

Ritsumeikan Uji Junior High School
Entrance Exam - IPC 1 English Writing

SAMPLE

Question Booklet

Instructions

- i) You will be given a text to read. The text will be at a 6th grade reading level and may be fiction or non-fiction.
- ii) Applicants will be asked to respond to one of the essay prompts that follows the reading. Your response should be AT LEAST 250 words and it should reference the reading text.
- iii) There are 100 total points for the examination.
- iv) Applicants will have 60 minutes to complete the examination.

Reading Comprehension and Making Inferences

Read the excerpt below from Associated Press. When you have finished reading, answer ONE of the questions that follow.

On January 10, 2024, the St. Paul **City Council** had a very big first. All of the new council members had been sworn in the previous day, along with their president, Mitra Jalali. All of the city council members are women, a first for Minnesota's capital city.

A **city council** is responsible for deciding on laws, services and projects that will benefit the city. They must also decide how to come up with the money to fund them.

St. Paul has a population of about 300,000 people. Experts say it is the first large U.S. city they know of with an all-female city council. It is a big milestone to celebrate. The council members are also excited about what they can accomplish in the coming year.

All seven women are under 40 years old. Six out of the seven are people of color. All seven women are Democrats, but the office is **nonpartisan**, meaning that it is not biased toward any political group. From civil engineering to nonprofit directing, the members of the council have a wide range of professional experiences.

“I think that our community is finally reflected by the city council,” Jalali said. “The median age of our community is 32.5. We are a majority person-of-color city. We have many major racial and ethnic groups, many of which are now represented on this council.”

Researchers say St. Paul is special. It is the largest U.S. city they are aware of to ever have an all-female city council.

Data from Rutgers University shows that there are fewer female than male **municipal officials** across the country. A **municipal official** is a person who works for a city or town. Jean Sinzdak is the director of a research center. She says 7 out of 10 municipal officeholders across the country are male. Most of them are white.

Having an all-female council with so many women of color is a big deal, she says. Young girls will look at the city council and say, “I can do this, too.”

Hwa Jeong Kim is the council's vice president. She and Jalali said that their top priorities include improving housing policy. They also want to work on economic development and climate action. They will focus on using police officers less and mental health responders more.

Sinzdak said left-leaning and Democratic communities tend to have more women elected officials. This is because there are more Democratic women than Republican women. Therefore, according to Sinzdak, it is more likely to have a Democratic woman running for office in those communities.

“What’s remarkable about this lineup is not just that it’s all women, but it’s the age of these women, and it’s the diversity of these women,” Heidi Heitkamp said. She is the director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago. She is also a former U.S. senator from North Dakota.

Writing Prompt and Instructions

Directions: Respond to ONE of the essay prompts below. You should write your answer on the separate answer sheet provided. In response to the question, you should write a well-structured paragraph of at least 250 words. Please make sure you use some of the ideas from the reading above in your response.

1. How does having an all-female city council possibly affect young women and girls' views of their own future in politics?
2. Why is it important that a city council is made up of individuals that reflect the members of the community they represent?