

I 次の英文を読んで、設問に答えなさい。

Looking at a map of the Earth and the incredible amount of water on our planet, it's almost impossible to believe we could not have enough for everyone. After all, over 1,260,000,000,000,000,000 liters of water exist on earth. Oceans take up some 70 percent of the world's surface, and there is still more water underground. In fact, there's enough water to fill 100,000 swimming pools for each and every person on the planet! Yet the world's water is in trouble, and even some of the wettest countries are having a hard time meeting their drinking and other water needs.

Of course, our first concern as human beings is that we have enough water to drink. Unfortunately, only a small amount of the world's water is safe to drink, since salt water in the oceans is undrinkable. That's why it's very important to keep the drinkable water we do have safe from pollution and unclean conditions. This is especially difficult in countries without a lot of safe water or with large populations. In many places it is not happening.

If all drinkable water were divided up evenly across the world, there would be more than anyone could ever use — but more than a billion people do not have enough useable water. This problem is most severe in India, China, the Middle East and parts of Africa. Some of the trouble lies in the simple luck of where water is found. You wouldn't expect to find as much water in a desert, for instance. Also, you would expect that countries with very high populations might have trouble meeting the needs of all the people, for water or any other necessity. The problem is so bad in the Middle East that some people believe wars will one day be fought over water, just as wars over oil have been fought in the past.

We must also worry about pollution in the world's seas, rivers and oceans. Everyone knows about terrible disasters like the Exxon Valdez oil spill in the 1980s, which badly harmed almost 1,500 miles of Alaskan coastline. Yet there are other terrible forms of pollution taking place right now, including the problems of

radioactive waste, sewage, chemicals, and even toxic algae. Toxic algae can form because of pollution. They choke off oxygen, killing fish or causing diseases in seafood, which can lead to people becoming sick with food poisoning.

Pollution is also made worse by the problems of poorer nations: Every country in the world wants its people to be able to find work. Every nation wants to produce more things to buy and sell, and to increase wealth. However, many of these activities can lead to pollution. For example, simply throwing out waste material, like bags and other containers, causes a huge amount of pollution. On the other hand, who will tell a struggling country it must stop growing because it is polluting its own waters? Is it worse to not have enough drinking water, or to not have a job to make ends meet?

Many people believe there are answers to these difficult questions. One of the greatest hopes is that one day we will be able to change salt water to fresh water cheaply and easily. This is called desalination, and it involves taking the salt out of the water. There are places that can do this today, but it is very expensive. Right now desalination provides less than one percent of the fresh water in the world. Still, with the improvements in technology we will probably be able to use ocean water cheaply someday.

Until then, more practical approaches are needed. International experts say we must work on the problem of poverty, since the poorest people want to escape poverty first and worry about pollution second. Also, countries must share water supplies. Next, the world must agree on strict rules against polluters, especially among the wealthiest countries. The problem is that it is the wealthiest countries that cause the most pollution. While pollution is not a simple problem, preventing it is always cheaper than cleaning it up.

Water supply is an issue that must be taken seriously. It is important that we all have water — plants, animals, and the world itself. While we hope new technologies will one day solve some of the current problems, we must face this problem now, before it is too late.

1. 下の (a)~(j) の中から、本文の内容に合致するものに○、そうでないものに×をつけなさい。

- (a) In the foreseeable future, human beings will not have to worry about water at all because there is still a huge amount of water on the earth.
- (b) In the Middle East people have been fighting not only over oil, but also over water.
- (c) Poisonous algae formed by pollution are responsible for diseases in seafood, and eventually harm human health.
- (d) In some developing countries, poverty is thought to be worse than pollution.
- (e) Wealthy nations should develop their industry so that they can supply enough drinkable water.
- (f) Extracting pure water from sea water is possible, but it still costs too much.
- (g) Some measures ought to be taken against poverty to help reduce pollution in water.
- (h) Poorer countries pollute environments more than richer ones because they do not have enough money and technology to prevent pollution.
- (i) Cleaning up pollution costs less than its prevention.
- (j) Technologies have so far solved environmental problems, so even the crisis of water is not urgent.

2. 次の (A)~(E) の中から、本文に最も適切と思われる題名を選び、記号で答えなさい。

- (A) The Miracle of Technology
- (B) Water Shortage in Poor Countries
- (C) The Threat to Our Water
- (D) Industry and Environmental Pollution
- (E) The Incredible Amount of Water on the Earth

Ⅱ 次の英文はカリブ海にある国ハイチから出航した難民船の船倉の様子を描いたものです。下線部 (a), (b), (c) を日本語に訳しなさい。

Down in the hold, beneath the deck boards, where we were denied most of the
^(a)sun's light but none of its fire, it sometimes seemed as if there were nothing but
eyes. The boat was twenty-three feet long, powered solely by two small sails. There were forty-one people below and five above. All but myself and a photographer were Haitian citizens fleeing their country, hoping to start a new life in the United States. The hold was lined with scrap wood and framed with *hand-hewn joists, as in an old mine tunnel, and when I looked into the darkness it was impossible to tell where one person ended and another began. We were compressed together, limbs entangled, heads upon laps, a mass so dense there was scarcely room for motion. Conversation had all but ceased. If not for the shifting
^(b)and blinking of eyes there'd be little sign that anyone was alive.

Twenty hours before, the faces of the people around me seemed bright with the prospect of reaching a new country. Now, as the *arduousness of the crossing became clear, their stares conveyed the flat helplessness of fear. David, whose journey I had followed from his hometown of *Port-au-Prince, buried his head in his hands. He hadn't moved for hours. "I'm thinking of someplace else," is all he would reveal. Stephen, who had helped round up the passengers, looked anxiously out the hold's square opening, four feet over our heads, where he could see a corner of the sail and a strip of cloudless sky. "I can't swim," he admitted softly. Kenton, a thirteen-year-old boy, sat in a puddle of vomit and trembled as though crying, only there were no tears. I was concerned about the severity of Kenton's
^(c)*dehydration and could not shake the thought that he wasn't going to make it. "Some people get to America, and some people die," David had said. "Me, I'll take either one. I'm just not taking Haiti anymore."

(注)

hand-hewn joists: 手斧で削った船の横材

arduousness: つらさ, 厳しさ

Port-au-Prince: ハイチ共和国の首都

dehydration: the loss of too much water from the body

Ⅲ 日本に滞在している外国人の学生に次のように聞かれたとします。あなたならどう答え、どんな理由説明をしますか。英語で解答欄におさまる長さで書きなさい。

“Why do so many young Japanese have their own cellular phone? Most of my Japanese friends have a ‘keitai.’ Do I need to get one?”

IV 次の文は日本語を話せるアメリカ人との対話の一部です。下線部 (a), (b) を英語に訳しなさい。

「また、こういうこともありました。ボクとある日本人の共通の友人が入院したときです。その人が“彼は病院でさびしがっていますよ。きっと”と言うのです。
(a) ボクは病院には多くの人が出て、さびしいわけがないと思った。“どうしてさびしがるのですか”ときいてしまった。話していてようやく、ボクに見舞いに行った方がよいと言いたかったのだとわかったのです。はっきりそう言えばなんでもないので、言いたいことをその通りに言わない。暗示するだけです。それでわかりにくい」

「見舞いに行きなさい、 と言っては、露骨で、差し出がましくきこえると、日本人は感じるのですね。 日本人同士では、それとなく言えばだいたい通じます」
(b)

(外山滋比古 『英語の発想・日本語の発想』より)