

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)

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。

Japan celebrates having the most companies that are a century old

At least 37,550 *enterprises in Japan have passed the century mark in being in business, far more than in any other nation. An expert noted the nation has the most 100-year-old corporations, probably due to Japanese *entrepreneurs' eagerness to work with regional communities and pass down businesses to their descendants, instead of only seeking profits. The United States came in second with 19,497 firms in the category, according to data compiled in 2019 by Teikoku Databank Ltd. and Bureau van Dijk. Sweden ranked third at 13,997.

Japan's confirmed oldest corporation, Kongogumi Co., is a construction firm in Osaka which is said to date to 578. Its representatives stated the firm's founder is one of the craftspeople invited by Prince Shotoku from the Baekje Kingdom on the Korean Peninsula. Toraya Confectionery Co., which is based in Tokyo and is famous for its *yokan* traditional jelly, also boasts a long history; it was founded during the Muromachi Period (1336-1573). Records show that Toraya Confectionery provided sweets under the 1586-1611 reign of Emperor Goyozei, while candy catalogs, wooden molds for confectionery making and other historical items remain at the corporation.

What factors helped Japanese enterprises (ア) for so long? An official at Teikoku Databank's information analysis department *cited the fact that family-owned firms accounted for 51 percent of all the companies listed on the *Tokyo Stock Exchange. The official said such a feature, while typical of Japanese enterprises, is (イ) found outside the country. "The number

of businesses listed on the Stock Exchange and lasting 100 years or longer in Japan reached 589 — a huge number reported nowhere else in the world,” the official said.

Matsui Kensetsu KK in Tokyo is Japan’s oldest listed company on the Stock Exchange, founded in 1586. Next is Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., founded in 1590, followed by Watahan & Co., which dates to 1598, then Yomeishu Seizo Co., which started in 1602, according to Teikoku Databank. Matsui Kensetsu opened in the Azuchi-Momoyama Period (1568-1600) only four years after the Honnoji incident, where renowned warlord Oda Nobunaga (1534-1582) was killed. Maeda Toshinaga (1562-1614), the second lord of the Kaga *domain, hired its first president, Matsui Kakuemon, to build Ecchu Moriyama Castle in what is now Toyama Prefecture, leading to the formation of the company. *Successive presidents of the self-owned business assumed the names Kakuemon and Kakuhei, and the current chair is Kakuhei XVI.

Matsui Kensetsu has worked on the construction, maintenance and repair of temples, shrines, castles, and other historic structures on more than 2,000 occasions since the Meiji Era (1868-1912). ^(c) Matsui Kensetsu reconstructed the main hall of the Tsukiji Hongwanji temple in Tokyo, which has been (ウ) by the central government as an important cultural property; the *donjon of Odawara Castle in Kanagawa Prefecture; Kanazawa Castle’s Ishikawa Gate; Kumamoto Castle’s Inui *turret; and a palace in the core zone of Nagoya Castle, among others. “We believe handing down our traditional techniques, nurtured since our founding, to be part of our social mission,” said A, chief of the general affairs department of Matsui Kensetsu. “We will continue going forward with confidence and pride to make sure Matsui will keep on living up to its name as a temple and shrine contractor.” ^(A)

Teikoku Databank said long-established enterprises’ tactics unique to Japan are known as a “growth ring” model. “Established family-run

businesses work harder to preserve their enterprises and traditions for future generations and *posterity, (エ) focusing on only trying to maximize their profits,” said Yoshinori Isagai, a professor of business management studies at Keio University’s Faculty of Policy Management. Such a mindset^(d) heavily affects the ways successors are selected. Presidents are often chosen from the founding families’ members, while excellent employees at times marry the previous presidents’ daughters so they can take over. More recently, the wives of presidents’ sons take leadership. Depending on the trend of the times, various methods have been adopted^(e) to select exceptional presidents in many cases. Isagai pointed to long-lasting family companies that frequently choose to form reciprocal relationships with nearby communities so they can (オ) local towns by creating regional brands.

“*Shumai* steamed dumpling maker Kiyoken Co., which opened in 1908 on the grounds of the original Yokohama Station (present-day Sakuragicho Station), has greatly contributed to Yokohama city,” said Isagai. “It is a typical established firm thriving with its community.”

