

2026（令和8）年度

2日 [60分] \*\*

## 外国語（英語）

### 注 意

1. 監督者の指示があるまで問題を見ないこと。
2. 声を出して問題を読まないこと。
3. 問題は25ページ、**1** から **5** までである。
4. 問題や解答用紙に落丁、乱丁、汚損あるいは印刷不鮮明の箇所があれば、手をあげて監督者に申し出ること。
5. 解答は必ず**鉛筆を使用し、解答用紙に記入すること。**
6. 解答は解答用紙の解答欄の記号にマークすること。
7. 訂正箇所は、消しゴムで**きれいに消すこと。**
8. 解答欄には、関係のない符号や文字あるいはメモなどを記入しないこと。
9. 解答用紙を**折ったり汚したりしないこと。**
10. 問題用紙は持ち帰ること。







18. Booking our flights well in advance could (        ) us a lot of time and money.

A. decrease

B. lower

C. reduce

D. save

19. Even the most (        ) chef could not come up with such a unique menu.

A. imperative

B. developing

C. ordinary

D. talented

20. With so much information online, we need to improve our skills (        ) to distinguish real news from fake.

A. more than ever

B. still better

C. all the better

D. if ever

2

語句を並べ替えてもっとも自然な英文を完成させ、2番目と5番目に入れるものの記号を書きなさい。ただし、文頭に来る語も小文字にしてある。[各2点]

1. Do you ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 )( 4 )( 5 )( 6 ) this volunteer project?

- A. Fred                      B. idea                      C. joined  
D. how                      E. have                      F. any

2. Emmy gently commented to her husband about ( 1 )( 2 ) ( 3 )( 4 )( 5 )( 6 ) her taste.

- A. being                      B. too                      C. his  
D. spicy                      E. for                      F. food

3. The situation is urgent and requires immediate action, so ( 1 ) ( 2 )( 3 )( 4 )( 5 )( 6 ).

- A. time                      B. is                      C. lose  
D. there                      E. no                      F. to

4. The candidate ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 )( 4 )( 5 )( 6 ), shaking hands with everyone.

- A. into                      B. supporters                      C. the  
D. went                      E. of                      F. crowd

5. This ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 ) a great plan, but I ( 4 )( 5 ) ( 6 ) practical.

- A. sound                      B. don't                      C. think  
D. might                      E. it's                      F. like

6. These are ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 )( 4 )( 5 )( 6 ) in my mind lately.

- A. been                      B. up                      C. the words  
D. popping                  E. have                    F. that

7. The cookies Kevin baked last ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 )( 4 ) ( 5 )( 6 ) table.

- A. on                      B. untouched              C. remained  
D. kitchen                E. night                    F. the

8. Anne is gradually ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 ) the ( 4 )( 5 ) ( 6 ) experiencing several failures.

- A. task                    B. is                      C. how  
D. after                    E. challenging            F. realizing

9. The meeting started on time, but ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 )( 4 ) ( 5 )( 6 ).

- A. the                      B. than                    C. longer  
D. went on                E. discussion             F. expected

10. I couldn't believe my eyes at the party ( 1 )( 2 )( 3 ) ( 4 )( 5 )( 6 ) me.

- A. for                      B. organized              C. friends  
D. had                      E. my                      F. that

- 3 次の文章を筋の通ったものにするために、枠内にある A～D からもっとも適切なものを選び ( ) の中に入れなさい。( \* 印の語 ( 句 ) は注を参考にする ) [ 各 3 点 ]

( A )

- A. In fact, there are now smartphone apps that can help travelers find local food trucks or learn where their favorite truck is currently parked.
- B. The trucks also have awnings\* to protect them from harsh weather, which smaller food carts cannot provide.
- C. They are fun to find, have interesting menus, and perhaps best of all, they help me stretch my travel budget.
- D. However, the top reason that food trucks are now booming is a trend toward gourmet specialties.

To me, one joy of traveling is sampling street food. A bit of street food can give a traveler a real taste of the local culture. On my journeys, I have enjoyed pho\* in Vietnam, hot dogs in New York, tacos in Mexico City, and more. Historically, such food has been sold from carts, small stands, or mobile trucks. However, these trucks — called food trucks — are now trending in the street food world.

