

次の英文を読み、設問に答えよ。

Iceland, an island in the middle of the North Atlantic, is distinctive because it was the last country in Europe to be settled. Nobody lived there before the first Viking settlers arrived in Iceland in the late 9th century. Due to Iceland's geographical location, it was mostly outside the influence of contemporary culture in Europe and America until the late nineteenth century. Even today, it is one of the most thinly populated countries in the world. The foundation of Icelandic culture is the Icelandic language, which has a literary tradition that dates back to the ancient Icelandic Sagas written in the 13th and 14th centuries. These are stories of violent battles, traditions, and family bonds. A strong literary tradition still thrives in modern Iceland, and Icelandic authors publish more books per person than in any other country in the world.

Icelandic is a language whose complex grammar remains much as it was a thousand years ago. But what makes this language quite special is that, unlike most languages, when it needs a new word it rarely imports one. Instead, people create a new word that is rooted in the language's ancient past, a word that looks, sounds, and behaves like Icelandic. The Icelandic word for computer, for example, is a combination of the word for "number" and the word for "prophetess." The word for web browser comes from the verb that means "to wander." Although Icelandic vocabulary is ancient, it is perfectly comfortable coping with 21st-century concepts such as a touchscreen.

Unfortunately, as much as it is key to Icelanders' sense of national and cultural identity, Icelandic is spoken today by barely 340,000 people—but Siri and Alexa are not among them. In today's age of smartphones, voice recognition, and digital personal assistants such as Siri and Alexa, Icelandic is sinking in an ocean of English. Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson, a professor of Icelandic language and linguistics at the University of Iceland, says this is an example of digital extinction, "when a majority language in the real world becomes a minority language in the digital world."

Secondary school teachers already report 15-year-olds holding entire playground conversations in English. When language specialists show a picture of something to much younger children, they often say they know what the English word is for it, but not the Icelandic. Because young Icelanders in particular now spend such a large part of their lives in an almost entirely English digital world, they are no longer getting the input they need to build a strong base in the grammar and vocabulary of their native tongue. "We may actually be seeing a generation growing up without a proper mother tongue," Rögnvaldsson says.

The language has survived major foreign influences in the past, under Danish rule, for

example. The impact of English, however, is “unique in scale of impact, intensity of contact, and speed of change,” according to Rögnvaldsson. “Smartphones didn’t exist 10 years ago. Today almost everyone is in almost full-time contact with English.” The range and volume of English readily accessible to Icelanders has greatly expanded, and most of the English language content is more relevant and more fascinating than ever before, says Iris Edda Nowenstein. She is a PhD student working with Rögnvaldsson on a three-year study of the impact of digital language on 5,000 people. “Before, outside of school you’d do sports, learn an instrument, or read in Icelandic,” she says. “Now on phones, tablets, computers, and TVs, there are countless games, films, videos, and songs. You talk with Siri or Alexa. And it’s all in English.”

Icelandic’s relatively few speakers are both unusually skilled in English and eager users of new technology. Nowenstein notes that English itself is not the enemy because, in principle, being able to speak several languages is obviously a good thing. The problem is that the amount and variety of English online are overwhelming. Nor is Icelandic alone. According to research, as many as 21 European languages are potentially at risk of digital extinction.

While Icelandic faces considerable pressure in the digital world, it is also under pressure in the real world. The country welcomed almost two million foreign visitors last year, four times the 2008 figure. Immigrants now make up 10% of the population, a five-fold increase in two decades. Foreign workers on short-term contracts in fish processing or tourism rarely need to master Icelandic, with its complicated grammar. On the other hand, in the bars, restaurants, and shops of downtown Reykjavík, it can be a struggle for locals to get served in their native language. Rögnvaldsson explains that the obvious worry is that young people will start to think: “Okay, so we can’t use this language abroad. If we’re not using it much in Iceland either, then what’s the point?”

