

英 語

I 次の文章を読んで、設問に答えなさい。

Recently I've seen articles here and there stating sadly that being 20 is no longer the most beautiful time of life. That's a change, as the early adult years have long been seen as a kind of peak, after which there is nothing but a slow decline into a less lively and duller middle age. But now it seems even that much-envied age isn't what it was once felt to be.

How could ^①this be? Surely one has fewer responsibilities while young. Not many 20-year-olds have families or demanding duties, do they? When I was young, these carefree years were a perfect chance to try different life paths: study at university, learn a trade, volunteer for an important cause, take a long trip to foreign lands, or a little bit of each. Social life is another area where young people tend to have it best—joining clubs and associations, meeting new people, and encountering new ideas.

But now I'm reading that members of Generation Z (as they are called) are having a hard time getting started in life. They are stressing out because everyone is telling them that this is a pivotal time, that they need to find a career that won't be taken over by AI, that they'll never be able to own a house or take a long holiday. And ^②these articles are saying that even dating has filled young people with anxiety, because there are not so many opportunities to just hang out, and making connections online is tedious, risky, and just not that much fun.

^③It sounds awful, and maybe it is. But every age has its ups and downs. Perhaps our media environment is partly to blame, highlighting

the difficulties in the world and putting all this pressure on our 20-year-olds. Instead, I'd advise ④them to relax a bit; things might turn out somewhat ok.

【出典】 書き下ろし

【注】 learn a trade = 手に職をつける pivotal time = 転機となる点
tedious = 退屈な

問1 本文の内容に合致するように (1)～(5) の各文を完成させるにはどのように続ければよいか, 最も適当なものをそれぞれ a～d から一つ選んで, 記号で答えなさい。

(1) According to the author,

- a. the peak of life is middle age.
- b. one's best years come after a change.
- c. many older people look back fondly on being 20 years old.
- d. young people are not so good-looking anymore.

(2) "Generation Z" seems to mean

- a. socially active people.
- b. the people who are now in their early adult years.
- c. those who are not able to start their careers until late.
- d. children and teenagers.

(3) One advantage of being young that is NOT mentioned is

- a. greater physical fitness.
- b. having many opportunities to learn.
- c. the freedom to experiment without time pressure.
- d. a rich social life.

(4) The article suggests that young people have trouble

- a. dealing with pressure put on them by society and the media.
- b. using AI to help them progress in their careers.
- c. finding a place to go with a date.
- d. accepting the difficult realities of working life.

(5) The author seems to think that young people should

- a. be more responsible.
- b. relax and try new things.
- c. quickly decide on what is the best life path.
- d. learn from people who are older than them.

問2 下線部①～④の内容を最もよく表している表現を、それぞれ a～d から一つ選んで、記号で答えなさい。

(6) ①this

- a. that middle age is dull
- b. that people envy 20-year-olds
- c. that a decline comes after the peak
- d. that being a young adult is not that great

(7) ②these articles

- a. articles about older people
- b. articles about dating websites
- c. articles about young people
- d. articles about giving advice

(8) ③It

- a. the article the author read
- b. finding a job and a place to live
- c. online dating
- d. life for a young person

(9) ④them

- a. young people around 20 years old
- b. people in the media
- c. those putting pressure on young people
- d. people who envy 20-year-olds

問3 本文に題をつけるとすればどのような題がよいか，全体の内容を最もよく表している題を， a ～ d から一つ選んで，記号で答えなさい。

- (10)
- a. Being 20: Not What It Once Was?
 - b. The Pros and Cons of Being 20
 - c. Why Is Generation Z So Lazy?
 - d. How to Live a Happy Life

- Ⅱ 次の文章を完成させるには (11)～(15) にどの語を入れたらよいか、最も適当なものをそれぞれ a～d から一つ選んで、記号で答えなさい。

When people think of getting a pet, they often think about a dog, a cat, or fish. These are the most common pets around the world because they are easy to care for and widely available. However, more families are now choosing (11) kinds of pets, like pigs, snakes, and even rats.