Perhaps the chief advantage of food trucks is their size. They can accommodate large cooking areas, and that results in bigger menus. They can serve several kinds of dishes, so if traveling with friends or family, as I often do, everyone can choose something different. ( ( 1 ) ) Then there is the plus of being mobile. While some food trucks park in only one spot and become part of the neighborhood, others use their wheels to follow the crowds to popular public events.

( 2 ) Operators have found that they can draw more customers by being creative with their offerings. With unique menus, they turn local food into something rare and exclusive only to one vehicle. They might be compared to fusion restaurants, only on a smaller scale. To promote their image, such trucks often have colorful designs. They also have one more feature, which I like a lot: they are far cheaper than fancy restaurants!

Some places now hold food festivals with only food trucks. This is how popular they have become. ( 3 ) I always use such an app when I travel. Hunting for food trucks adds to my travel adventure.

So the next time you travel, do what I do. Take at least one meal from a food truck. ( 4 ) Food trucks are both delicious and affordable.

[注] awning: 雨よけ、日よけ

pho: 平たい米麺を使った料理

(B)

- A. However, there is no conclusive scientific evidence to support either of these explanations.
- B. While there are indeed a few deaths from lightning strikes each year, most flashes are high in the sky among the clouds, making for an unbelievable nighttime spectacle.
- C. The lake is also home to one of Earth's most breathtaking phenomena — almost nonstop lightning.
- D. These lightning storms might last as long as ten hours and can be viewed as far as 400 kilometers away.

Lake Maracaibo lies in a remote corner of northern Venezuela and is known as the largest lake in all of South America. ( 5 ) Named for the Catatumbo River, which flows into the lake, Catatumbo Lightning is a wonder of the world, unmatched for its power and beauty.

Catatumbo Lightning typically occurs 150 days a year or more. In some places, lightning strikes as often as 28 times per minute. ( 6 ) At most times, the night sky is lit up by constant streaks of lightning. Some guess that Lake Maracaibo sees over 1.6 million flashes of lightning per year. This high frequency has brought the lightning nicknames such as “The Everlasting Storm” or “The Beacon\* of Maracaibo.”

Meteorological\* studies suggest that the storms are caused when cool mountain air contacts the much warmer air of the Caribbean Sea. Yet there may be other factors. Storms seem to center on marshy areas that produce high amounts of methane\* gas, which might somehow contribute to the lightning. Another study suggests that uranium\* found in the

bedrock\* might be a factor. ( (7) )

Both NASA and the *Guinness World Records* note Lake Maracaibo as the storm capital of the world. There is now a push to have the lake proclaimed a World Heritage Site, with the hope of attracting tourists. ( (8) ) The lightning is viewable from hundreds of kilometers away, but the resulting thunder can only be heard locally. Tourists wishing for the full effect thus need to visit the lake.

Of course, Catatumbo Lightning is not new. It plays a part in the long history and folklore of the area's native peoples. Now, however, it is gaining recognition worldwide. The Everlasting Storm must be seen to be believed.

[注] beacon: 信号灯、灯台

meteorological: 気象の

methane: メタン

uranium: 《鉍》ウラン

bedrock: 岩盤

4

次の英文を読んで、質問に答えなさい。（\*印の語（句）は注を参考にするこ  
と）[各3点]

(A) The term “soft power” originated with Harvard scholar Joseph Nye, Jr. in 1990 and refers to a nation’s ability to influence other nations in ways apart from forceful methods, such as military or economic pressure. That kind of pressure is termed “hard power.” Soft power instead uses non-threatening means to shape how other nations think and act. Soft power is based on values, cultural appeal, humanitarian\* assistance, technological support and educational impact. It is a safer and brighter way for one nation to affect the views of its fellow nations.

In the sense of cultural appeal, soft power builds influence through cinema, music and sports. Successful films, songs and sports stars create a sense of admiration and sharing with people everywhere, especially in these days of easily accessible online media. The fact that Hollywood movies, K-Pop music and Japanese animation are popular worldwide shows how entertainment can touch people in other lands and bring them closer together. The same can be said of athletes like soccer’s Cristiano Ronaldo or baseball’s Shohei Ohtani, whose exceptional talent and respectable personalities make them ambassadors of their homelands.

