

Ⅱ期 (一般)

令和3年度

武蔵野大学大学院 人間社会研究科 人間学専攻 博士後期課程 入学試験問題 (1月10日)

[英語] 次の英文を読んで各問に答えなさい。

From schools of fish to modern human communities, social hierarchies are ubiquitous across species. Hierarchies give rise to advantages at the group level, such as facilitating leader–follower coordination and reducing resource conflict. (1) At the individual level, higher social rank improves mating opportunities, promotes access to resources, reduces stress, and increases social influence. Therefore, individuals exert considerable effort to enhance their social rank by gaining status (i.e., respect and admiration from others, sometimes also referred to as prestige) and power (i.e., control over valuable resources, sometimes also referred to as dominance).

How do people achieve higher status? In early human societies, displays of hunting skills and physical aggression were primary in promoting one’s standing in society. (2) In contemporary settings, however, hunting and aggression have been replaced by different strategies, such as displays of culturally valued skills and behaviors (e.g., obtaining academic degrees). Another prevalent route to higher status rests on the display of wealth through positional consumption. This idea was introduced by Thorstein Veblen’s seminal work, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, which describes how wasteful expenditures on positional goods, which display one’s apparent resources to others, shape the social strata over time. Such goods are particularly effective signals of status because they separate the “haves” from the “have nots” through economic (e.g., high price) or physical (e.g., restricted access for private club members) barriers. Although Veblen’s insights were overlooked by classical market theories, modern economic theories began to incorporate this view by showing that a balance of prices and goods sustains the market for costly signals. Indeed, goods that wealthier individuals gravitate toward (hereafter, “positional goods”) also tend to be more visible to others than other goods that are more affordable and thus accessible to everyone.

(3) Understanding the drivers of costly signaling through positional consumption is important because this behavior is, by definition, wasteful—in the sense that less expensive goods could have the same functional value as their high-status counterparts (e.g., cars and houses). Status consumption therefore creates inefficiencies. Spending resources to elevate perceived status might, for instance, perpetuate poverty by reducing self-investment in health and education among the poor, who spend disproportionately more on status signals and thus substitute status signaled through consumption for long-run wealth accumulation. While recent work has explored the socio-psychological antecedents of status-driven consumption, little is known about its biological basis, via genes, hormones, or brain activity.

出典 : Nave, G., Nadler, A., Dubois, D. et al. Single-dose testosterone administration increases men’s preference for status goods. *Nat Commun* 9, 2433 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-04923-0>

問1. 下線部(1)を和訳しなさい。

問2. 下線部(2)を和訳しなさい。

問3. 下線部(3)を和訳しなさい。

問4. この文章の大意を日本語で記述しなさい。文字数は400字程度とすること。