Digital extinction, however, is the biggest concern. Google has an Icelandic engineer, so it has added Icelandic speech recognition to its Android mobile operating system. However, other internet giants have no interest in offering Icelandic options for a population of only 338,000 speakers. “For them, it costs the same to digitally support Icelandic as it does to digitally support French,” Rögnvaldsson says. “If Apple or Amazon look at the costs, they’ll never do it. It just doesn’t make business sense.” Max Naylor, a UK researcher also involved in the study, says he had contacted Apple several times but never received a reply. “We’re not expecting a fully-functioning operating system, but we hope that they will at least open themselves up to collaboration,” he says.

Although Icelandic versions do exist in some software, says Nowenstein, they are not perfect.

“You can switch Facebook to Icelandic, but it’s not good at Icelandic grammar. People get tired of seeing their names in the wrong grammatical form, and they switch it back to English.” The Icelandic government is setting aside 450 million krónur (over four million U.S. dollars) a year over the next five years for a language technology fund. It promotes projects that aim to develop and increase the use of Icelandic language technology. It will be used to produce open-source materials for developers, but the challenge of making Icelandic software for everything from social media to self-driving cars is immense.

Icelandic has survived for well over a thousand years, and few experts worry that it will die in the very near future. “It remains the majority, official language of this nation, used for education and government,” Nowenstein explains. “But the concern is that it is being used less and less in more and more areas, so it will be considered second best in entire areas of people’s lives. There is a concern that Icelanders could end up understanding much less of their cultural heritage.” In the meantime, Naylor adds, literacy rates among Icelandic children are falling as their vocabulary shrinks. “We could soon have a situation where Icelanders will be native in neither Icelandic nor English,” he says. “When identity is so tied up with language, it’s hard to predict what that will mean.”

問1 *Choose the best answer based on the reading.*

1. Iceland’s culture is unique because ...
 - A. the country was first settled by the Vikings.
 - B. the Icelandic population is large and is still growing.
 - C. the Sagas are stories about wars and customs.
 - D. until recently Europe had little influence on Iceland.

2. How has the Icelandic language adapted to modern life?
 - A. It has simplified its complicated grammar.
 - B. It has imported a large number of foreign words.
 - C. It creates new words based on ancient ones.
 - D. It borrows its technological words from English.

3. What is the meaning of “digital extinction”?
 - A. When a language is spoken by fewer than half a million people.
 - B. When Siri and Alexa are not available in that language.
 - C. When a language is rarely used in the digital world.
 - D. When the speakers of a language also use English.

4. Why might young Icelanders lose their first language?
 - A. They speak with each other in Icelandic after class.
 - B. They spend a lot of time online in an English environment.
 - C. They study word cards in English, but not in Icelandic.
 - D. They don’t want to study the grammar and vocabulary of Icelandic.

5. The impact of English on Icelandic has been so strong because ...
 - A. education in Iceland now takes place mainly in English.
 - B. the Danish language did not have much impact.
 - C. there is so much interesting English content online.
 - D. children enjoy reading and playing online games in Icelandic.

6. Which is NOT a cause of the digital extinction of Icelandic?
 - A. People in Iceland have a high level of English.
 - B. Icelanders are interested in using new technologies.
 - C. Other European languages are becoming popular.
 - D. There is a large variety of English resources online.

7. In the real world, why is the Icelandic language under pressure?
 - A. It is possible to live and work in Reykjavík without using it.
 - B. Icelandic is an easy language for immigrants to master.
 - C. Most bars, restaurants, and shops in Reykjavík use Icelandic.
 - D. Foreign workers need to master Icelandic grammar.

8. What is the main reason why large internet companies do not offer Icelandic options?
 - A. There are no Icelandic engineers to create programs.
 - B. It is not cost-effective given the small population of users.
 - C. There is not a strong interest from speakers of Icelandic.
 - D. The operating system is not fully functioning yet.