The success of brand goods is another area of soft power influence. Companies with products that are beloved around the world lend a positive image both to those companies and the nations from which they come. Germany’s BMW, America’s Apple, and France’s Louis Vuitton are only a few examples of companies that bring prestige to their nations. The same can be said of education, where universities such as Cambridge and Oxford, Sorbonne University, MIT and others are looked to with respect around the world. Such institutions promote the

influence of their nation, not only themselves.

Humanitarian aid is another vital source of soft power. When nations suffer from natural disasters and have pressing needs, governments that provide financial aid and helpful manpower earn praise from troubled lands. In similar regard, nations that continue to support human rights also gain respect. These two elements — financial aid and human rights support — combine to create moral authority, and nations with moral authority become world leaders.

Hard power creates relationships through force. Soft power wins by capturing hearts and minds. Both are effective, and it is, of course, possible for a nation to have both. But soft power may be more influential than it seems. Hard power demands respect, but soft power earns it.

[注] humanitarian: 人道主義的な

1. この英文の主題は次のどれか。
  - A. ハードパワーとソフトパワーは対立する概念ではない。
  - B. ソフトパワーは、他の国の考えや行動に影響を与えるのに効果的である。
  - C. ソフトパワーは、1990年頃から世界中で多くの効果をもたらした。
  - D. ソフトパワーは現在、ハードパワーよりも支持されている。
  
2. 多くの人に愛される製品について、本文の内容と一致するものは次のどれか。
  - A. それを生み出した国が尊敬を集める。
  - B. それは世界中の人々のお金を節約する。
  - C. それは企業に道徳的権威を与える。
  - D. それは企業の経済的価値を高める。

3. 自国のソフトパワーを向上させるために必要な要素として、本文から推測できるものは次のどれか。
- A. 他国の文化やスポーツを積極的に支援すること
  - B. 自国の軍事予算を増加させること
  - C. 他国の災害時に救援部隊を派遣すること
  - D. ハードパワーも同時に持つこと

次のページに進みなさい

(B) In many respects, the Greenland shark\* is no different from other sharks. It is a large predator that will eat almost any animal it can catch, including fish, seals, and even polar bears and reindeer, should they venture into the waters where it lives, which is in the far north. Yet, the Greenland shark is far from a typical shark or even a typical animal. This is because the Greenland shark can live for hundreds of years! Scientists think some plants and invertebrates, like jellyfish, can live longer, but among vertebrates, or animals with bones, nothing lives as long as the Greenland shark.

How long it can live is uncertain. The Greenland shark is difficult to study due to the cold environment and the deep ocean depths in which it often swims. However, scientists feel it can easily live for over 250 years, and possibly live as long as 400 or 500 years. The shark does not even reach sexual maturity until around the age of 150. The gestation\* period for Greenland shark babies may be as long as 18 years. Thus, this shark seems built for longevity.

This is even more amazing considering that the Greenland shark is not a dynamic swimmer. It can reach five meters in length and will weigh as much as 1,000 kilograms, but it is not fast. It has a round nose and seems to slowly push its way through the sea. More than speed, it depends on its ability to move unseen, with some biologists speculating that it surprises mammals, like sea lions, when they are sleeping. Most swift swimming arctic fish and sea animals would seem able to escape the Greenland shark easily. Yet, the shark continues to succeed and lives long.

There are various theories as to how this happens. The cold waters in which it lives have given the shark a low metabolism\* rate, which may add years to its lifespan. At the same time, the shark has very

slow growth, perhaps as slight as only one centimeter per year. In addition, in the arctic area seas, the Greenland shark is at the top of the food chain, with no natural threats to its existence. On top of this, the meat of the Greenland shark is poisonous to humans. Fishermen never catch it, except by mistake. However, scientists suspect that the main reason for its long life may have to do with evolution. Somehow the Greenland shark may have developed mechanisms that enable it to repair damaged cells and DNA. Thus, it is a worthy target for medical research.

