

(平 16 前)

# 外 国 語

英 語

(問題部分 1～8 ページ)

注意 解答はすべて答案用紙の指定のところに記入しなさい。

外国語(英 語) 125 点

I 次の文章を読んで、問1～5に答えなさい。(配点40点)

“Kobe. Kobe,” the conductor announces the downtown station in the singsong my brother and I used to mimic. “Thank you for using Japan Railways. Please be careful not to forget your umbrellas as you leave the train.” Reaching out for my suitcase, I am irritated by the announcement, by the impersonal <sup>(1)</sup> courtesy I cannot get used to — store clerks bowing and welcoming us into their stores without making eye contact, conductors reminding us, over the loudspeaker, not to forget our belongings. Every greeting sounds exactly the same, as if recorded, addressed to a large generic audience. Face-to-face, nobody says anything.

As I step onto the platform and walk toward the commuter line, I can already feel the humidity. In the four weeks I have been gone, the rainy season must have arrived in Kobe. The sky is heavy with clouds, and people are carrying umbrellas. The umbrellas remind me of Kyushu, the southern island where I spent two of my four weeks: there, old women walked down the street with umbrellas under the midday sun while, across the narrow channel, a volcano erupted on a small island. The volcanic ashes rained down on the streets of Kagoshima for a week. Though the ashes were invisible as they came down, every morning the pavement was covered ( A ) a half inch of white ashes. I could not run without coughing. Except ( B ) the old women, no one showed any anxiety about the ashes. The young people sat in rooftop coffee shops to watch the smoke coming from the island across the water.

The old women with their umbrellas reminded me of my grandmother. Like her, they had borne and raised children before and ( C ) the Second World War, before the Western diet of high calcium and protein. Their backs were bent, their necks shortened. Watching them, I remembered my mother’s insistence that my brother and I drink milk every morning. “You have to have protein to grow tall and strong,” she had said. She had discouraged us ( D ) sitting Japanese-style on the floor with our legs folded under,

because she had feared that our young bones might be bent. Every generation has its fears. My mother's generation worried ( E ) not being tall and strong, while my grandmother's distrusted anything that rained down, like bombs, from the sky.

It's raining a little when I get off the commuter train. I stand in line for a taxi, and when my turn comes, I shove my suitcase in and sit down. The driver nods when I give him Nancy's address.

"That house belongs to a *gaijin* family, doesn't it?" he asks, using the word that literally means an outside-person and, therefore, a foreigner.

"Yes. My friend is an American."

"Are you a *nikkei*?" A *nikkei* is a foreigner of Japanese descent.

"I'm an American citizen," I reply, "but I was born here."

The driver puts his car in gear and pulls away from the curb in silence. I don't ask why he thought I was a foreigner. All over Japan for the last four weeks, people have thought I was a foreigner. Even other foreigners thought I was one of them.

Lost in the old castle town of Kanazawa during my first week, I met an American man sitting outside a temple and turning his map around to find out where he was. "When you are done with that map," I said, "I'd like to see it. I'm lost, too." We decided to set out together to look for the train station. When we got to an intersection where two workers were fixing a streetlamp, I asked them in Japanese, "( F )" They told me; we walked a block and stopped for the traffic light to change. The man I was with said, "Hey, I didn't know you could speak Japanese." "Why?" I asked; "I was born in Kobe." "But you're not dressed like a Japanese woman," he pointed out. "You don't even have a purse."

A few feet away from us, five young women, all in fashionable dresses, were waiting for the light to change. Each of them had a white leather purse with shoulder straps, medium-heeled shoes that matched her dress. Their hair was softly permed to frame their faces. In my T-shirt, denim shorts, and jogging shoes, my long straight hair in a ponytail, I looked nothing like them. Instead of

a purse, I carried a backpack especially designed for runners and walkers. "I guess I know what you mean," I admitted, and the two of us started laughing. Though I had just met this man and would most likely never see him again, he  
(2) seemed like someone I had known for a long time. He opened his mouth and threw his head back when he laughed. He looked me in the face and smiled as he made half-ironic comments about the way people looked. He was like my friends. He was American.

問 1 本文中で下線部(1)の具体例として挙げられているものを2つ、日本語で書きなさい。

問 2 空所( A )～( E )に入るもっとも適切な語を下から選び、記号で答えなさい。

(ア) about (イ) during (ウ) for (エ) from (オ) with

問 3 空所( F )には、「駅に行くにはここをどちらに曲がった方がいいですか」という文が入ります。この意味内容を表す文章を、英語で書きなさい。

問 4 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 5 次の文章のうち、本文の内容に合致するものには○、合致しないものには×を解答欄に記入しなさい。

- (1) The author feels at home while she stays in Japan.
- (2) Before coming back to Kobe, the author visited Kanazawa after going to Kagoshima.
- (3) The author does not look like an ordinary Japanese woman although she was born in Kobe.
- (4) The taxi driver thought the author was a foreigner because she spoke only a little Japanese.
- (5) The author felt sympathy with the American man she happened to meet in Kanazawa.

II 次の文章を読んで、問1～5に答えなさい。(配点35点)

Our Sun is a fairly ordinary star, a bit brighter than most but not exceptionally so. There are many stars much bigger and brighter, while most stars are smaller and fainter. The Sun is not an especially variable or active star, and it has no enormous chemical or magnetic peculiarities. It is not a very young star, nor is it old and nearing the end of its life. It is, in short, truly exceptional<sup>(1)</sup> in only one way: it is very close to the Earth — in fact, at just the right distance to make life as we know it possible.

