

英 語

(解答番号 ～)

〔 I 〕 次の英文を読んで、問 1 ～問 5 に答えなさい。

(解答番号は ～) (32点)

編集部注：問題文中の網掛け部分は個人名を置き換えています。

Aging Japanese town faces challenge as foreign population grows by 20 times in 20 years

Aside from an aging population, a town in southwestern Japan faces new challenges as its foreign resident population has grown 20 times larger over the last 20 years.

In the Ariake Sea-facing town of Nagasu, where one in three residents is aged 65 and above, young foreigners and the elderly are living (ア). In the early mornings and evenings, it is common to see foreigners riding bicycles between the industrial area and residential neighborhoods.
(a)

Nagasu's population peaked at 18,627 in 1998 and has since declined to 15,504, with the ratio of people aged 65 or older at 36.6%, higher than the national average of 29%. (イ), the number of foreign nationals living here while working in the town's *shipyards and factories increased from 36 in 2003 to 749 as of September 2023, accounting for roughly one in 20 residents.
(b) By country of origin, half are from Vietnam, followed by the Philippines.

At first glance, it seems as though coexistence with foreigners is (ウ), but mixed feelings have appeared among locals. A , 84, a board member of the local community association, recalled, "At first, the atmosphere was friendly, but as the number of people from abroad increased, some began to cause problems."
(A) ~~~~~

At first, in response to requests to grow Vietnamese vegetables, locals lent their fields and harvested them together. They taught foreign nationals

how to sort garbage and invited them to local festivals.

The situation changed five or six years ago, when the number of foreigners began to increase. In apartment buildings home to many foreign nationals, noise from karaoke rang out as people gathered until late at night. There were also problems with people gathering at the beach or in ^(c)vacant lots and not cleaning up after themselves.

Even if trouble occurs, locals do not know where they are employed, and they cannot communicate in Japanese. There is a limit to what the community can do on its own.

The local government is not *negligent. The town set up an advisory service in April 2021 that can provide assistance in Vietnamese and English, and has also held Japanese language classes. An official said, “With the outflow of young workers to urban areas, foreigners are largely supporting the town in terms of tax revenue,” but the official revealed that the town has never *arbitrated problems between foreigners and local residents on an individual basis. The national government also ^(d)established a foreign resident support center to receive consultations on employment, human rights and other issues, but it has not dealt with disputes between local residents.

^(B)One 34-year-old Filipino man living in the town came to Japan a year ago and works as a *welder. After returning home, he cooks dinner and watches videos on the internet with the Filipino coworkers he lives with. He looks forward to karaoke on his days off. He sends home about 50,000 yen to his wife and parents from his monthly income of about 150,000 yen, which is three times what he earned in the Philippines.

Outside of his workplace, the man has no (工) to interact with Japanese people. He said he would like to make Japanese friends, but the language is difficult. Though he knows about the local government’s Sunday Japanese classes, they fall on his only day off in a week, when he wants to rest. He added that he wants to work in Japan for at least four more years

and save money to build a house for his parents.

A representative at a local business where one in three employees is a foreigner revealed the reality of the situation, saying, “As the number of people speaking the same language increases in the town, they can lead comfortable daily lives, so their (オ) Japanese is decreasing.”

In Nagasu, elderly Japanese and young Southeast Asians live together as neighbors. While the Japanese government is expanding its acceptance of foreigners as a labor force, measures to support their settlement are being delayed, apparently *straining the community.

