

第 8 問 (配点 17)

You are working on an essay about **online voting for elections in your city**, following the steps below:

Step 1: Read a range of opinions gathered from the Internet about online voting.

Step 2: Take a position on online voting.

Step 3: Create an outline for your essay using additional sources.

► [Step 1] Read a range of opinions

Alex (civil servant)

Online voting can prevent human errors. People could possibly make mistakes in counting votes. Computers can perform this better and much more quickly. Also, online voting can reduce the cost of an election because fewer people will be needed to check the votes. It may require a significant initial cost, but once implemented, it will be a lot more accurate, time-efficient, and cost-effective.

Irina (programmer)

Online voting could be vulnerable to hacking. Any computer programmer knows that no program is completely secure. However carefully we set up the system, there will inevitably be security weaknesses. Elections attract attention and thus hackers. In addition, it costs a lot to maintain computer systems. Keeping the system up-to-date and secure would be more expensive than holding an election with paper ballots. Overall, it is better to maintain the conventional way.

Joseph (high school teacher)

If all voting goes online, it would exclude or disadvantage some voters who don't use the Internet. This could have a negative impact on senior citizens, in particular. We should avoid any divide that digitalization of elections may cause. On the other hand, online voting could work well for younger people

who prefer digital devices. It should be easy for the newer generations to vote using smartphones.

Kana (university student)

I have many friends who do not vote in elections. They are too busy with their studies, club activities, and part-time jobs. Online voting would allow us to vote from anywhere, requiring little time. It would also be more inclusive of physically challenged people who might have difficulties accessing the voting venue. In the end, the enhanced convenience would raise the voting rate.

Sarah (journalist)

I think that authenticating voters, confirming their identity, could be a challenging part of online voting. Serious cases of online fraud, in which a criminal uses someone else's identity, are often reported. What if there is an error in the authentication process in online voting? It would be very difficult to ensure fairness and security, which could threaten the democratic process.

問 1 Which of the following best summarizes Joseph's opinion? 38

- ① Older generations may benefit from the ease of an online voting system.
- ② Online voting may affect different generations in different ways.
- ③ People born in the digital age are unfamiliar with paper ballots.
- ④ The online system will make smartphones essential in elections.

問 2 Both Alex and Irina mention 39 .

- ① the financial aspect of online voting
- ② the identification issues of online voting
- ③ the potential errors in counting the online votes
- ④ the security issues of conducting elections online

► [Step 2] Take a position

問 3 With the above opinions in mind, you have taken a position on online voting and written some notes below. Choose the best options to complete — . (You must have all of — correct to get points.)

POSITION: Our city should introduce online voting.

- and support this position the most.
- An idea shared by these two people is that .

Options for and (the order does not matter):

- ① Alex
- ② Irina
- ③ Joseph
- ④ Kana
- ⑤ Sarah

Options for .

- ① computers function more effectively than humans
- ② online voting systems will save time
- ③ the physically challenged benefit from online systems
- ④ voting online can promote digital device use

► [Step 3] Create an outline for your essay

Online Voting in Our City

Introduction

Although there are some concerns about online voting, we should consider introducing it in our city.

Body

- REASON 1: [the common idea in Step 2]
- REASON 2: 43 [based on Source A]
- REASON 3: Online voting likely increases the participation of young people in elections. [based on support from Source B: 44]

Conclusion

Introducing online voting is a positive step forward for the citizens.

Source A

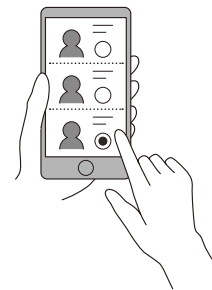
Estonia was the first country to hold general elections using online voting in 2005 and the popularity of online voting has continued to increase. More than half of the total votes in the 2023 parliamentary elections were cast over the Internet. In addition to the convenience of voting remotely from anywhere anytime, it allows voters to change their electronic votes multiple times in a secure way, which is not possible when votes are in the paper format. It can also handle situations in which votes are made both online and onsite by the same person. In this case, the electronic votes become invalid and only the paper votes are counted, ensuring the principle of “one person, one vote.” Thus, Estonia is a good example to follow for other countries or cities that want to have their elections online.

