

(平 21 前)

# 外 国 語

英 語

(問題部分 1～11 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)

Japan's climate is typically temperate, as befits its latitude, and contrasts ( A ) the tropics, where the growing season is year round and temperatures make a relatively slow pace of life advisable. To survive the colder months, food surpluses have always had to be built up by hard, concentrated work during the more productive parts of the year, and daytime rest periods or a leisurely work pace have not seemed necessary to escape the midday heat. The same is true ( B ) Japan's East Asian neighbors in Korea and China. Such climatic conditions may lie behind the fact that the people of all three of these countries are noted ( C ) their hard work and tireless energy. Simple necessity at first, reinforced over the centuries by well established custom and insistent moral precept\*, seems to have produced among the Japanese and their neighbors in East Asia what may be the most deeply ingrained\* work ethic in the whole world and what undoubtedly is a notable characteristic and great asset of the peoples of this part of the globe.<sup>(1)</sup>

One outstanding feature of Japanese weather is the series of great cyclonic storms, called typhoons, which devastate parts of the country in late summer and early autumn. These are identical in nature with the hurricanes that occasionally ravage the east coast of the United States, both being products of the same general relationship between land and water at comparable latitudes. Typhoons, however, strike Japan with somewhat greater frequency and usually with more destructiveness to life and property, since the greater part of the Japanese population is concentrated on the seacoasts of southwestern Japan where the typhoons first come ashore.<sup>(2)</sup>

Typhoons have accustomed the Japanese to expect natural catastrophes and accept them with stoic resilience\*. This sort of fatalism might even be called the "typhoon mentality," but it has been fostered by other natural disasters as well.<sup>(3)</sup> Volcanic eruptions sometimes occur, since a large part of the Japanese chain is

the product of volcanic action, and there are many active volcanoes. The largest, Asama, devastated hundreds of square miles of central Honshu in 1783. There are also numerous fault lines\* throughout the islands, and destructive earthquakes are commonplace. Tokyo and its port of Yokohama were in large part leveled by fires resulting ( D ) a great earthquake that struck at noon on September 1, 1923, leaving some 130,000 persons dead. Since Edo, as Tokyo was formerly called, had been periodically hit by severe earthquakes, there is a popular belief that it is likely to be visited by a devastating earthquake every sixty years or so. In any case, the Japanese have a fatalistic acceptance of nature's awesome might, as well as a great capacity to dig themselves out after such catastrophes and start afresh.

注 precept 行動の規範； ingrained 根づいた；

stoic resilience 克己的回復力； fault line(s) 断層線

問 1 空所( A )～( D )に入る前置詞を答えなさい。

問 2 下線部(1)の work ethic の意味として最も近いものを、下の(ア)～(エ)から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

(ア) a belief in working efficiently

(イ) a belief in working hard

(ウ) a belief in working happily

(エ) a belief in working leisurely

問 3 下線部(3)の “typhoon mentality” とは、どういうものですか。35 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。ただし、句読点も 1 字に数えます。

問 4 下線部(2), (4)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 5 下の(ア)~(ク)のうち、本文の内容と合致するものを三つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- (ア) Before the Edo period the Japanese people believed that a devastating earthquake was likely to hit Japan every sixty years or so.
- (イ) A great earthquake struck the Tokyo area at noon on September 1, 1923, and consequently killed about 130,000 people.
- (ウ) Mt. Asama is the largest inactive volcano in the central Honshu Island of Japan.
- (エ) Japan and its neighboring countries in East Asia have a lot in common in terms of climate.
- (オ) Anything but typhoons fostered the fatalism of the Japanese people.
- (カ) A large part of the Japanese chain is the product of typhoons.
- (キ) The fault lines in Japan are concentrated in the Honshu Island.
- (ク) Typhoons have the same nature as cyclones do.

Ⅱ 次の文章を読んで、問1～6に答えなさい。(配点40点)

For a long time it was thought that we moved into and out of ice ages gradually, over hundreds of thousands of years, but we now know that that has not been the case. Thanks to ice cores\* from Greenland we have a detailed record of climate for something over a hundred thousand years, and what is found there is not comforting. It shows that for most of its recent history Earth has been nothing like the stable and tranquil place that civilization has known, but rather has swayed between periods of warmth and brutal chill.

