

解答はすべて解答用紙にマークしなさい。

I 次の英文(A)、(B)を読んで、下の問いの答えとして最も適切なものを(a)~(d)から1つずつ選びなさい。

(A)

With over 1.4 billion people, India became the world's most populous country in 2023, surpassing China. India had long been the world's most populous democracy and market economy. That economy is growing fast in recent years, but it is not providing enough jobs for the country's college-educated workers.

Most new jobs in India are in the service and construction industries, which generally pay low wages. The government has been trying to encourage the construction of more factories, but these efforts have not borne much fruit yet, as India still has four times as many agricultural jobs as those in manufacturing.

What are the young adults who finished higher education doing these days? In 2023, over 40% of Indian college graduates under the age of 25 were unemployed. Surprisingly, only 11% of people in that age group who can read but haven't finished primary school are jobless. Normally, one would expect more education to lead to more job opportunities.

Looking at the statistics, the situation improves for college-educated Indians as they grow older. Their unemployment rates decline to around 23% between the ages of 25 and 29, then keep falling with age. Is this because they are finally starting their ideal career? Or is it because some have given up and settled for something less attractive?

The background of these college graduates may provide a hint. Economists say these highly educated but unemployed young Indians mostly come from elite families. Their upbringing and social status can foster an attitude that encourages them to hold out for excellent jobs while living off their wealthy parents. Poor laborers with little education, however, cannot afford such a

luxury.

Another problem experts point out is that many of India's young college graduates have degrees that are not in in-demand fields such as tech and finance. Although they may be knowledgeable and skilled in one area, it may be a mismatch for the opportunities available.

Alexander Farrell 著, *Reading Traveler 1* (Shohakusha) より一部変更

(1) What is the best title for this passage?

- (a) Better Education, Less Work?
- (b) The Longer They Wait, the Worse the Situation
- (c) The More You Study, the More Easily You Find a Job
- (d) When Getting a Job, the Sooner the Better!

(2) What is one reason economists give for the problems India's young college graduates face?

- (a) The government won't give them any jobs.
- (b) They are not allowed to take jobs in construction industries.
- (c) They are too selective about the jobs they are willing to take.
- (d) They are willing to take any jobs they can find.

(3) What does the underlined word "wealthy" mean?

- (a) kind
- (b) unfortunate
- (c) lazy
- (d) rich

- (4) According to the passage, which statement is true?
- (a) 11% of Indian college graduates between the ages of 25 and 29 had no jobs in 2023.
 - (b) India was overtaken by China as the most populous country in 2023.
 - (c) There are less jobs in manufacturing than in farming.
 - (d) The service and construction industries generally pay high wages but are not popular.
- (5) According to the passage, which statement is true?
- (a) Efforts of India's young college graduates have borne enough fruit in their job hunting.
 - (b) More education does not necessarily lead to more job opportunities.
 - (c) Poor laborers with little education tend to search for excellent jobs more than the college-educated.
 - (d) The statistics show college-educated Indians have less chance to find a job as they grow older.

(B)

When it comes to artificial intelligence, the future is upon us. It is AI that allows us to use a virtual assistant like Siri or Alexa. It also helps Google Maps navigate the fastest route and gives you recommendations on the Uber Eats app. According to one expert in the field, AI will soon “change the world more than anything in the history of mankind, more than electricity.”

So just what is AI, and how—for the better or worse—will it alter the world we live in?

Artificial intelligence can be defined as the imitation of human intelligence processes by computer systems or other machines. These processes involve learning, reasoning, and self-correction. Examples include machine translation, speech recognition, machine vision, and the ability to predict, plan, and alter those plans in response to changes in circumstances or the environment.

Researchers predict that AI will have a huge impact on industry. In fact one recent study concluded that nearly half of all jobs in the United States alone may be lost to artificial intelligence. Any job involving routine work is at risk of being taken over by AI. AI learns tasks such as washing dishes, assembly line work, or handling customer service calls quite quickly. This means that those with lower income and educational backgrounds could easily find themselves out of a job within the next 10 to 15 years.

Online giant Amazon employs nearly 650,000 workers to help locate and select items in its huge warehouses and pack them for shipping. But these jobs may soon be threatened. Amazon already utilizes over 100,000 robots, a number that will only grow as time goes on. In addition, its planned drone delivery system could have a major impact on post office and package delivery workers.

On the flip side of the coin, the growth of AI will result in an enormous increase in tech jobs in fields as diverse as robotics, the consumer industry, health care, and home design. This major shift in the job market will benefit those who have the appropriate hardware, systems, design, and planning

skills. The resulting technologies will have the potential to benefit all of humanity.

In the health care field, companies are developing independently operating robots that will minimize or eliminate the risk of human error during even the most complicated surgeries. Developers in the consumer industry are working on AI-powered advertising kiosks that will recognize who is approaching through their phone's location and provide personalized shopping or dining suggestions.

Scientists at Carnegie Mellon University have created the Snakebot, an AI-powered robot that will soon be able to undertake search-and-rescue missions or nuclear power plant inspections. This will free humans from carrying out these dangerous tasks, potentially saving many lives. In Japan, researchers are continuing their work on lovable robot pets that develop individual personalities and bond with their owners on an emotional level, thus improving mental health and decreasing loneliness.

