

Graduate School of Medicine
Akita University
(Doctoral Course)

English

10:00～11:40

September 5, 2023

You have three QUESTION SHEETs and two ANSWER SHEETs.
Write all your answers on your ANSWER SHEETs.

Submit only your ANSWER SHEETs.

Read the following article and answer the questions in English.

(Text omitted)

(Text omitted)

(Text omitted)

(Nature Editorial 25 May 2023: “How universities can help to resolve research’s mental-health crisis” Nature 617, 651; 2023).

- Q1 List seven specific examples of toxic work environments in academia.
- Q2 Answer where the governing bodies of academia should look to improve the work environment within 15 words.
- Q3 Explain the characteristics of the current research system in 100 words.
- Q4 Explain the discussion on anonymous whistle-blowing within 80 words.

Applicant Number		Name	
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English (Doctor) : Answer Sheet

1/2

Q1 List seven specific examples of toxic work environments in academia.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Q2 Answer where the governing bodies of academia should look to improve the work environment within 15 words.

- _____

Applicant Number		Name	
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English (Doctor) : Answer Sheet

2/2

Q3 Explain the characteristics of the current research system in 100 words.

Q4 Explain the discussion on anonymous whistle-blowing within 80 words.

Q1 List seven specific examples of toxic work environments in academia.

(3x7 点 = 計 21 点)

proliferation of short-term contracts, low salaries (particularly for early-career researchers), competitive working environments, pressure to publish, bullying, discrimination, harassment

Q2 Answer where the governing bodies of academia should look to improve the work environment within 15 words.

(7x2 点 = 計 14 点)

beyond the campus — in particular, to industry

Q3 Explain the characteristics of the current research system in 100 words.

(30 点)

Yet the research system still tends to put power in the hands of just one person, or a few people. When grants are awarded, the responsibility for them is generally given to principal investigators, not shared more widely among members of a research team. That often means that large numbers of early-career researchers — 50 or more in some fields — are under the supervision of a single principal investigator. In the same way, departments and faculties have a single person at the top.

Q4 Explain the discussion on anonymous whistle-blowing within 80 words.

(35 点)

Although universities do have both grievance and whistle-blowing procedures (which protect people from being penalized or dismissed if they disclose wrongdoing), they often discourage anonymization for those drawing attention to inappropriate behaviours or actions. Some argue that it makes complaints more difficult to investigate. This is often true, but anonymous whistle-blowing provides a fairer way to obtain justice in an environment in which the person perpetrating harm is often also the person ultimately responsible for an individual's career prospects.