*〔注〕 shipyard : 造船所 negligent : 怠慢な arbitrate : 仲裁する
welder : 溶接工 strain : 負担をかける

問 1 空所(ア)～(オ)に入れるのに最も適した語(句)を①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| (ア) | ① day by day | ② far apart | |
| | ③ for a long time | ④ side by side | 1 |
| (イ) | ① For instance | ② In fact | |
| | ③ Meanwhile | ④ So | 2 |
| (ウ) | ① getting closer | ② going well | |
| | ③ growing worse | ④ taking off | 3 |
| (エ) | ① decisions | ② desire | |
| | ③ opportunities | ④ problems | 4 |
| (オ) | ① decision to learn | ② fear of learning | |
| | ③ motivation to learn | ④ policy about learning | 5 |

問2 下線部(a)～(e)の語(句)の意味に最も近いものを①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----|
| (a) ① easy | ② impossible | |
| ③ noisy | ④ usual | 6 |
| (b) ① about | ② at most | |
| ③ fully | ④ particularly | 7 |
| (c) ① empty | ② holiday | |
| ③ playing | ④ popular | 8 |
| (d) ① brought up | ② set up | |
| ③ signed | ④ took over | 9 |
| (e) ① directors | ② guides | |
| ③ students | ④ workers | 10 |

問3 本文の内容を考えて、次の(あ)、(い)に最も適したものを①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

(あ) Which of the following is an example of the underlined part (A)?

11

- ① Joining the local festivals without permission
- ② Leaving trash behind after spending time on the beach
- ③ Making a lot of noise until late at night at the factory
- ④ Using vegetable fields owned by local residents

(い) Which of the following is NOT true about the underlined part (B)?

12

- ① He attends Japanese classes on Sundays.
- ② He makes his own meals after work.
- ③ He sends some of the money he earns in Japan to his family.
- ④ He thinks that the Japanese language is difficult.

問4 次の質問について、本文の内容から正しいと判断できるものを①～⑤の中から二つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

What services are offered by the local and national governments to support foreign residents? 13 14

- ① Advice in languages other than Japanese
- ② English language classes
- ③ Discounts to enjoy karaoke
- ④ A support center
- ⑤ Help to solve conflicts between foreign and local residents

問5 次の①～⑤の中から本文の内容と一致するものを二つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。 15 16

- ① In Nagasu, the number of residents aged 65 and above has increased 20 times in the last 20 years.
- ② Many people from Vietnam and the Philippines have come to Nagasu to work in the local factories.
- ③ Some foreign people in Nagasu are willing to help the elderly.
- ④ The feelings of the local residents changed as the foreign resident population grew.
- ⑤ With the support of the local government, the situation is dramatically improving.

〔Ⅱ〕 次の英文を読んで、問1～問4に答えなさい。

(解答番号は 17 ～ 30)(28点)

Spending time in green spaces can provide big health benefits

When did you last spend time in nature? We're not talking about walking down the street or riding in a car or bus. Perhaps you were playing in a field or hiking in a woodland. Maybe you were just lying on the ground, watching birds among the branches of a tree. Or observing bees and butterflies as they ^(a)sip nectar from flowers. If it's been a while, you might want to try it—because research shows we get big health benefits from spending time in such natural spaces.

It's not just about the health benefits of playing sports or doing other outdoor exercise. The simple act of being out in nature can make you feel better, both mentally and physically.

The (ア) stress levels that people experience in nature can improve physical health, in part by lowering blood pressure. Outside, people also may be more likely to socialize with neighbors. Those connections can help people feel less lonely and generally happier. They also may lead to more exercise when someone starts up a game of *tag or frisbee—or maybe suggests a bike ride. Physical activity brings (イ) benefits, such as better sleep and a stronger *immune system.

Nature itself can boost physical health in other ways, too, according to Professor Pescador Jimenez of Boston University. Breathing in dirty air can also boost levels of stress *hormones and lead to other (ウ) changes. But plants, according to data, can absorb some air pollutants linked to heart and lung problems.

Plants even reduce loud noises that can be stressful and perhaps even cause tinnitus, or a ringing in the ears. Here, the type of green space may make a difference. As you might expect, Pescador Jimenez says, “Noise can ^(b) be better absorbed by trees as opposed to grass.”