Toward the end of the last big glaciation\*, some twelve thousand years ago, Earth began to warm, and quite rapidly, but then abruptly plunged back into bitter cold for a thousand years or so in an event known to science as the Younger Dryas\*. (The name comes from the arctic plant the dryas, which is one of the first to recolonize\* land after an ice sheet withdraws. There was also an Older Dryas period, but it wasn't so sharp.) At the end of this thousand-year onslaught average temperatures leapt again, by as much as seven degrees in twenty years, which doesn't sound terribly dramatic but is equivalent to exchanging the climate of Scandinavia for that of the Mediterranean in just two decades. Locally, changes have been even more dramatic. Greenland ice cores show the temperatures there changing by as much as fifteen degrees in ten years, drastically altering rainfall patterns and growing conditions. This must have been unsettling enough on a thinly populated planet. Today the consequences would be pretty well unimaginable.

Climate is the product of so many variables—rising and falling carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels, the shifts of continents, solar activity—that it is as difficult to comprehend the events of the past as it is to predict those of the future. Much is simply beyond us. Take Antarctica. For at least twenty million years after it settled over the South Pole Antarctica remained covered in plants and free of ice. That simply shouldn't have been possible.

(5)

No less intriguing are the known ranges of some late dinosaurs. The British geologist Stephen Drury notes that forests within 10 degrees latitude of the North Pole were home to great beasts, including Tyrannosaurus rex\*. “That is bizarre,” he writes, “for such a high latitude is continually dark for three months of the year.” Moreover, there is now evidence that these high latitudes suffered severe winters. Oxygen isotope\* studies suggest that the climate around Fairbanks, Alaska, was about the same in the late Cretaceous period\* as it is now. So what was Tyrannosaurus doing there? Either it migrated seasonally over enormous distances or it spent much of the year in snowdrifts in the dark. In Australia — which at that time was more polar in its orientation — a retreat to warmer climates wasn’t possible. How dinosaurs managed to survive in such conditions can only be guessed.

The extraordinary fact is that we don’t know which is more likely, a future offering us eons\* of perishing frigidity\* or one giving us equal expanses of steamy heat. Only one thing is certain: we live on a knife edge.

In the long run, incidentally, ice ages are by no means bad news for the planet. They grind up rocks and leave behind new rich soils, and scrape out fresh water lakes that provide abundant nutritive possibilities for hundreds of species of being. They act as a spur to migration and keep the planet dynamic.

注 ice core(s) 氷床コア(氷床を掘削し取り出した筒状の氷柱のサンプル)；  
glaciation 氷河作用； the Younger Dryas 新ドリラス期(更新世終わりのヨーロッパの気候区分で亜氷期の期間)；  
recolonize ～に再群生する； Tyrannosaurus rex 肉食恐竜のティラノサウルス；  
Oxygen isotope 酸素同位体；  
Cretaceous period 白亜紀(約1億4000万年前～6500万年前)；  
eon(s) 非常に長い期間； frigidity 厳しい寒さ

問 1 下線部(2), (3), (4), (6)の語の本文中での意味に最も近い表現を, 下の(ア)~(エ)からそれぞれ一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。

(2) tranquil

- (ア) calm
- (イ) dangerous
- (ウ) noisy
- (エ) safe

(3) withdraws

- (ア) backs away
- (イ) calls out
- (ウ) draws up
- (エ) turns in

(4) unsettling

- (ア) changeable
- (イ) disturbing
- (ウ) trivial
- (エ) unresolved

(6) intriguing

- (ア) complicated
- (イ) evident
- (ウ) interesting
- (エ) possible

問 2 下線部(1)を, that が表す内容を明らかにして, 日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3 下線部(5)を, That が表す内容を明らかにして, 日本語に訳しなさい。

問 4 下線部(7)で Drury 氏が「奇妙だ」と考える理由を、40 字以内の日本語で説明  
しなさい。ただし、句読点も 1 字に数えます。

問 5 下線部(8)が表す内容として最も適切なものを、下の(ア)～(エ)から一つ選び、記  
号で答えなさい。

(ア) 私たちが現在暮らしている地球上では、温暖化が確実に進んでおり、危険  
な状況にある。

(イ) 今後、厳しい寒さが続く時代と激しい暑さが続く時代のどちらがやってく  
るかは分からない状況にある。

(ウ) 今後、私たちが暮らす地球は、急激に寒冷化しかねない状況にある。

(エ) 私たちは、気候が今後どのように変化しようとも、それに対応していかな  
ければならない状況にある。

問 6 下線部(9)を日本語に訳しなさい。

Ⅲ 次の文章を読んで、問1～4に答えなさい。(配点20点)

Don't make jokes in America. Even in experienced hands — and I believe I speak with some authority here — a joke can be a dangerous thing.