While the Greenland shark lives in the cold seas of the north, global warming may be changing this. In recent years, these sharks have been found as far south as the Caribbean islands. Whether climate change will also affect how long the sharks can live remains unknown.

[注] Greenland shark: ニシオンデンザメ                      gestation: 妊娠  
metabolism: 代謝

4. この英文の主題は次のどれか。
- A. ニシオンデンザメは何百年も生きると言われている不思議なサメである。
  - B. ニシオンデンザメは動きが遅いにもかかわらず生き残っている。
  - C. ニシオンデンザメは気候変動のために生き残れない可能性がある。
  - D. ニシオンデンザメは乱獲のために絶滅するかもしれない。
5. ニシオンデンザメについて、本文の内容と一致するものは次のどれか。
- A. カリブ海で頻繁に目撃されている。
  - B. 1世紀以上経たないと成体にならない。
  - C. 主食は主にアシカである。
  - D. 植物や無脊椎動物よりも長生きする。

6. ニシオンデンザメの生態について、本文から推測できるものは次のどれか。
- A. 暖かい海の方が生息により適している。
  - B. 人間に医学的利益をもたらす可能性がある。
  - C. 成長が遅いため、地球温暖化を遅らせることができる。
  - D. 高い運動能力と寿命の関係を説明できる。

次のページに進みなさい

5

次の英文を読んで、質問に答えなさい。（\*印の語（句）は注を参考にするこ  
と）[各3点]

(A) China has become the world's largest steel producer. In 2023, it was responsible for around 50% of global steel production, with a total of 1.1 million metric tons\* of crude steel produced. It seems likely that China will continue to be the global leader in the steel industry because it is also developing innovative new technologies. After spending more than a decade on research, the country has announced a new iron-making technology that may change the steel industry.

The technology is known as “flash iron-making.” Using this new method, it is possible to produce iron in just a few seconds, instead of the five to six hours required when conventional methods are used. The flash iron-making method involves putting iron ore\* powder into an extremely hot furnace\*, causing an explosive chemical reaction that creates red-hot liquid iron droplets\*. The droplets fall onto the bottom of the furnace, creating a stream of highly pure iron. This iron can then be used to make steel.

The new flash iron-making method was presented in an academic paper published in the journal *Nonferrous Metals* in November, 2024. The paper was written by Professor Zhang Wenhai of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, who was the leader of the research team. According to the researchers involved, the new method works well for the type of iron ore that is abundant in China. This will allow the country to spend less money on ore from other countries like Australia, as it has done until now. On top of this benefit, the speed of the new method will also reduce the amount of energy used. In fact, it is said that it could make China's steel production over 30% more energy

efficient.

The increased energy efficiency will also bring environmental benefits. China has had difficulty meeting its carbon reduction goals because of the huge amount of coal necessary for its steel industry. By reducing coal consumption dramatically, the flash iron-making method could make it possible to finally meet those goals.

The idea for the flash iron-making method dates back to the 1970s. At that time, Professor Zhang developed a similar technology that was applied to large-scale copper production. Researchers in the United States were also interested in applying this process to iron-making, but Professor Zhang's research team led the way. After obtaining a patent for the flash iron-making method in 2013, they continued to make progress over the next 10 years. Now the team has finally proved through pilot tests that the process is possible. In fact, over 80 of the tests so far have been successful. If this technology can be introduced on a large scale, it may be hard for other countries to compete against Chinese steelmakers.

[注] metric ton: メートルトン (トンの米国式表記法)

iron ore: 鉄鉱石                      furnace: 溶鉱炉

droplet: 飛沫、微細な水滴

1. What is the main topic of this passage?
  - A. The expansion of the Chinese steel industry
  - B. A new technology developed in China
  - C. China's consumption of steel products
  - D. Flash iron-making around the world

2. Which of the following is true about Professor Zhang Wenhai?
- A. He wrote an academic paper about the Chinese Academy of Engineering.
  - B. His research team spends less money on iron ore than Australians do.
  - C. His ideas about making iron quickly are being used in countries worldwide.
  - D. He developed an innovative technology for copper production in the 1970s.
3. What is indicated about flash iron-making?
- A. It creates a chemical reaction using droplets.
  - B. It makes steel in around five to six hours.
  - C. It requires far less time than other methods.
  - D. It can destroy an extremely hot furnace.