Some studies even suggest that time outside can aid our vision by giving us things to shift our literal focus—from near to far and back again. Sometimes we can't make it outside. But being able to view green spaces from a window is still good for us.

One study looked at people recovering from surgery. Some had rooms with views of green spaces. Others didn't. Those who could see nature got better faster. They left the hospital more than a day earlier, on average. Those with views of nature also reported feeling less pain than those without the view.

^(c)In general, “we find that greenness has a higher benefit among urban settings,” Pescador Jimenez says. That's especially ^(d)true of urban neighborhoods where people have less money, she adds. When communities plant street trees or other greenery, people in these areas tend to see a boost in health.

What can you do to *reap the benefits of nature? Get out into a park for a walk or to play. Plant a tree, if you can. A tree's *canopy of shading leaves “actually helps a lot on those hot summer days,” Pescador Jimenez points out. It cools the area, (エ) air pollutants and lowers the volume on *honking cars and sirens.

Can't plant a tree? Try a flowerpot or two on the balcony or *windowsill. If that's not ^(e)an option, indoor houseplants work, too.

*〔注〕	tag : 鬼ごっこ	immune system : 免疫系
	hormone : ホルモン	reap : (恩恵などを)受ける
	canopy : ひさし	honk : クラクションを鳴らす
	windowsill : 窓の敷居	

問1 空所(ア)～(エ)に入れるのに最も適した語を①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----|
| (ア) ① certain | ② higher | |
| ③ lower | ④ regular | 17 |
| (イ) ① additional | ② mature | |
| ③ nervous | ④ spiritual | 18 |
| (ウ) ① harmful | ② hopeful | |
| ③ thin | ④ useful | 19 |
| (エ) ① generates | ② increases | |
| ③ measures | ④ removes | 20 |

問2 下線部(a)～(e)の語(句)の意味に最も近いものを①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----|
| (a) ① bite | ② drink | |
| ③ make | ④ wipe | 21 |
| (b) ① be difficult | ② be effective | |
| ③ get well | ④ get worse | 22 |
| (c) ① Actually | ② Exactly | |
| ③ Immediately | ④ Usually | 23 |
| (d) ① aware of | ② kind of | |
| ③ rare in | ④ the case with | 24 |
| (e) ① a choice | ② a loss | |
| ③ a reason | ④ an aim | 25 |

問3 本文の内容を考えて、次の(あ)、(い)に最も適したものを①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

(あ) What kind of effect do plants have according to the article? 26

- ① After seeing plants, people can strengthen their immune systems.
- ② People can sleep well when they have plants near their beds.
- ③ Plants can get rid of some pollutants in the air.
- ④ Plants have good effects on people only in the countryside.

(い) Which of the following is true for hospital patients who had a view of nature from their rooms? 27

- ① Most of them had lower blood pressure.
- ② Nature completely removed their pain.
- ③ Noise in the rooms decreased.
- ④ They got out of the hospital earlier on average.

問 4 次の①～⑧の中から本文の内容と一致するものを三つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

28

29

30

- ① When people are outside, they have more chances to communicate with others, making them feel happier.
- ② Plants in dirty air cannot benefit human health.
- ③ Grass absorbs more noise than trees in city areas.
- ④ Even just viewing some green spaces has good effects on our health.
- ⑤ In suburbs, green spaces have better health effects on people than in city areas.
- ⑥ People's health can improve when planting trees in urban areas, according to Pescador Jimenez.
- ⑦ If people want to get some benefits from nature, they should visit mountain areas.
- ⑧ The health benefits of putting plants on the balcony are not promising.

〔Ⅲ〕 次の(1)～(10)の空所に入れるのに最も適したものを①～④の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号をマークしなさい。

(解答番号は

31

 ～

40

)(20点)

French Emperor Napoleon thought it was important for his soldiers (1) good food when they went on an *expedition. He had a preserved food contest with a prize. Nicolas Appert, (2) was a French inventor, won the award for inventing bottled food. This is said to be the first bottled food in the world. Later, Peter Duran from Great Britain had an idea to use tinfoil (3) glass. This was the first canned food in the world.