Miniature pigs are becoming more popular because they are small and smart, although they need big spaces and special food. Snakes are quiet and clean, but they require special temperatures to live comfortably. Rats might seem like a (12) choice, but they are friendly and easy to train, though they often chew electrical cords, and they need large places to play.

Owning rare pets can be (13) but also challenging. Owners can learn new skills and gain unique experiences. However, some pets have special needs, making care more difficult. Besides, some vets may have no (14) with these pets, which can make medical care expensive. Also, some pets can be dangerous if they escape.

Pets help us experience various types of animals in our (15). They also teach us about responsibility, care, love, and patience. But most of all, they make us happy, even if they are a little different.

【出典】書き下ろし

【注】miniature = 小型の chew = かむ vet = 獣医

- (11) a. important
b. popular
c. unhappy
d. different

- (12) a. strange
b. normal
c. positive
d. first

- (13) a. boring
b. exciting
c. existing
d. threatening

- (14) a. exam
b. pleasure
c. experience
d. time

- (15) a. countries
b. homes
c. schools
d. stores

Ⅲ

次の (16)～(30) の () に入れるのに最も適当な語または句を、それぞれ a～d から一つ選んで、記号で答えなさい。

(16) This color doesn't suit me. Do you have ()?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| a. any other colors | b. the other |
| c. some ones | d. any color |

(17) Even if the sun () in the west, I would never give up hope.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| a. has risen | b. will rise |
| c. is risen | d. were to rise |

(18) () water, we couldn't live.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| a. Except | b. Without | c. Besides | d. Despite |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|

(19) The man bought what he wanted, () expensive it was.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|------------|
| a. when | b. whenever | c. how | d. however |
|---------|-------------|--------|------------|

(20) Her little brother is only () as old as she is.

- a. twice b. double c. half d. second

(21) As journalists, we must pay attention to () affairs.

- a. current b. news c. nowadays d. up-to-date

(22) Can you give me a good explanation for your confusing ()?

- a. feelings b. conduct c. senses d. play

(23) I wanted to () enough for the trip to Europe.

- a. spend b. treat c. earn d. calculate

(24) It isn't in his () to forgive others easily.

- a. manner b. nature c. mind d. attitude

(25) There's no () for tastes.

- a. explain b. count c. exploring d. accounting

(26) My daughter calls me ().

- a. all the while b. every now and then
- c. once and for all d. for a time

(27) To our surprise, she talked for hours () end.

- a. at b. till c. on d. in

(28) (), he looks just like my brother.

- a. Far from it b. From a distance
- c. At length d. In the long run

(29) You should keep () bad company.

- a. up with b. on at c. out of d. on about

(30) We didn't expect him to turn up ().

- a. by name b. in short c. by far d. in person

IV 次の会話の (31)～(35) に入る最も適当な表現を, それぞれ a～d から一つ選んで, 記号で答えなさい。

Mika: Hey Kaz, any ideas for Aiko's birthday?

Kaz: (31), yeah—I was thinking of a surprise party.

Mika: No way! That would be so fun.

Kaz: Right? But we have to (32)

Mika: I doubt it'll be easy. She notices everything.

Kaz: True. We'll have to be careful. How about doing it at my place?

Mika: Sounds good. She won't expect that.

Kaz: What day works best?

Mika: Her birthday's Saturday, but Friday night might be better.

Kaz: (33) We can say it's just a normal dinner.

Mika: Then boom—surprise!

Kaz: Exactly. Should we invite her family?

Mika: Yes, and a few close friends. But let's keep it small. Maybe 10, 15 people? We can ask them to bring something to drink, right?

Kaz: OK. That works. So—I'll take care of the food and music, (34)

Mika: Great. I'll get balloons and decorations.

Kaz: Awesome! Let's (35) for her.

- (31) a. Actually
b. Unfortunately
c. Sorry
d. Sometimes
- (32) a. go with the flow.
b. tell the world.
c. keep it quiet.
d. make it really fancy.
- (33) a. Why's that?
b. Definitely not.
c. What for?
d. Good idea.
- (34) a. when they arrive.
b. if she likes?
c. shall I?
d. as you like.
- (35) a. spoil it
b. call it a night
c. make a deal
d. make it really special