*〔注〕 enterprise : 企業 entrepreneur : 起業家 cite : 言及する
Tokyo Stock Exchange : 東京証券取引所 domain : 藩
successive : 代々の donjon : 天守閣 turret : 櫓^{やぐら}
posterity : 子孫

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 appear | ② distribute | |
| | ③ invest | ④ survive | 1 |
| (イ) | ① always | ② finally | |
| | ③ lately | ④ rarely | 2 |
| (ウ) | ① destroyed | ② displayed | |
| | ③ divided | ④ labelled | 3 |
| (エ) | ① as well as | ② in return for | |
| | ③ in spite of | ④ rather than | 4 |
| (オ) | ① account for | ② flourish with | |
| | ③ organize | ④ set up | 5 |

問2 下線部(a)～(e)の語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 children | ② colleagues | |
| | ③ enemies | ④ representatives | 6 |
| (b) | ① engages | ② gets rid of | |
| | ③ is proud of | ④ takes | 7 |
| (c) | ① buildings | ② cities | |
| | ③ devices | ④ systems | 8 |
| (d) | ① impression | ② knowledge | |
| | ③ philosophy | ④ rule | 9 |
| (e) | ① accepted | ② adjusted | |
| | ③ failed | ④ informed | 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) The underlined part (A) means that .

- ① the company will continue its business all over Japan
- ② the company will fail to be recognized
- ③ the company will maintain its reputation
- ④ the president of the company will stay healthy to support the company

(い) How are successors often chosen in long-lasting family companies in Japan?

- ① Mainly through recruitment
- ② Mostly from employees in the head office
- ③ Only through public election
- ④ Primarily from members of the family

(う) What have Japanese long-lasting companies been eager to work on?

- ① Establishing good relationships with local communities
- ② Expanding into international markets
- ③ Focusing on increasing the profits of the company
- ④ Pleasing the lords of the domains and governments

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 The United States has more century-old firms than any other country in the world.
- ② Kongogumi Co., which was established in 578, is recognized as Japan's oldest existing company.
- ③ Some historical items are found in most of the century-old companies in Japan.
- ④ More than half of the companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange are family-owned.
- ⑤ Yomeishu Seizo Co. was established earlier than Watahan & Co.
- ⑥ Japan's oldest listed company on the Stock Exchange was founded in the Azuchi-Momoyama Period.
- ⑦ The leaders of Toyama Prefecture are proud of using the names of Kakuemon and Kakuhei.
- ⑧ The wives of presidents' sons have been taking leadership since the establishment of companies.

〔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)

World's ‘humblest’ Christmas tree, bought for pennies, sells for £3,000 at auction

Festive magic *fueled by *nostalgia has *been credited for the “astonishing” sale of a Christmas tree, “bought for pennies” more than a century ago, for £3,411 at auction. The 31-inch tree, complete with 25 branches, 12 berries and six mini candle holders, (ア) to sell for only £60-80 at auction house Hansons Auctioneers in the southeastern English county of Oxfordshire. A global bidding battle meant the final result far exceeded this. (a)

“The magic of Christmas (イ)! The humblest Christmas tree in the world has a new home and we’re delighted for both buyer and seller,” said Charles Hanson, owner of Hansons Auctioneers, in the release. The Christmas tree arrived at the home of Dorothy Grant in Leicestershire in England’s East Midlands in 1920, when she was 8 years old, and she was “wildly excited,” the auction house said in the release. She decorated it with cotton wool to mimic snow, since *baubles were luxurious after World War I. (b)

Dorothy treasured the tree (ウ) her death at the age of 101 in 2014, when her 84-year-old daughter, Shirley Hall, inherited it. “It would have been bought for pennies originally but it’s sold for thousands and that’s astonishing. I think it’s down to the power of nostalgia. Dorothy’s story resonated with people,” said Hanson. “As simple as it was Dorothy loved that tree. It became a staple part of family celebrations for decades. The fact that it brought her such joy is moving in itself. It reminds us that luxury and excess are not required to capture the spirit of Christmas,” he added. (c)

Hanson suggested in the release that the tree could have been produced for an expensive London department store. (エ) it resembles the first mass-produced artificial trees sold by popular department store Woolworths, (d)

he said it differs from trees sold there previously due to the red paint decoration on its wooden base. “The seller decided to part with it to honour her mother’s memory and to ensure it survives as a humble reminder of 1920s life — a boom-to-bust decade,” he added.

