

第1問 次の英文を読み、問いに答えよ。

When we communicate face to face, we bring with us the social and cultural values of our society. Our culture influences our communication style – the words we use and the way we speak. For instance, North American speech is “friendly” (①) Japanese speech is “respectful.” The United States is a nation of immigrants*. Originally, people did not come from the same cultural background, so it was necessary to be “friendly” in order to live together and set up a country. Japan is a homogenous* culture. People come from the same ethnic* group, speak the same language and share one common culture. The important thing is to maintain smooth social relationships. People use different levels of polite language depending on the other person’s social rank and status.

Another important social difference is that in the United States, the focus is on the individual, while in Japan, the focus is on the group. This affects people’s conversation styles. Generally, North Americans emphasize the right of the individual to express him or herself. The focus of speech is on the “I” — on the speaker — and what he or she wants to say. In this sense, American speech is individualistic. North American speech also uses the “ping-pong” style of conversation. This means the listener (ア) immediately “throws back” comments and ideas right after the speaker has finished talking. The speaker and listener have a direct exchange of information.

(②) contrast, in Japan, where people value mutual connections and social relationships, speech is very indirect. The communication style of the Japanese can be described by the (A) “tempura metaphor”.* In Japan, it is sometimes hard to understand what the speaker is trying to say. One can get to the main point only after removing the coating of the “tempura.” Furthermore, people avoid direct statements so that the listener does not (イ) get offended. The focus of speech is on the emotional condition of the listener and the situation. This is called the contextual style of communication. On the other hand, the listener is expected to understand the message by guessing “intuitively*” what the speaker is trying to say. This difference between the Japanese and North American communication styles has been observed in many business situations.

Japanese and North Americans are not the only groups of people (③) contrasting communication styles. People all (④) the world have different conversation patterns. People of one culture will tend to talk a lot, interrupt conversations frequently, and talk more quickly and louder than people of another culture. They want to participate actively in the discussion.

(㉞) Meanwhile, people from other cultures prefer to speak less, listen more, and refrain* from interrupting the speaker. The listener shows respect to the speaker by giving feedback only after the speaker has finished.

Differences in communication styles can cause miscommunication problems, so it is sometimes safe to modify your communication style according (⑤) your conversation partner.

注

immigrants	移民
homogenous	等質的な
ethnic	民族の
metaphor	比喻
intuitively	直感的に
refrain	控える

問1 英文中の空所 (①) ~ (⑤) に入る語として最も適切なものをア～カのなかから一つ選び、記号で答えよ。なお、文頭にくる語も小文字で表記してある。

- ア. at
- イ. in
- ウ. while
- エ. over
- オ. to
- カ. with

問2 下線部 (A) “tempura metaphor” の説明として最も適切なものを1～3のなかから一つ選び、番号で答えよ。

1. 伝えたいことを直接言わないで人を通じて伝えること
2. 伝えたいことを直接的な表現を使わず間接的表現で伝えること
3. 伝えたいことを伝統的な日本語の表現で伝えること

問3 筆者の述べる“communication style”の説明として最も適切なものを1～3のなかから一つ選び、番号で答えよ。

1. 言葉の選び方と話し方
2. 社会的および文化的な価値観
3. 社会的地位に関係ない意思疎通の方法

問4 下線部（ア）～（ウ）に最も近い意味のものを1～3のなかから一つ選び、番号で答えよ。

（ア） immediately

1. actively
2. gently
3. instantly

（イ） get offended

1. annoyed
2. destroyed
3. protected

（ウ） meanwhile

1. by the way
2. instead of
3. on the other hand

問5 次の1～5のなかから本文の内容に合っているものを二つ選び、番号で答えよ。

1. North American speech is called friendly because they share the same cultural background.
2. Japanese speech generally focuses on the emotion and the situation of the listener.
3. North American style of speech focuses more on the group than the individual.
4. Japanese and North American people are the only group of different social values.
5. Sometimes it is better to change your way of communication if your partner has a different style.

第2問 次の英文中の空所に入れるのに最も適切なものを1～3のなかから一つ選び、番号で答えよ。

Self-checkout systems have shown up in many stores, and they seem to be very popular. But are they really helpful? Let's break it down and see the pros and cons.

On the positive side, self-checkout can speed up the shopping process. Customers can scan their items, bag them, and pay without waiting in long lines. This can cut down on the time spent in the store, especially during busy hours. For those who know how to use these systems, it can be a quick and efficient way to get in and out of the store.

However, not (ア) finds self-checkout easy to use. Some customers struggle to figure out the technology. When issues come up, like a scanner not working or a payment problem, customers often have to (イ) help. This can hold up the line and cause frustration. Moreover, people with large numbers of items might find it more convenient to go through a regular checkout with a cashier*.