9. What does the Icelandic government project hope to do?
- A. Develop cars that are self-driving.
 - B. Simplify the Icelandic language.
 - C. Teach developers the Icelandic language.
 - D. Help developers create Icelandic software.
10. What do experts say is happening to the Icelandic language now?
- A. It is being used in fewer and fewer areas of daily life.
 - B. Its vocabulary is increasing at a rapid rate.
 - C. It is no longer the official language of the country.
 - D. Its cultural background is no longer understood.

問2 *What are the following facts used to demonstrate? Complete the chart. You can use the same choice more than once.*

The following fact...	is used to demonstrate...
There is an Icelandic word for computer.	(11)
Smartphones have become popular.	(12)
There are more and more immigrants.	(13)
It's difficult to order food in a restaurant using Icelandic.	(14)

- A. Icelandic is being replaced by English in the real world.
- B. Icelandic is being replaced by English in the digital world.
- C. Icelandic grammar is complex.
- D. Icelandic has kept its ancient vocabulary.

問3 *Mark A for TRUE and B for FALSE for each of the following statements.*

- 15. In Iceland, more books are published than in any other country.
- 16. In the Icelandic language, the word for a touchscreen is “touchscreen.”
- 17. Icelandic is not the only language in Europe that is at risk of digital extinction.
- 18. Most experts don't think that Icelandic will die in the near future.

2

次の 19 ～ 26 の空所に入れる語句として最も適切なものを A ～ D の中から選べ。

19. X: Do you understand what I'm trying to say here?
Y: Actually, it would be helpful if you gave us a () example.
A. following B. definite C. favorable D. concrete
20. X: Did the police ever find out who the criminal was?
Y: No, and nobody knows what actually happened. We can only ().
A. speculate B. differentiate C. concentrate D. isolate
21. X: Sarah is an amazing photographer!
Y: The () for her art comes from her experience as a journalist in Afghanistan.
A. inspiration B. conservation C. participation D. combination
22. X: How was Michelle's performance?
Y: Awesome! It () all of our expectations.
A. bypassed B. surpassed C. equaled D. achieved
23. X: I gave Mary a birthday gift, but she didn't say anything.
Y: What? When someone gives you something, you need to show ()!
A. improvement B. sympathy C. gratitude D. attitude
24. X: Oh, are they your cats? How cute!
Y: Yeah, they are twins and look quite similar, but there are () differences between them.
A. couple B. double C. gentle D. subtle
25. X: I've always wanted to learn how to play the guitar.
Y: It's easy. You can learn to play it with () practice.
A. partial B. ethical C. minimal D. visual
26. X: This is my first time at this restaurant, but all the food was amazing!
Y: I know! I loved the creamy () of the pumpkin soup.
A. material B. structure C. texture D. pattern

4 それぞれの会話の空所に入れる文として最も適切なものを A ～ D の中から選べ。ただし、同じ文が2箇所に入ることはない。

Woman: Excuse me, I saw that my flight to Sapporo has been canceled. (37) My flight is HG 202.

Man: Just a moment. Let me check. Yes, the flight has been canceled. New Chitose Airport is closed down. There is a severe snowstorm in that part of Hokkaido.

Woman: Oh, no! (38)

Man: The airline will provide you with accommodations for tonight.

Woman: (39)

Man: Yes. That's right. You should pick up a voucher for the hotel and meals at Gate 5.

Woman: You mean over there where people are lining up? OK. Thanks.

- A. Can I book another flight?
- B. Could you tell me why?
- C. You mean they will book a room for me?
- D. What should I do?

Woman: I'm interested in renting a bicycle. Could you tell me how much it costs?

Man: It's 3,000 yen per day. (40)

Woman: Oh, good. Actually, my husband is joining me. (41)

Man: If it's two people, then the rental is 2,000 yen per bike.

Woman: That sounds great. We'll rent two bikes then. (42) I'm sure you do.