A similar Christmas tree, purchased in Scotland for 6 pence in 1937, sold for £150 at Hansons Auctioneers in 2019, according to Hanson. (オ), found in the English city of Derby, sold for £420 in 2017. “But Dorothy’s tree has truly excelled,” he said.

*〔注〕 humble : 質素な fuel : 強くする nostalgia : 郷愁
 be credited for ~ : ~の原因となる bauble : きらきら光る小球

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 failed | ② happened | |
| | ③ was beginning | ④ was expected | 17 |
| (イ) | ① goes through | ② lives on | |
| | ③ puts off | ④ watches out | 18 |
| (ウ) | ① after | ② by | |
| | ③ during | ④ until | 19 |
| (エ) | ① Even though | ② Supposing | |
| | ③ Unless | ④ Whereas | 20 |
| (オ) | ① Another | ② The original one | |
| | ③ The others | ④ This one | 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 international | ② local | |
| | ③ national | ④ urban | 22 |
| (b) | ① imitate | ② preserve | |
| | ③ spread | ④ transfer | 23 |
| (c) | ① brought damage to | ② created empathy in | |
| | ③ was miserable for | ④ was new to | 24 |
| (d) | ① creative | ② man-made | |
| | ③ native | ④ natural | 25 |
| (e) | ① order | ② purchase | |
| | ③ sell | ④ share | 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) Which of the following is true about Dorothy Grant? 27
- ① She didn't want to give her tree to her daughter, Shirley Hall.
 - ② She had a lot of pennies kept in a bottle.
 - ③ She had to sell the tree to live after the war.
 - ④ She was given the Christmas tree when she was eight years old.
- (い) According to Charles Hanson, why did the tree sell for more than £3,000? 28
- ① It was a very precious tree sold at a popular department store.
 - ② People can look back on the 1920s with nostalgia.
 - ③ The size was perfect to put in the living room.
 - ④ The tree has been kept for hundreds of years.

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。

- ① Dorothy Grant liked her Christmas tree, though it was very simple.
- ② After World War I, people began to decorate Christmas trees in England.
- ③ Dorothy Grant wanted to donate her Christmas tree to charity.
- ④ Hanson was sure that the tree was sold at Woolworths department store.
- ⑤ Some old Christmas trees found in Scotland and England were bought and sold at auctions.

(8) Oh, no, this watch is broken. I need to get (8) before the next exam.

① another

② it

③ other

④ that

38

(9) Right after he sat on the sofa with his eyes (9), he fell asleep.

① closed

② closing

③ to be closed

④ to close

39

(10) Yurina: Hurry up, Megan. I don't want to be late for the meeting.

Megan: Don't worry. We will be there (10).

① at that time

② by time

③ for the time

④ in time

40

〔Ⅳ〕 次の(ア)～(カ)の日本語の意味を表すように、①～⑤の語(句)を並べ替えて英文を完成し、2番目と4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 ～)(20点)

(ア) 自然よりすばらしいものはない。

_____ _____ _____ nature.

- ① amazing ② is ③ more
④ nothing ⑤ than

(イ) ネコが向こうの道路を横切るのを見ましたか。

Did _____ _____ _____ over there?

- ① cross ② see ③ the cat
④ the street ⑤ you

(ウ) 昨日は手を貸してくれてありがとう。

It was very _____ _____ _____ me a hand yesterday.

- ① give ② kind ③ of
④ to ⑤ you

(エ) 多くの生徒たちはこれらの記号が何を意味しているか知らない。

Many students don't _____ _____ _____.

- ① for ② know ③ stand
④ these signs ⑤ what

(オ) 私は朝食前にジョギングをする習慣がある。

I _____ _____ _____ before breakfast.

- ① am ② in ③ jogging
④ of ⑤ the habit

(カ) どれだけ忙しくても、友達のためには時間を作ろうとしている。

No _____ _____ _____, I try to make time for my friends.

- ① am ② busy ③ how
④ I ⑤ matter