I came to this conclusion recently while passing through Customs and Immigration\* at Logan Airport in Boston. As I approached the last immigration official, he said to me: "Any fruit or vegetables?"

I considered for a moment. "Sure, why not," I said. "I'll have four pounds of potatoes and some mangoes if they're fresh."

Instantly, I could see that I had misjudged my ( A ) and that this was not a man who ached for jokes. He looked at me with one of those slow, dark, cerebrally challenged expressions that you never want to see in a uniformed official, but especially in a US Customs and Immigration officer because, believe me, these people have powers you really do not want to put to the test. When I say they have the legal right to interrupt your passage I mean it in every possible sense.

Luckily, this man appeared to conclude that I was just incredibly stupid. "Sir," he inquired more specifically, "are you carrying any items of a fruit or vegetable nature?"

"No, sir, I am not," I answered at once and fed him the most respectful and humble look I believe I have ever mustered.

"Then keep moving, please," he said.

I left him shaking his head. I am sure that for the rest of his career he will be telling people about the foolish person who thought he was a greengrocer.

Irony is, of course, the key word here. Americans don't use it much. (I'm being ironic; they don't use it at all.) In most circumstances this is actually rather a nice thing. Irony is cousin to cynicism, and cynicism is not a virtuous emotion. Americans — not all of them, but a significant proportion — have no need for either one. Their approach to everyday encounters is trusting,

straightforward, almost touchingly literal. They don't expect any verbal sleight of hand\* in conversations, so it tends to upset them when you employ it.

We have a neighbor on whom I tested this hypothesis for the first two years we were here. It began innocently enough. <sup>(3)</sup> Soon after we moved in, he had a tree come down in his front garden. I passed his house one morning to see that he was cutting the tree into smaller pieces and loading them onto the roof of his car to take away to the tip\*. It was a bushy tree and the branches were hanging over the sides in an extravagant\* manner.

“Ah, I see you're ( B ) your car,” I remarked drily.

He looked at me for a moment. “No,” he said firmly. “I had a tree come down in the storm the other night and now I'm taking it away for disposal.”

After that, I couldn't stop myself from making little jokes with him. The crunch\*, so to speak, came when I was telling him one day about some disastrous airline trip I'd had, which had left me stranded overnight in Denver.

“Who did you fly with?” he asked.

“I don't know,” I replied. “They were all strangers.”

He looked at me with an expression that betrayed a kind of panic. “No, I meant which airline did you fly with.”

It was just after this that my wife ordered me to cease making jokes with him because apparently our chats were leaving him with headaches.

注 Customs and Immigration 税関検査と入国審査；

verbal sleight of hand 巧妙な言い回し； tip ごみ捨て場；

extravagant 過度の； crunch 緊迫した状況

問 1 空所( A ), ( B )に入る最も適切な語を, 下の(ア)~(エ)からそれぞれ一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。

( A ) : (ア) client (イ) guest (ウ) audience (エ) customer

( B ) : (ア) washing (イ) camouflaging (ウ) repairing (エ) parking

問 2 下線部(1)を, they が表す内容を明らかにして, 日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3 下線部(2)の意味に最も近いものを, 下の(ア)~(エ)から一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。

(ア) superior to

(イ) equivalent to

(ウ) contrary to

(エ) irrelevant to

問 4 下線部(3)の「この仮説」(this hypothesis)とはどのようなものか, 20 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。ただし, 句読点も 1 字に数えます。

IV 次の文章の下線部(1), (2)を英語に訳しなさい。(配点 25 点)

ここ数年、さまざまな国際集会において、とくにアジアからの出席者の間から、  
(1)「日本はほとんど西洋化してしまったように思えるのに、日本文化や日本の伝統が  
存在すると言えるのか」という質問を受ける。アジアの国々の中でも、少なくとも  
外見的には、日本は最も西洋化をとげた国であるようにみえる。衣食住などあらゆる  
日常生活の要素に、それが現れているのは明らかな事実である。

いま、こうした生活の中であって、何をもって「日本文化」、「日本の伝統」とする  
かは決して容易なことではない。アジアの人々からの質問に応答するのも、実際大  
変難しい。茶道に華道に能や歌舞伎という答えは、本当のところ答えにはならな  
い。生活の中にある「文化」でなければならない。その生活の中にあるものは、およ  
そ「伝統」と遠いものばかりである。アジアの人たちでなくとも、「日本文化」はどこ  
(2)にあるのかと疑うのは当然である。