

# 英 語

(解答番号  ~ )

〔 I 〕 次の英文を読んで、問 1 ~ 問 4 に答えなさい。

(解答番号は  ~ ) (32点)

## Black Cats and Broken Mirrors

Do you think that it is bad luck to walk under a ladder or break a mirror? Do you think that black cats and the number 13 are unlucky? Do you have a lucky number? Do you have a lucky shirt, hat, or pen? If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, you might be \*superstitious. But don’t worry—you’re not (ア). There are more than one million superstitions, and most people believe at least one or two of them.

Many people are superstitious about numbers. They think that there are lucky numbers and unlucky numbers. The number 13 is often considered unlucky. In some parts of the world, buildings have no thirteenth floor and streets have no houses with the number 13. In Japan, the number 4 is considered unlucky because in Japanese, the word *four* is pronounced the same as the word *death*. Japanese people never give gifts of four knives, four napkins, or four of anything.

What are lucky numbers? Seven is a lucky number in many places, and the number 8 is considered lucky in Japan and China. In China, businesses often open on August 8, and many couples <sup>(a)</sup> register to get married at eight minutes past eight o’clock on August 8.

Superstitions about numbers are so widespread <sup>(b)</sup> that some people—called numerologists—make a living giving advice about numbers. In 1937, when the Toyoda family of Japan wanted to form a car company, they asked a numerologist if “Toyoda” would be a good name for the company. The numerologist said it would not be. He explained that “Toyoda” took ten

strokes of the pen to write, and 10 was not a lucky number. “Toyota,” however, took eight strokes to write, and 8 was a very lucky number. The numerologist recommended “Toyota” as a better name for the company. The family ( トヨタ ). As a result, millions of people drive “Toyotas” and not “Toyodas.”

In addition to superstitions about numbers, there are many other kinds of superstitions. There are superstitions about eating, sleeping, sneezing, and \*itching. There are superstitions about animals, holidays, and horseshoes. There are even superstitions about superstitions. Those superstitions tell people how to reverse bad luck.

For example, in many parts of the world, spilling salt is bad luck. Throwing salt, ( 塩 ), is good luck. So, people who spill salt throw a little of the spilled salt over their left shoulder. Throwing the spilled salt reverses the bad luck. When the Japanese bump heads, they immediately bump heads again. According to a Japanese superstition, the first bump means their parents will die, but the second bump “erases” the first bump. To reverse bad luck in general, people turn around three times, turn their pockets inside out, or put their hats on backwards. In the United States, baseball players sometimes wear their caps inside out and backwards when their team is losing. It looks silly, but the baseball players ( 野球手 ) if it helps them win the game.

Because there are so many superstitions, it is not surprising that some of them are \*contradictory. In Germany, it is good luck when the left eye \*twitches and bad luck when the right eye twitches. In Malaysia, it is exactly the opposite: A twitching right eye means good luck, and a twitching left eye means bad luck. Accidentally putting on clothes inside out brings good luck in Pakistan but bad luck in Costa Rica. In Chile, unmarried people won’t take the last piece of food on the plate because it means they will never marry. In Thailand, unmarried people take the last piece because it means they will

marry someone good-looking.

Some superstitions have been with us for so long that they have become customs. In many parts of the world, it is polite to say “Health” or “God bless you” when someone sneezes. People used to think that the soul could escape from the body during a sneeze. They said “God bless you” to protect people from losing their souls. Today, we no longer believe that people who sneeze are in danger of losing their souls, but we say “God bless you” anyway. We say it not because we are superstitious, but because we are polite.

Almost everyone is at least a little superstitious — even people who say (オ). One woman says that when she got married, her aunt gave her white bath towels. “Never buy purple towels,” her aunt said. “If you use purple towels, your marriage will end.” Does the woman believe that superstition? “No, of course not,” she says. “It’s silly.” Does she use purple towels? “Well, no,” she answers. “Why take chances?”