Most of us do not worship the Sun as did many in ancient civilizations, but<sup>(2)</sup> we certainly should not take for granted the light and heat that it provides. Left to itself, the Earth would be a fantastically cold rock at near absolute-zero temperature\*. If the Sun had been slightly more massive, its high temperature would have made the Earth's surface hot enough to melt lead. A smaller Sun would have left the Earth unbearably cold. ( A ) also matters. Had the Earth been closer, we might be as extremely hot as Venus; farther away and we might have been as cold and dry as Mars. We live at just the right distance from a just-right star.

Does this mean that the planet Earth is unique and that we live in a miraculous “best of all possible worlds”? There are dangers with this way of<sup>(3)</sup> thinking. Since indeed other planets in our solar system do not so far appear to support life, the implication is that life requires some fairly unlikely conditions in order to flourish. Yet granted that the probability of finding Earth-like conditions is small, the number of planets in the Universe is very large (probably billions in our galaxy alone). This obviously increases the statistical likelihood of habitable planets. On this view, the Earth is not so much miraculously unique as merely rare.

This in turn implies certain responsibilities for its inhabitants. Since life as we know it appears to be possible within only a narrow range of conditions, it

would be prudent to know as much as we can about the star that provides the basic conditions on which our existence is founded. Moreover, our newfound ability to alter the Earth's state on a global scale brings this need into sharp focus. For example, it is not enough for the Earth to be at the right distance from the Sun, and reflect back the right percentage of the solar light it receives. The Earth's atmosphere is also of major importance in determining the global temperature. Without it, the Earth would be colder by about 33°C, and therefore<sup>(4)</sup> a frozen lump of ice. Right now, we are making small but significant changes to the composition of our atmosphere that may, within a short time, be large enough to produce major unpleasant effects.

注 absolute-zero temperature 絶対零度(−273°C)

問 1 下線部(1)が表す内容を, 日本語で説明しなさい。

問 2 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3 空所( A )に入るもっとも適切な単語を, 本文中から抜き出して書きなさい。

問 4 下線部(3)が表す内容を, 日本語で説明しなさい。

問 5 下線部(4)を, it の指す内容を明確にしながら日本語に訳しなさい。

Ⅲ 次の文章は、ヒマラヤ旅行記の一節である。これを読んで、問1～3に答えなさい。(配点25点)

After dark we all sat together by the fire roasting dried yak's meat.

"Have you ever heard of the Yeti\*?" Our guide said unexpectedly.

"( A )" I said.

"Then I must warn you that tomorrow we shall be entering yeti country. There are many of them in this area," he explained. "( B ) Half-human and half-beast—very tall and strong. It is said that their feet point backwards, so that you cannot tell where they have come from or where they are going to, and they can smell a human from fifteen kilometers away."

"What happens if you meet one?" I asked.

"( C ) If a male yeti meets a man, he will kill him; but if he meets a woman he will turn and put her into the pouch on his back and carry her away into the mountains. The female yeti will do the same thing with a man."

"Have you ever seen one?"

"( D ) But I know many people who have. Would you like to hear a story my grandfather told me?"

"( E )"

He cleared his throat.

"Near my grandfather's village, where I lived as a boy, there was a female yeti living in the hills. One day a friend of my grandfather's went into the forest to collect firewood, and there he met this yeti, and was captured. For a whole year he was kept prisoner in her cave, and fed only on raw meat. But he was a cunning fellow, and one day he had an idea. He started to make himself a pair of shoes out of the skins of the animals the yeti had killed. When the yeti saw them she was very envious of these beautiful shoes, and so the man made some for her also. The next day he waited until the yeti was asleep, and then he took his chance . . . and ran away down the mountainside as fast as he could. The

yeti woke up and chased after him, but the man had sewn the shoes on to her feet so she could not take them off, and they were so slippery and soft that she kept on sliding and falling in the snow. And so this way the man escaped.”

“When he returned to the village everyone was amazed, they had all thought he was dead. It was very expensive for his family,” he added, “they had just finished paying for the last of the funeral ceremonies.” And there he was—still alive.”

We gazed into the night, at the dark shadows of the hills which looked like giant animals waiting to jump at us.

注 Yeti イエティ (a large hairy manlike creature said to live in the highest part of the Himalayas)

問 1 空所( A )～( E )に入るもっとも適切な文を下から選び、記号で答えなさい。

- (ア) It depends.
- (イ) Not myself.
- (ウ) Terrible creatures.
- (エ) Yes, I have.
- (オ) Yes, please.

問 2 下線部(1)の語句が表す内容を、60 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。

問 3 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

Ⅳ 高校生の一郎は、留学生の Tom を自宅に招待して、家族といっしょに食事をすることにしました。日本料理に興味がある Tom は、料理を手伝うつもりで早めに来ました。一郎の母が台所で料理をしているところに Tom が入って来て、英語で会話をしています。それぞれ本人になったつもりで、次の(1)と(2)の内容を、[ ] 内に指示された語数の英語で書きなさい。(配点 25 点)

- (1) Tom: 料理を手伝わせてほしいと、その理由を述べて丁寧に頼む。[20 語程度]
- (2) 母 : 相手の気持ちを傷つけないような理由を挙げて断る。[30 語程度]