

松本予備校

関関同立英語 体験授業

問題

「各国の国民性」



(予習を1時間程度行ってから、
上記のQRコードを読み取り、
授業を体験してください。)

〔I〕 次の文の内容と一致するものを， 1～10の中から4つ選べ。

- ① When I was a small boy in Ohio in the 1940s, America was both isolationist and truly isolated. There were no foreign films. There were almost no foreigners. No one drank wine or used garlic or even ate in courses. We were served just one huge plate of overcooked meat and fried potatoes and boiled beans, then chocolate pudding. Those who drank only had whisky and water.
- ② Travel to Europe was expensive and few people could afford it. For us, “Europe” was symbolized by the symphony orchestra (all our conductors were foreign-born) and opera. We listened to the radio broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera every Saturday afternoon. The guests on the radio program were Europeans with heavy accents and Hungarian or Russian names. Their knowledge of opera amazed us — they could list all the scenes in which the hero falls in love with his aunt or the heroine is buried alive — and the subtle humor in their voices seemed exotic and superior to us.
- ③ We longed to visit Europe, even live abroad for a whole year. Europe was where we would raise our general level of culture. Europe was where we might at last have experiences, even sexual ones. We deplored but were secretly fascinated by “European snobbishness,” since in Texas and the Midwest where I’d grown up the word *class* was never mentioned. If asked, we’d have all declared ourselves to be middle class. The idea that we might be excluded from a club or party because of our low birth seemed strange and exciting to us.
- ④ In the 1950s, Americans took extraordinary pride in the Marshall Plan, a huge aid program to reconstruct Western Europe. We were convinced that we had not only saved England and France, we also believed we’d single-handedly rebuilt the entire continent. We expected Europeans to be grateful ever after. Most Americans didn’t realize how quickly and triumphantly Europe had emerged out of the Second World War. As late as the 1970s, ignorant friends and relatives of mine would say, “I feel sorry for those Europeans, still living in bombed-out ruins.” Like some ninety percent of Americans, these friends and relatives didn’t have passports.
- ⑤ Even fairly sophisticated Americans repeated over and over again, year after year, the same limited ideas about Europeans. The English were “terribly British,” always carried umbrellas, hunted foxes and showed little emotion. The French were casual about sex, didn’t take baths, studied philosophy and ate rotten cheese. They were all unpleasant. The Italians were merry souls who picked up girls, read magazine romances instead of proper books, had natural artistic taste and liked everyone. The Irish were dull, downtrodden, superstitious and problem drinkers.

⑥ After I moved to Paris in 1983 and stayed there for the next fifteen years I came to resent these ill-informed, primitive views. I noticed that American friends, especially New Yorkers, were irritated that the quality of life was so high in Paris and owed almost nothing to America. Americans would point out a McDonald's in Paris with joy, but they couldn't be persuaded that American eating habits had not had much influence in France.

⑦ And my American friends were puzzled when they discovered what the French admire about America: everything to do with cowboys; the bright lights of Las Vegas; the novels of Paul Auster and John Fante and the poetry of Charles Bukowski; jazz. The French knew next to nothing about American composers, including those who'd lived and studied in France such as Aaron Copland, Ned Rorem and Virgil Thomson. They knew nothing of our minor writers who'd celebrated Paris such as Kay Boyle, Djuna Barnes and James Jones. On the other hand, they knew much more about American B-movie directors than we did and lamented our lack of "film culture." We weren't even sure we thought "film" and "culture" belong in the same sentence.

1. According to the author, American stereotypes of Italians were more positive than their stereotypes of Irish people.
2. East European accents were considered to be a sign of low class in Ohio in the 1940s.
3. In general, the author thinks that his views of Europe are similar to the views of most American people.
4. In the 1970s, people in Europe were still living in poor conditions, as post-war rebuilding was not completed.
5. Many Americans visited Europe in the post-war period in order to listen to the opera.
6. Many Americans were proud of their contribution to the recovery of Europe after the Second World War.
7. Most French people appreciated the works of American composers and writers who had lived in France.
8. Overall, the author is critical of his fellow Americans' lack of accurate knowledge about Europe.
9. The author was very happy to find a McDonald's in Paris when he lived there in the early 1980s.
10. When the author was a child, he was unable to have much contact with foreign cultures and people.