*〔注〕 expedition : 遠征

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----|
| (1) ① ate | ② having eaten | |
| ③ to eat | ④ to have eaten | 31 |

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|----|
| (2) ① how | ② that | |
| ③ which | ④ who | 32 |

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----|
| (3) ① because of | ② in spite of | |
| ③ instead of | ④ thanks to | 33 |

- (4) If I (4) about the event, I could have joined it.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----|
| ① had known | ② have known | |
| ③ knew | ④ know | 34 |

- (5) Do you know the store (5) Jenny bought a new bike?

- | | | |
|---------|---------|----|
| ① what | ② when | |
| ③ where | ④ which | 35 |

- (6) (6) of studying, she decided to take a break.

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----|
| ① Have tired | ② Tired | |
| ③ To be tired | ④ To tire | 36 |

- (7) Fear of failure (7) me from trying new things.

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|----|
| ① caused | ② helped | |
| ③ made | ④ prevented | 37 |

〔Ⅳ〕 次の(ア)～(カ)の日本語の意味を表すように、①～⑥の語(句)を並べ替えて英文を完成し、3番目と5番目に来る語(句)の番号をマークしなさい。ただし文頭に来るものも小文字になっています。(解答番号は 41 ～ 60)(20点)

(ア) 会報は隔週土曜日にウェブサイトに掲載される。

The newsletter _____ 41 _____ 42 _____ our website.

- | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| ① every | ② is | ③ on |
| ④ other | ⑤ posted | ⑥ Saturday |

(イ) これ以上彼らを待っても無駄だ。

_____ 43 _____ 44 _____ them anymore.

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| ① for | ② is | ③ no |
| ④ there | ⑤ use | ⑥ waiting |

(ウ) 十分な資金のない人々を私は助けたい。

I want to _____ 45 _____ 46 _____ enough money.

- | | | |
|-------|---------|--------|
| ① do | ② have | ③ help |
| ④ not | ⑤ those | ⑥ who |

(エ) その展示は私が思ったよりかなりおもしろかった。

The exhibition was _____ 47 _____ 48 _____ it would be.

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------------|
| ① far | ② I | ③ interesting |
| ④ more | ⑤ than | ⑥ thought |

(オ) この歌を聞くといつも彼は幸せな子供時代を思い出す。

This song always _____ 49 _____ 50 _____.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|
| ① childhood | ② happy | ③ him |
| ④ his | ⑤ of | ⑥ reminds |

(カ) なぜあなたはフランス語を学びたいと思ったのですか。

What _____ 51 _____ 52 _____ ?

- | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| ① French | ② made | ③ study |
| ④ to | ⑤ want | ⑥ you |

(キ) その仕事の申し出を受けるかどうか迷っている。

I haven't _____ **53** _____ **54** _____ accept the job offer or not.

- | | | |
|--------|--------|-----------|
| ① made | ② mind | ③ my |
| ④ to | ⑤ up | ⑥ whether |

(ク) 先生は私たちに授業で日本語を話さないように言った。

Our teacher _____ **55** _____ **56** _____ her class.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|----------|
| ① in | ② Japanese | ③ not to |
| ④ speak | ⑤ told | ⑥ us |

(ケ) 書くスペースがなくなったときは別の紙を使うことができる。

When you _____ **57** _____ **58** _____, you can use another piece of paper.

- | | | |
|---------|-------|---------|
| ① of | ② out | ③ run |
| ④ space | ⑤ to | ⑥ write |

(コ) この新しい機械により、多くの時間が省かれる。

This new machine will _____ **59** _____ **60** _____.

- | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|
| ① a | ② lot | ③ of |
| ④ save | ⑤ time | ⑥ you |