次のページに進みなさい

(B) Of all the unsolved mysteries out there, one of the strangest has to be the Kentucky Meat Shower of 1876. In March of that year, a curious thing happened in Bath County, Kentucky. On an otherwise clear and sunny day, small chunks of meat came falling from the sky for several minutes, covering an area of about 90 square meters near the home of the Crouch family. The bits of meat ranged in size, some as small as four centimeters wide, while bigger ones were closer to ten centimeters. Since then, the Kentucky Meat Shower incident has inspired two key questions: What was the mysterious “meat” made of, and where did it come from? The Crouch family first thought it might be a sign from God, and a couple of local men decided to try some of the chunks before everything spoiled in the sun. They claimed the meat tasted a bit like meat from a deer or sheep, although they couldn’t be sure.

Several theories have been offered as to where the meat came from, the first being that it wasn’t meat at all. After analyzing samples, one person suggested it might be a substance called nostoc, made of a bacterium that can float high in the air but then expand and take on a jelly-like shape and meat-like color when it rains, causing it to enlarge and then fall to the ground. But even though this seemed like a possibility, the idea was weak. It had not rained that day in Bath County. In studying samples, another scientist eventually came up with a different explanation when he recognized that the sample he was looking at was part of a lung. The meat, therefore, came from animal biological material. Other scientists soon confirmed that additional samples were parts of muscle and cartilage\* from some kind of animal.

But where, then, did it all come from? Today, the explanation that most people believe is that the meat shower came from vulture\* vomit. It is quite common for vultures to throw up the food in their stomachs

—this behavior is called disgorgement—allowing them to make their bodies lighter while flying or to escape an enemy quickly. This explains why the chunks consist of animal flesh and fell from such a height. While pieces of the Meat Shower have been preserved in a local history museum, the exact type of meat has never been determined. It could be from any number of animals, such as lamb, horse or deer.

[注] cartilage: 軟骨                      vulture: ハゲワシ

4. What is the main topic of this passage?
- A. What meat tastes like to humans
  - B. The strange behavior of vultures
  - C. A strange event that occurred in the past
  - D. How certain types of bacteria transform in the rain
5. Which of the following is true about the meat that fell from the sky?
- A. It was likely a sign from the Heavens.
  - B. It probably came from an animal, but what specific animal is not clear.
  - C. Scientists considered whether it fell from an airplane.
  - D. The vulture meat had been altered by bacteria.

6. What can be inferred from this passage?

- A. Strange things are more likely to occur in rural areas than in urban ones.
- B. Vultures are extremely dangerous to humans.
- C. Nostoc could be produced and sold as a meat substitute.
- D. Most but not all questions about this strange event were answered.



1	1	A	●	○	○
	2	A	○	●	○
	3	A	●	○	○
	4	A	○	●	○
	5	A	●	○	○
	6	A	○	●	○
	7	A	○	○	●
	8	●	○	○	○
	9	A	○	●	○
	10	●	○	○	○
	11	A	○	○	●
	12	A	●	○	○
	13	A	○	○	○
	14	A	○	○	○
	15	●	○	○	○
	16	A	○	●	○
	17	A	○	○	●
	18	A	○	○	●
	19	A	○	○	●
	20	●	○	○	○

20点

2		( 2 )					( 5 )					
	1	A	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
	2	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	3	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	4	●	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	5	○	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	6	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	7	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	8	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
	9	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○
10	A	○	○	○	○	○	A	○	○	○	○	

20点

3	1	A	●	○	○
	2	A	○	○	●
	3	○	○	○	○
	4	A	○	○	○
	5	A	○	○	○
	6	A	○	○	○
	7	○	○	○	○
	8	A	○	○	○

24点

4	1	A	○	○	○
	2	○	○	○	○
	3	A	○	○	○
	4	○	○	○	○
	5	A	○	○	○
	6	A	○	○	○

18点

5	1	A	○	○	○
	2	A	○	○	○
	3	A	○	○	○
	4	A	○	○	○
	5	A	○	○	○
	6	A	○	○	○

18点