But AI will have its greatest impact on our homes and daily lives. In the future, smart homes will be aware of their human residents and respond to their needs. They will automatically adjust the temperature to suit use preferences, change the intensity of lights or darken windows, set alarms to meet individual schedules, brew coffee, order food from the grocery store, and lock up the house when the owner leaves for work in their self-driving car.

Artificial intelligence has the potential both to disrupt and transform our lives. Only one thing is certain: it's just around the corner, and it's coming our way. So strap in and get ready for the ride!

Teruhiko Kadoyama 他著, *Active Reading Strategies Book 2* (Seibido)より一部変更

- (6) What does AI stand for?
 - (a) It stands for artificial intelligence.
 - (b) It cannot stand all by itself.
 - (c) It allows us to use Siri or Alexa.
 - (d) It stands for the history of mankind.
- (7) According to the passage, how many jobs may be lost in the U.S. as a result of AI?
 - (a) No jobs.
 - (b) Twenty-five percent.
 - (c) About fifty percent.
 - (d) All jobs.
- (8) Which of Amazon's systems is likely to have an impact on post office workers?
 - (a) The planned drone delivery system.
 - (b) The coffee brewing system.
 - (c) The lighting system.
 - (d) The temperature control system.
- (9) What have scientists at Carnegie Mellon University created?
 - (a) A robotic surgeon.
 - (b) An AI-powered advertising kiosk.
 - (c) An autonomous vehicle.
 - (d) A search-and-rescue robot.

- (10) According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) AI-powered robots can learn to do dishes and handle customer service calls.
 - (b) Amazon plans to replace all of its employees with 100,000 robots.
 - (c) In Japan, robot pets have already become more popular than real pets.
 - (d) AI will have a great impact on industry but not on our homes and daily lives.

II 空所を埋めるのに最も適切な語句を(a)~(d)から1つずつ選びなさい。

- (11) Once upon a time, () lived a wise young man in a village.
(a) he (b) it (c) where (d) there
- (12) A: Do you ever go fishing in the river?
B: No, I () do.
(a) seldom (b) often (c) sometimes (d) occasionally
- (13) Mr. Chen owns two cars. () was made in Italy and the other in Germany.
(a) Other (b) He (c) One (d) It
- (14) My grandmother got accustomed () alone.
(a) live (b) to live (c) living (d) to living
- (15) They are () similar that it is difficult to tell which is real and which is fake.
(a) very (b) so (c) such (d) really

III (a)~(d)の語句を空所に入れて英文を作るとき、*の空所に入る最も適切な語句を(a)~(d)から選びなさい。文頭にくる語句も小文字で書かれています。

(16) Do you think your parents () () (*) () at night?

- (a) you (b) will (c) let (d) drive

(17) The heavy rain prevented () (*) () () a picnic.

- (a) from (b) on (c) them (d) going

(18) If () () (*) () music, our lives would be dull.

- (a) it (b) not (c) for (d) were

(19) Picasso was () (*) () () 20,000 art works in his life.

- (a) created (b) more than (c) who (d) an artist

(20) () () (*) () last night.

- (a) had (b) stolen (c) I (d) my bicycle

IV 次の会話(A)、(B)が成り立つように、最も適切なものを(a)~(g)から1つずつ選びなさい。

(A)

Lance : How are your new English classes, Rui?

Rui : They are very fun. Today, I learned some new English idioms.

Lance : Oh really? (21)

Rui : I learned the phrase. "It's not rocket science." (22)

Lance : Sure, I do! It means something is not difficult. Or you could say, "It's a piece of cake!"

Rui : A piece of cake? (23)

Lance : That's right! It means something is really easy. For example, "That test was a piece of cake!"

Rui : I like that one! (24)

Lance : Here's another one you might like: "Go bananas." Can you guess what it means?

Rui : (25)

Lance : It means to go crazy. For example, "Everyone went bananas when we won the baseball game."

Rui : Hahaha. I love it!

(a) Do you have another class tomorrow?

(b) Do you know what it means?

(c) What did you learn?

(d) Is that another idiom?

(e) I don't know. Tell me.

(f) The rocket is going to the moon.

(g) I'll try to use it when I'm speaking English.

(B)

Rui : How are your classes, Lance?

Lance : They're fine. My most interesting class is German. It's my first time to study it.

Rui : German? (26)

Lance : It is a little difficult. (27) So knowing English can help you learn German.

Rui : I didn't know that. Can you give me some examples of how German and English are alike?

Lance : Sure. (28) For instance, "Good morning" is "Guten Morgen" and "Good night" is "Gute Nacht."

Rui : Oh, I see. They are very similar.

Lance : (29) And "Book" is "Buch," and "Bread" is "Brot."

Rui : That's interesting. Now I remember that my teacher once told me that the Japanese word *arubaito* comes from German.

Lance : That's right. Japanese has borrowed many words from German, like *arubaito*. (30) And *baumkuhen*, too!

Rui : *Baumkuhen*! Yummy!

- (a) But German and English are very similar languages.
- (b) Some other Japanese words that come from German are *ryukhusakku* and *wappen*.
- (c) That must be really difficult.
- (d) I heard that you have been to Germany many times.
- (e) And that's why I decided to study German.
- (f) There are many similar phrases.
- (g) And some more examples: "House" is "Haus," and "Hand" is "Hand."