

令和4年度 奈良県立大学 地域創造学部 一般選抜（前期日程）小論文問題（その1）

第1問 次の英文記事を読み、以下の問1と問2に答えなさい。

(1) “The Stone Age should more accurately be called the Wood Age,” historian Yuval Noah Harari writes in his “Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind.” Come to think about it, wood tends to decay and decompose¹⁾, and wooden artifacts²⁾ rarely remain for posterity³⁾, unlike stone tools or earthenware⁴⁾. But we can imagine that people had many items made of wood around them in ancient times. Fortunately, many wooden artifacts have been excavated⁵⁾ from the Sannai Maruyama site in Aomori Prefecture, which dates to the Jomon Pottery Culture Period (c. 14,500 B.C.–1,000 B.C.). The artifacts were apparently shielded⁶⁾ from air because of the high moisture present in a garbage disposal site in the valley, experts said. A wooden vessel⁷⁾ that looks like a large dish was brightly lacquered⁸⁾ red, according to a book by Yasuhiro Okada, who was long involved in excavation work at the site. Another elaborately⁹⁾ made wooden vessel was only 5 millimeters thick. The book notes these finds show the Jomon culture was a culture of wood.

Archaeological¹⁰⁾ sites in Hokkaido and the northern Tohoku region from the Jomon Period, including the Sannai Maruyama site, are set to be added to UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage list. The Jomon culture, in which hunter-gatherers¹¹⁾ lived in settlements even before farming began, a global rarity¹²⁾, is expected to draw fresh attention.

“Homo faber¹³⁾” (Latin for “Man the Maker”) is one concept used to define human beings. Jomon people apparently had a strong appetite¹⁴⁾ for making things. Artifacts found at Jomon Period sites range from sewing needles in various lengths to cloth woven from plants and even hairpins used as accessories. It would do a gross injustice to those who manufactured them if we call them primitive people. Today, we are surrounded by machines that would look like magic to our distant ancestors. (2) But we may not deserve to be called homo faber if we do not make anything on our own and only use what others made.

(VOX POPULI: ‘Primitive’ wrong term for artifacts found at Jomon Period sites, The Asahi Shimbun, May 31, 2021 朝日新聞社に無断で転載することを禁じる 承諾番号 22-1736)

※英語の原文には含まれない改行をしている。

- 1)decompose:分解する 2)artifact:人工遺物 3)posterity:後世 4)earthenware:土器
5)excavated:出土する 6) shielded:遮へいされた 7)vessel:器
8)lacquered:漆が塗られた 9)elaborately:精巧に 10)Archaeological:考古学上の
11) hunter-gatherer:狩猟採集民 12)rarity:稀少 13)Homo faber:ホモ・ファーベル、すなわち人間の本質としての「工作する人」の意 14)appetite:意欲

問1 下線(1)に関して、歴史学者のユヴァル・ノア・ハラリ氏が『サピエンス全史』で著述している内容に対する筆者の賛否、及びその理由と根拠として挙げられている事例について説明しなさい。

問2 筆者はなぜ下線(2)のように述べているのか、最後の段落を踏まえて、その理由を説明しなさい。