Man: I'm sorry, we only accept cash. Will that be OK?

Woman: Oh, no.

- A. How much is the discount?
- B. Do you take credit cards?
- C. You get a discount if you rent two.
- D. I don't have a credit card.

- 5 次の文章の空所に入れる文として最も適切なものを A ～ D の中から選べ。ただし、同じ文が2箇所に入ることはない。

Scientists don't have exact reasons for why we sleep, but they agree that some things contribute to our need for sleep. One reason is to relax and refresh tired muscles. (43) Some sleep experts believe that our brains will not work well unless given time off from normal, conscious activity. However, we don't sleep the way we do because of the pattern of day and night. Rather, we have a kind of biological clock: the chemicals in our bodies cause reactions that make us want to sleep once within a 24-hour period. (44) People who suffer from insomnia, or sleeplessness, are called insomniacs. They have trouble falling asleep, or they wake up every few hours night after night. Because many Americans experience insomnia, hundreds of products are sold to help them sleep. (45) Then there are head-warmers, knee pillows, and recordings of soft music or gentle ocean waves. The list goes on and on, with some strange and expensive products. There are many good reasons to stay awake, but it seems that for the sake of both our bodies and our wallets, we should try to get a good night's sleep.

- A. Often, they have trouble getting back to sleep.
- B. The most common are sleeping pills, which fill pharmacy shelves.
- C. Another is to allow our brains to rest.
- D. Despite this, some people can't sleep well no matter how tired they are.

6

Read the following information, and answer the questions.

(1部および工学部受験者のみ)

Museum of London Gallery Tours and Walks for Groups

Tours inside the Museum:

- Exploring specific periods of London history in detail
- Exploring our temporary exhibitions and special displays
- Behind-the-scene visits to the world's largest archaeological archives
- Museum highlights (audio guides available in French, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, and Portuguese for £5)

Tours outside the Museum:

Themed walking tours in key historical neighborhoods, focusing on fascinating aspects of London's history.

With each tour, you get our essential guide to London's history.

How to Book:

Use our online booking form to tell us about your group and what you would like to see. Looking for something more customized? Speak to our box office and see what we can arrange for you. If you are a member of a travel agency, contact us about our special rates and commission sales.

Prices and Group Size:

- Museum Tours: £10 per person (45 minutes); £12 per person (60 to 90 minutes).
- Themed Walking Tours: £18 per person (90 minutes).
- Customized Museum or Walking Tours: £20 per person (120 minutes)

Special Rates:

In order to qualify for the special group rates, bookings must be for a minimum of 10 people, otherwise a minimum flat fee will apply. If you are a smaller group, you may wish to book one of our public walks or tours. In general, our gallery and walking tours accommodate 20 to 25 people. If your group size exceeds this, please contact the museum box office to discuss how we can accommodate your group.

46. Other than English, audio guides are offered in how many languages?
- A. Two.
 - B. Three.
 - C. Four.
 - D. Five.
47. Where do people on the themed walking tours visit?
- A. The city streets.
 - B. Temporary exhibitions.
 - C. Special displays.
 - D. Archives.
48. What will people on the museum tours receive for free?
- A. An audio guide.
 - B. A historical guide.
 - C. A list of displays.
 - D. A customized mug.
49. A group can make a reservation for a tour by ...
- A. going to a travel agency.
 - B. going to the gallery.
 - C. filling in the online booking form.
 - D. talking to a museum guide.
50. How much will a group pay per person for a museum tour of 90 minutes?
- A. £10.
 - B. £12.
 - C. £18.
 - D. £20.
51. Which group can receive the special discount rate?
- A. A group of three people.
 - B. A group of five people.
 - C. A group of eight people.
 - D. A group of eleven people.

52. Special arrangements will be necessary for groups of ...
- A. less than 10 people.
 - B. 10 to 18 people.
 - C. 20 people.
 - D. more than 25 people.