\*〔注〕    superstitious : 迷信を信じる            itching : かゆみ  
              contradictory : 矛盾している        twitch : ひきつる

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 alone                        | ② common      |   |
|     | ③ familiar                     | ④ similar     | 1 |
| (イ) | ① didn't focus on the number   |               |   |
|     | ② gave him some advice         |               |   |
|     | ③ thought little of his advice |               |   |
|     | ④ took his advice              |               | 2 |
| (ウ) | ① for example                  | ② however     |   |
|     | ③ in other words               | ④ in short    | 3 |
| (エ) | ① ask                          | ② don't do it |   |
|     | ③ don't mind                   | ④ understand  | 4 |
| (オ) | ① everyone is                  | ② no one is   |   |
|     | ③ they are                     | ④ they aren't | 5 |

問2 下線部(a)～(e)の語(句)の意味に近いものを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 break up       | ② happen        |    |
|     | ③ sign up        | ④ write down    | 6  |
| (b) | ① bright         | ② common        |    |
|     | ③ simple         | ④ spacious      | 7  |
| (c) | ① create         | ② make up       |    |
|     | ③ repeat         | ④ turn around   | 8  |
| (d) | ① especially     | ② in most cases |    |
|     | ③ in return      | ④ particular    | 9  |
| (e) | ① at the risk of | ② for fear of   |    |
|     | ③ in the name of | ④ instead of    | 10 |

問3 本文の内容を考えて、次の(あ)～(う)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) Why do many people still say “Health” or “God bless you” these days when someone sneezes?

- ① To be polite by saying so.
- ② To keep them from losing their souls.
- ③ To protect themselves from bad luck.
- ④ To wish for a cold to heal.

(い) The underlined sentence (A) means that .

- ① it's silly to believe the superstition about towels
- ② the woman doesn't care about buying purple towels
- ③ the woman won't use purple towels
- ④ the woman's aunt uses white bath towels

(う) Which of the following is NOT mentioned as things people do because of superstitions?

- ① Not giving someone a set of four things as a gift
- ② Not using the number 13 in buildings
- ③ Throwing food away
- ④ Wearing caps inside out

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。  14  15  16

- ① Breaking a mirror is considered bad luck all over the world.
- ② The number four is unlucky in Japan because the word “four” in Japanese can be associated with death.
- ③ The Toyoda family didn’t name the car company “Toyoda” because its number of strokes was not a lucky number.
- ④ In every part of the world, salt is an item that brings good luck.
- ⑤ Japanese people bump their heads two times when their parent dies to shake off their bad luck.
- ⑥ Some baseball players in the United States wear their T-shirts inside out for luck.
- ⑦ An event may be considered to bring good luck in one country and bad luck in another.
- ⑧ When someone gets married, many people give them white towels to wish them happiness.

〔Ⅱ〕 次の英文を読んで、問1～問4に答えなさい。

(解答番号は  ～  ) (28点)

### Japanese Women Drawn to \*Rickshaw Pulling

Rickshaw comes from a Japanese word that means “human-powered vehicle.” The vehicle was first used in 19th-century Japan and then in other Asian countries to transport passengers. Rickshaw pullers are traditionally male. Through social media, some Japanese women have been drawn to the profession. And now, they have developed a strong local and international following. Yuka Akimoto is one of the women who have chosen to pull rickshaws in Tokyo. “I don’t deny it was extremely hard at the beginning,” Akimoto said, as the rickshaw can weigh up to 250 kg. “I’m not athletic and the cart felt so heavy.” Now, she says she loves her job and wants to work ( ア ) she is physically able. She wears a small sign that reads: “I don’t want to give up.”

Akimoto joined Tokyo Rickshaw two years ago. The company mainly operates in the Asakusa area, where many people visit. The company says about a third of their 90 pullers are now women. They are seeking more females to work for the company. “The first girl who joined was cool,” said Tokyo Rickshaw President Ryuta Nishio. “Since we posted videos of her on social media, many girls have ( イ )... and joined us.” Nishio said he wants to create a place where women feel at ease and can be involved.

Rickshaw pullers wear special, traditional clothing on their feet. The pullers walk or run an average of 20 km a day, no matter the weather. ( ウ ) being physically strong, rickshaw pullers must know a lot about Tokyo. They also need to communicate with visitors who want to see the city. The most popular pullers earn over 1 million yen a month. That is three times the national average. Tokyo Rickshaw noted that less than 10 percent of all applicants are offered a job.

