

英 語

I 次の文章を読んで、設問に答えなさい。

In the late Ming dynasty, religious leaders predicted the end of the world around 1644. Much of Ming China fell to the Manchu conquest in that year, and ①this was later interpreted as fulfilling these predictions. The world hadn't ended, but people felt that Heaven's choice of rulers had shifted.

In the 1800s, William Miller told his followers that Jesus Christ would return between 1843 and 1844, and that ②this event would be the beginning of the end of the world. When the prophecy failed, it led to the "Great Disappointment" but also, later, to the formation of a new Christian movement, whose followers said the event was a spiritual rebirth rather than a physical end.

More recently, there was widespread fear that a computer programming problem would cause global collapse on January 1, 2000. Some panicked, but engineers resolved the issue and no significant disruptions occurred. Still, many worried about humans' new dependence on technology.

In the age of social media, ③the idea spread that the so-called end of the Mayan calendar (December 21, 2012) would be the apocalypse. Later, scholars made it clear that the date merely marked a major change in a counting system—like the year 2000.

A few people are still concerned about a calculation by Isaac Newton, who studied the Bible and arrived at 2060 as a potential year for the end of the world. Newton was a scientist deep down though, and he warned against firm predictions.

Of course, scientists are still making discoveries about the universe, and now think that the end will come when stars burn out and everything becomes cold. Recently, it was predicted that ④this end will be sooner than we thought. Much, much sooner. The estimate of our

remaining time moved from 10^{1100} years to 10^{78} years. But if you know your math you probably aren't panicking. Those numbers are completely beyond our imagination.

【出典】 書き下ろし

【注】 Ming dynasty = 明王朝 Manchu conquest = 満州族の征服

prophecy = 予言 disruption = 混乱 Mayan calendar = マヤ暦

apocalypse = この世の終わり

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) The Manchu conquest was interpreted by some as

- a. an unexpected chance to change religious leaders.
- b. a sign that Heaven would now support a new ruler.
- c. proof that the Chinese calendar was incorrect.
- d. the long-expected end of the world.

(2) William Miller's prophecy that the world would end around 1844

- a. failed due to natural disasters.
- b. led to war between Christian groups.
- c. ended in disappointment but also started a new movement.
- d. almost caused the death of the Christian religion.

(3) The Mayan calendar's "end" in 2012

- a. was a cause of concern for many people on social media.
- b. caused many natural disasters in Central America.
- c. was ignored completely by the general public.
- d. showed that the Western calendar was more logical and easier to understand.

(4) People with an understanding of science and technology

- a. have never been worried about "end of the world" events.
- b. do not usually get worried if there is no clear evidence.
- c. will be able to prevent the end of the world.
- d. can always correctly interpret prophecies.

(5) The author seems to think that

- a. we need to fear the new theory about the end of the world.
- b. the world will end around 2060.
- c. we need not worry about the end of the world.
- d. the universe will end in our lifetime.

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. the religious leaders' prediction
- b. the year 1644
- c. the Ming dynasty's fall
- d. Heaven's announcement of the new ruler

(7) ②this event

- a. the return of Jesus Christ
- b. the beginning of a new movement
- c. the prophecy
- d. the end of the world

(8) ③the idea

- a. the use of social media
- b. the prediction that the world ends in 2012
- c. the Mayan method of counting years
- d. the concern that we are too dependent on technology

(9) ④ this end

- a. the date predicted by Isaac Newton
- b. the death of the Sun
- c. the last days of human civilization
- d. the end of the universe

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. Predictions of the End: Ancient China to Modern Science
 - b. What Different Religions Tell Us about Time
 - c. Technological Progress and the End of Fear
 - d. How to Make the Most of Our Remaining Time

Ⅱ

次の (11)～(35) 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。

(11) A: How often does the bus run?

B: It runs ().

- a. by ten minutes b. in ten minutes
- c. ten minutes each d. every ten minutes

(12) A: Your boy is such a gentleman for his age. He isn't eight yet, right?

B: Oh, he () a good boy right now.

- a. has been b. can be c. would be d. is being

(13) Boxes made of paper are much lighter than () made of wood.

- a. them b. those c. theirs d. which

(14) I found () difficult not to smile at our baby.

- a. that b. very c. one d. it

(21) We often realize the () of something after we've lost it.

- a. rate b. value c. payment d. fee

(22) It is a very () price for this poor material.

- a. fair b. expensive c. high d. thoughtful

(23) Listening to the opinions of others will () your horizons.

- a. expand b. lighten c. prove d. educate

(24) Sadly, some people are () politics.

- a. familiar with b. dependent on
c. particular about d. indifferent to

(25) Will it be () for you to start working with us next Monday?

- a. available b. efficient c. convenient d. effective

(26) The baby's skin is very () to the sunlight.

- a. sensible b. senseless c. sensitive d. sensing

(27) It is your () to see the project through to the end.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| a. capacity | b. distribution |
| c. expectation | d. responsibility |

(28) She decided to leave the humid climate () of her poor health.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. on account | b. on behalf |
| c. instead | d. in favor |

(29) Do you know why she () the amazing offer?

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| a. carried out | b. went through |
| c. turned down | d. accounted for |

(30) I agree with you (), but not entirely.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| a. by no means | b. under the surface |
| c. with full hearts | d. to some degree |

(31) Keep () the grass, or you will get fined.

- | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| a. up | b. off | c. on | d. out |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|

(32) Their first guess was ().

- a. off the mark
- b. behind their back
- c. in the air
- d. under the table

(33) They had to () with their house to get cash as soon as possible.

- a. put up
- b. cut ties
- c. part
- d. come

(34) (), we used to play outside until the sun went down.

- a. Up until now
- b. Back in the day
- c. Day and night
- d. Day by day

(35) When you start your own business, you should take your financial status ().

- a. into account
- b. for granted
- c. aside
- d. apart

Ⅲ

次の二つの会話の (36)～(40) 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。

Host: Welcome to the show! Thank you for coming in today!

Beth: (36)

Host: So, tell us, how did you get involved in acting?

Beth: Well, let's see... The story goes back to my elementary school days. One day, the entire school gathered in the school gym to watch a play, *Romeo and Juliet*. (37), and I decided I wanted to be an actor that day.

Host: Wow!

Beth: I even asked my teacher to start a drama club the next day.

Host: (38) Did you succeed?

Beth: Yes, it took five months, though.

- (36) a. You, too.
b. It was nice meeting you.
c. Ah, it's OK.
d. Oh, it's my pleasure.

- (37) a. I had enough of it
b. I fell in love with it
c. I'm over it
d. Tell me about it

- (38) a. It's no joke, is it?
b. I'm sorry to hear that.
c. That's impressive.
d. What made you think so?
-

Ken: Thank you for the wonderful meal, Aunt Becky! Let me do the dishes.

Becky: (39) But you don't have to.

Ken: Oh, let me. (40)

- (39) a. How nice of you.
b. Not a chance.
c. How could you?
d. Stop!

- (40) a. I don't have to.
b. Don't be shy.
c. It's already done.
d. It's the least I can do.