

以下の2つの英文を読み、それぞれ180字から220字の日本語で要約し、解答用紙に記入しなさい。

1. Fast Fashion

Fast fashion is currently trending in society. Clothing industries worldwide are in a competition to design, produce and deliver clothes at a faster pace than ever before, while at the same time reducing costs.

Fast fashion is popular among the younger generation. Fast fashion shops constantly try to attract young customers by entertaining them with the most recent fashion items. These items are for sale at costs set as low as possible. Customers are happy because they can purchase fashionable items at very low costs even in many developed countries.

Fast fashion, however, has problems. Clothes these days are bought cheaper than ever before, so people often throw them away easily and quickly. Piles of thrown-away clothes have been causing environmental problems. Since fast fashion materials are difficult to recycle, they are sent to landfills or burned, producing carbon dioxide. Sadly, fast fashion also causes social problems. For example, factory workers in developing countries making fast fashion products often work for very low wages, in poor working conditions.

Given the fast fashion's economic influence in the world market, both developed and developing countries need to work together to find solutions to reduce the negative impact fast fashion has been causing.

2. Universal Design

Universal design is an approach to designing products, buildings, or environments which has the potential to greatly serve future society. Originally, it was devised as a means of providing easy access to facilities for the elderly or people with disabilities. Inspired by the ideas universal design proposed, governments, international organizations and society in general have come to embrace the idea of inclusive and barrier-free society for people with different needs.

The first attempt introduced at universal design is said to have been the creation of a slope to help wheelchair users to overcome the barrier between the street and the sidewalk. This design, nowadays, is conveniently used for people riding bikes, pushing strollers, and pedestrians with walkers or canes. It shows that universal design is not just for the elderly or people with disabilities but also for people with different needs regardless of age or ability.

Another example of universal design is a lever-type door handle. Turning a round door knob can be hard for people who have limited or permanent disability in their hands. Opening a door that has a lever-type door handle is easier because they can use their arms instead of their hands. A final example of universal design can be found in kitchen utensils. A company developed a unique peeler for vegetables like carrots and potatoes. It can be used regardless of hand strength that works equally well for right and left-handed people.

Universal design has tremendous potential for many people. That is to say, “This is not a special requirement, for the benefit of only a minority of the population. It is a fundamental condition of good design.”¹ Something that benefits all, and recognizes the diverse needs of different people in our society.

Notes:

1. The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, “What is Universal Design” (<https://universaldesign.ie/what-is-universal-design/>)