Source B

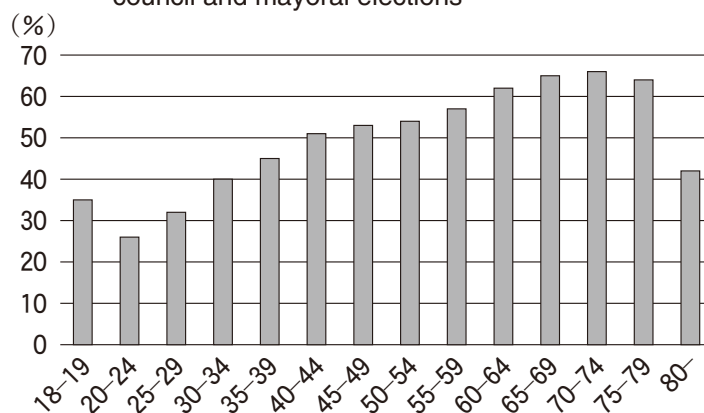
Tsukuba City was planning in 2022 to introduce an online voting system for its city council and mayoral elections. The following are slides based on a presentation given by the city that showed (1) current voting trends, (2) university students' attitudes toward online voting, and (3) city residents' opinions about an online trial election.

Introduction of online voting

City of Tsukuba (Japan)



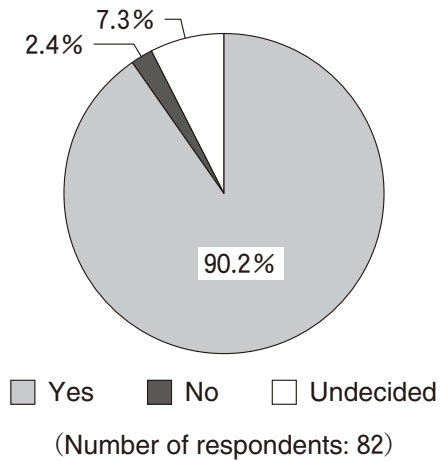
(1) Voting rates by age group for 2020 Tsukuba city council and mayoral elections



(Number of eligible voters: 185,204; voting rate: 51.6%)

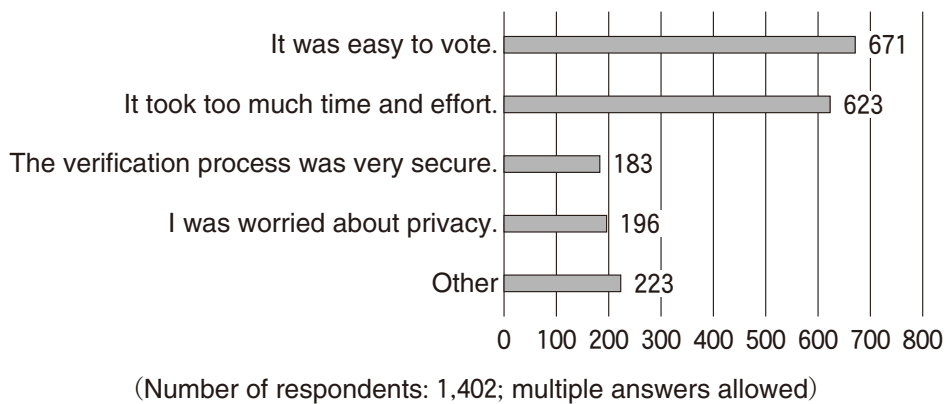
(2) Questionnaire given to university students in Tsukuba (2020)

Would you use an online voting system if it were available?



(3) Questionnaire after the 2022 trial online election given to city residents

Opinions about the online voting experience



(「公職選挙におけるインターネット投票の実施」(つくば市)の一部を参考に作成)

問 4 Based on Source A, which of the following is the most appropriate for REASON 2 in the essay outline?

43

- ① Estonia has used online voting for more than three decades.
- ② Online voting offers flexibility while providing relevant safeguards.
- ③ People get more information on candidates thanks to the online system.
- ④ The principle of “one person, one vote” is secured in paper elections.

問 5 Based on Source B, which of the following best supports REASON 3 in the essay outline?

44

- ① Although some residents felt online voting has security issues, its introduction would be the key to increasing the voting rate of young adults, because less than 2% of university students would refuse to use it.
- ② More than half the people answered it was easy to cast their votes online while nearly 40% of the people felt it was troublesome. Regardless of these positive and negative aspects, it would raise the voting rate of young people.
- ③ The age range of the lowest voting rate is 20–24. According to the survey, more than 90% of university students answered they would use an online system. Thus, introduction of online voting could help narrow the gap between age groups.
- ④ The overall voting rate is more than 50%. Among the age groups, the biggest difference is between the youngest and the oldest. This could be reduced by introducing an online voting system because university students prefer it.