

2026年度（令和8年度）学校推薦型選抜 問題

小論文

国際商経学部（グローバルビジネスコース）

注意事項

1. 試験監督者の指示があるまで、この問題冊子は開かないでください。
2. この問題冊子は表紙のほかに3ページあります。
3. 問題は大問Ⅰのみです。
4. 解答用紙は3枚あります。
5. 各解答用紙に氏名および受験番号の記入欄があります。試験監督者の指示に従い、すべての記入欄（氏名、受験番号いずれも3箇所ずつ）に記入してください。
6. 解答は解答用紙の所定の箇所に記入してください。
7. 解答用紙の裏面には解答以外記入しないでください。
8. 下書き用紙は3枚あります。
9. 解答時間は120分です。
10. 試験終了後、問題冊子と下書き用紙は持ち帰ってください。

I . Read the following passage and then answer the questions in English.

Ancient Egyptians said it was a moral guide. The Teotihuacan of ancient Mexico believed it held a spirit that was key to life itself. Ancient Greeks thought it housed a person's soul and kept their body warm.

Today, the heart is a universal symbol of love and affection. We see the symbol everywhere: in artwork, fashion, advertising—and all over our phone screens. No other symbol comes close to being used so often. It's clear: we love hearts. But where did the love story begin?

There are many different theories about why we associate hearts with love. From what we can see today, the connection between the human heart and love was strong by the Medieval era, but the heart shape had use of its own long before.

In fact, the origin of the heart shape we know today might be in a plant. A yellow-flowered plant related to parsley, called silphium, grew on the coasts of North Africa. This fragrant herb was extremely popular and had many medicinal and practical uses, from cough medicine to a prized food seasoning. In the 6th century, the ancient Greeks and Romans were also quick to adopt its use for another medical purpose: controlling family size. The heart-shaped leaves eaten were an early form of preventing pregnancy.

Like any trendy wonder drug, it wasn't long before news of silphium's power spread. The Romans grew so obsessed with silphium that they stamped silver coins with the plant's heart-shaped seed case on one side and an image of the blooming plant on the other. Unfortunately, silphium could not be grown easily, and it was so popular as medicine and food that people ate too much of it. Legend says that high demand eventually led to the extinction of silphium before the fall of the Roman Empire, with Emperor Nero himself knowingly eating the last remaining bit. Did the heart-shaped seed cases and their romantic associations create the first seeds of this symbolic connection? It's possible.

But move forward to a more modern time—the Middle Ages. The French love poem “Le Roman De La Poire,” written by Thibaut in the mid-13th century, is about giving one’s love to another. The illustration accompanying the poem is the earliest known image of a person offering his heart to a lover, sharing the idea that one can give their heart away. While its shape resembles more of a pear than the modern symbol, it is regarded as the first known symbolic use of a heart image.

By 1400, however, the heart had shifted into the modern symbol through Francesco Barberino’s poem “Documenti d’amore” and the bold illustration of a naked Cupid shooting arrows and roses while standing on the back of a horse. In the image, the horse was wearing a neck chain made of hearts. The image became very popular, and hearts began to appear on tapestries, playing cards, and other art forms. After the invention of the printing press in 1440, the heart image was accessible everywhere. The printing press meant that more people learned to read, communication became easier, and when love was felt, hearts were used. They are still used to show love, today.

When it comes to love, we sure can all agree that facts come second to feelings. From a physical perspective, the heart may not have much to do with our emotional state, but at this point, the heart symbol means love. Maybe people in the year 3025 will have a new symbol for love, but because this brand power is so strong, it’s hard to imagine anything other than a heart for love.

Adapted from Lindsay Gandolfo, “The Heart: A Love Story,” *Columbia Heart Surgery*, Columbia University.

1. Write a summary of this article in about 200 words. Use your own words. Do not copy phrases from the passage.
2. Explain why silphium was so important to the Greeks and Romans.
3. The article says, "No other symbol comes close to being used so often" as the heart symbol is. In your opinion, what symbol do you think is used most often after the heart? What does it represent?