The pullers actively use social media to increase their popularity. They

want people to request them personally and repeat rides. It was those social media posts that influenced college student Yumeka Sakurai to join Tokyo Rickshaw. “I’ve watched many videos of women training hard and becoming rickshaw drivers themselves. They gave me confidence that I could do it too if I tried hard,” the 20-year-old said. Sakurai’s friends and family disapproved of her ( 工 ). But after four months of training, she says she feels pleasure pulling passengers in her rickshaw.

Shiori Yano is 29 years old. She has been pulling rickshaws for nine years. She balances the demands of the job and her family. She took a four-year break after having a child. She now pulls the rickshaw for eight hours a day, hurrying to pick up her daughter from childcare before going home to cook dinner and do housework. “This job looked great from the outside, ( 才 ) I’ve had some hard times, including when I was rejected in favor of a male driver,” Yano said. Still, she says she will continue to work because she enjoys it.

\*〔注〕 rickshaw : 人力車

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 as long as  | ② as well as     |    |
|     | ③ even if     | ④ unless         | 17 |
| (イ) | ① been afraid | ② complained     |    |
|     | ③ followed    | ④ given up       | 18 |
| (ウ) | ① Far from    | ② In addition to |    |
|     | ③ Instead of  | ④ Thanks to      | 19 |
| (エ) | ① choice      | ② college        |    |
|     | ③ experience  | ④ videos         | 20 |
| (オ) | ① because     | ② but            |    |
|     | ③ so that     | ④ unless         | 21 |

問2 下線部(a)～(e)の語(句)の意味に近いものを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 believe          | ② disagree          |    |
|     | ③ explain          | ④ hope              | 22 |
| (b) | ① calling out      | ② looking for       |    |
|     | ③ providing        | ④ taking up         | 23 |
| (c) | ① are paid         | ② are worth         |    |
|     | ③ cost             | ④ save              | 24 |
| (d) | ① be professional  | ② become well known |    |
|     | ③ get more workers | ④ post pictures     | 25 |
| (e) | ① doubt            | ② information       |    |
|     | ③ reasons          | ④ self-belief       | 26 |

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 is true about female rickshaw pullers? 27

- ① Around 30 percent of Tokyo Rickshaw pullers are women.
- ② They cannot pull heavy rickshaws over 250 kg.
- ③ They don't have to wear traditional clothing on their feet.
- ④ They get three times as much money as men.

(い) Which of the following is mentioned about social media? 28

- ① College students use social media to learn about Japanese culture.
- ② The rickshaw pullers are not allowed to use social media.
- ③ The training to become rickshaw pullers can be seen on social media.
- ④ Tokyo Rickshaw finds female workers only through social media.

問4 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。 29 30

- ① The Tokyo Rickshaw president created a special company for women.
- ② The rickshaw pullers usually run at an average speed of 20 km per hour.
- ③ Not everyone who applies will get a job as a rickshaw puller today.
- ④ Shiori Yano came back to work after having a child.
- ⑤ Some people sometimes reject male rickshaw pullers.







(キ) 私は知らない人に駅前で話しかけられました。

I \_\_\_\_\_ **53** \_\_\_\_\_ **54** \_\_\_\_\_ in front of the station.

- ① a stranger                      ② by                              ③ spoken  
④ to                                  ⑤ was

(ク) あなたがすべきことは、学校へ行く準備をすることだけです。

All \_\_\_\_\_ **55** \_\_\_\_\_ **56** \_\_\_\_\_ get ready for school.

- ① do                                  ② have                              ③ is  
④ to                                  ⑤ you

(ケ) 私は7歳の時に初めてテニスをしました。

When I was seven, I \_\_\_\_\_ **57** \_\_\_\_\_ **58** \_\_\_\_\_ time.

- ① first                              ② for                              ③ played  
④ tennis                              ⑤ the

(コ) 新しいレストランに行くまで2時間かかりました。

\_\_\_\_\_ **59** \_\_\_\_\_ **60** \_\_\_\_\_ get to the new restaurant.

- ① it                                  ② me                              ③ to  
④ took                              ⑤ two hours