Another problem is the potential loss of jobs. As more stores bring in self-checkout systems, they often (ウ) on staff. This can be a problem for those who rely on these jobs for their livelihood. The human touch is also lost, which can make shopping feel less personal.

On top of that, there are concerns about theft. Some people take (エ) of the self-checkout system to sneak* items through without paying. This can drive up costs for the store, which may be passed on to customers.

In conclusion, while self-checkout can speed things up and provide convenience for some, it can also cause problems like job loss, technical difficulties, and increased theft. It all depends on how well the system is managed and how comfortable customers are with the technology. For self-checkout to be truly helpful, stores need to make sure they offer support and keep an (オ) on potential issues.

注

cashier レジ係

sneak こっそり持ち出す

ア. 1. anyone 2. everyone 3. someone

イ. 1. call for 2. catch up 3. clear off

ウ. 1. cut down 2. cut in 3. cut short

エ. 1. advantage 2. benefit 3. prestige

オ. 1. eye 2. ear 3. action

第3問 次の各文の空所に入る最も適切なものを1～3のなかから一つ選び、番号で答えよ。

ア. The online ordering system is very ().
1. convenience 2. convenient 3. conveniently

イ. () enough money, we could have saved the animal shelter.
1. At 2. If 3. With

ウ. The progress of the business plan () at the meeting.
1. will discuss 2. will be discussed 3. is discussing

エ. () the short notice, she was able to submit the homework on time.
1. Although 2. Despite 3. During

オ. In Hong Kong, there are many residents () commute to work by ferry.
1. what 2. who 3. whose

第4問 次のア～エの日本語に合う英文になるように、空所に適切な一語を書き入れよ。

ア. 古い本は全て捨ててください。

Please get () of all the old books.

イ. パーティーが終わって、お客は次々に帰ってゆきます。

Now the party is over, the guests are leaving one after ().

ウ. たとえ試合に勝っても相手チームをばかにするのは良くないことです。

Even if you win the game, it is not good to make () of the other team.

エ. 長い目で見れば、彼の決断は正しいであろう。

In the long (), his decision will be right.

第5問 次の会話文を読み、問いに答えよ。

Iggy : Dave, I can't figure out what sort of present Mary might like for her birthday.

Dave : I'm having a problem figuring that out, myself. Do you want to pick something out together?

Iggy : (①). That way we'd have more money to spend if we pool* it together.

Dave : What do you think she'd like the most? I mean, she has many hobbies, so (1) 【ア. decide イ. hard ウ. the エ. on オ. to カ. it's】 best gift.

Iggy : Well, she's really into hiking, swimming, travelling, (②). She's also into music.

Dave : I think the music idea sounds good. I wonder who knows what kinds of concerts she might like to go to?

Iggy : (③). Maybe we could ask her classmate, Malia, who her favorite groups are.

Dave : Malia would be a great help. She's known Mary for a long time.

Iggy : I'll email Malia and ask her for her suggestions.

Dave : If that idea fails, have you got any other plans?

Iggy : If that happens then it might be best to go with the outdoor idea. I don't think that Mary's ever been windsurfing*. And I've never been either. How about that?

Dave : That sounds really good. She goes out a lot, so she might have already tried it. (2) If not, we can pay for a day of lessons!

Iggy : That's what I was thinking. Let's ask her whether she has done that before if the music concert plan doesn't work. Either way, I think Malia would like to contribute to the idea, too.

注

pool お金を出し合う

windsurfing ウィンドサーフィン

問1 本文中の空所（①）～（③）に入れるのに最も適切なものをア～オのなかから一つ選び、記号で答えよ。なお、文頭にくる語も小文字で表記してある。

- ア. I'm not sure
- イ. things like that
- ウ. that's too bad
- エ. that's a good idea
- オ. I can't believe it

問2 下線部（1）が意味の通る自然な英文になるように【 】内の語句を正しい順に並べ替え3番目と5番目の記号を答えよ。

【ア. decide イ. hard ウ. the エ. on オ. to カ. it's】

問3 下線部（2）If notは何を意図しているのか。その答えとして適切なものをア～ウのなかから一つ選び、記号で答えよ。

- ア. もしMaryがウィンドサーフィンに興味が無ければ
- イ. もしMaryがウィンドサーフィンの経験が無ければ
- ウ. もしMaryがコンサートに行くことができなければ

問4 次の1～5のなかから本文の内容と合っているものを二つ選び、番号で答えよ。

1. Dave suggests taking Mary to a concert.
2. Mary doesn't like outdoor activities in her free time.
3. Malia has only been friends with Mary for a short time.
4. Dave and Iggy have been windsurfing several times.
5. Dave and Iggy think Malia would like to help with the planning.