, she says it causes her such psychological distress that it may drive her to commit suicide. In an outpatient appointment with a consultation-liaison psychiatrist, she complains of severe insomnia* and exhaustion. She looks desperate and worn. After a year on dialysis, she says, she is a nervous wreck, unable to concentrate, and above all, unable to work. She is just running from appointment to appointment for her dialysis, recording every sip of water, trying to keep in charge of everything. She feels overwhelmed, empty, without any creative impulse. And without creative activity, she states with determination, she does not want to live. If she cannot paint, there is nothing left but to grieve.

Ms. Bach is single and has not had a stable relationship since her divorce several years ago. Both of her parents died the previous year and she is estranged from her brother. In the summer, when her friends are away on holiday, she sometimes does not speak to anyone for weeks. In bleak moments she thinks of her younger sister, who was also diabetic and who killed herself with an insulin overdose in her early twenties.

Ms. Bach has just been through a year of therapy for depression. She received outpatient psychotherapy and medication, and she describes the treatment as "somewhat helpful, but not particularly." When offered continued psychiatric treatment, she gets upset. She wants a kidney. She has heard that people for whom dialysis does not work can get high urgency status on the waiting list. But whenever she asks whether her psychological troubles and her tormenting inability to work do not justify putting her on high urgency, she says, her physicians treat her very coldly and say they will not let her blackmail them. According to what her doctors tell her, this center can place only two patients a year on high urgency, and those spots are reserved for people whose shunts* fail, rendering dialysis impossible. But she says that she too cannot continue dialysis any longer. Does she have to kill herself first to prove it? Should the hospital put her on the list?
(*The Hastings Center Report*, vol.31, No.2, 2001)

* cadaveric: of a dead human body

* insomnia: a condition of being unable to sleep

*shunt: a small tube put in a body in a medical operation to allow the blood or other fluid to flow from one place to another

Question A : Does she have to kill herself first to prove it? Or, should the hospital permit her high urgency status on the waiting list? Or, are there any other solutions?
(within 300 words)

Question B : State your opinion on such a waiting list system which is referred to above.
(within 300 words)

II

Answer the following question.

Since 2011, authoritarian regimes in the Arab world have come under enormous pressures. Some have survived, at least to date, while others were overthrown. What best explains why some authoritarian regimes are resilient while others are contested and overthrown? In your answer, draw on cases (from the Arab world or elsewhere) that help exemplify the processes of stability and transition.

Answer Sheet (1/6)

Question number (I)

Question A

Answer Sheet (2/6)

Question number (I)

Question A (Continued)

Blank area for writing the answer to Question A (Continued).

Answer Sheet (3/6)

Question number (I)

Question B

Applicant number _____

Answer Sheet (4/6)

Question number (I)

Question B (Continued)

Blank area for writing the answer to Question B (Continued).

Applicant number _____

Answer Sheet (5/6)

Question number (II)

Applicant number _____

Answer Sheet (6/6)

Question number (II)

(Continued)

Blank area for writing the answer.