

第1問 以下の英文を読んで設問に答えよ。

When asked how long it will ( ア ) for the world's population to double, many people may say 20 years or less. Yet forecasts by the United Nations and others show that world population, currently at a little over six billion, is unlikely to double forever.<sup>(1)</sup>

Indeed, some \*demographers predict that world population will peak at nine billion by 2070 and then start shrinking. Meanwhile, the average age ( a ) the world's citizens will advance dramatically. This aging will happen fastest not in the developed world but in the developing countries.

These predictions come ( b ) considerable certainty. The primary reason is a fall in \*fertility rates over the last generation that is spreading to every corner of the globe.

Global fertility is half what it was in 1972, that is, the average woman in the world ( イ ) half as many children as did her \*counterpart in 1972. The decline began in industrialized nations, none of which still produces enough children to sustain its population over time. Japan's population, for example, is expected to peak as early as 2005, and then to fall by as much as one-third over the next 50 years.

Yet now the developing world is growing older, too, and at a far faster pace. Mexico is aging five times faster than the U.S., due primarily ( c ) a dramatic fall in fertility.

To those who were ( ウ ) on "population bomb" fears, all this is certainly reason to cheer. A slowdown in fertility rates also brings economic benefits, which partly explains the current economic success of India and China. As the relative number of children declines, so does the burden of their dependency, thereby freeing resources for adults to use for themselves.<sup>(2)</sup>

Yet while declining fertility rates can initially bring a "demographic \*dividend," the eventual loss of human capital means that dividend has to be ( エ ) back. At first there are fewer children to look ( d ), which leaves more resources for adults to enjoy. But soon enough, if fertility ( オ ) below \*replacement levels, there are fewer productive workers and more and more dependent elders.

Countries like France and Japan at least got a chance to grow rich before they grew old.

The effects <sup>(3)</sup> on world economic growth are grave. Japan developed its export-driven economy at a time when the number of consumers in Western Europe and the U.S. was still growing soundly. By contrast, when today's developing nations search ( e ) long-term export markets, they find most rich countries facing absolute population decline and a heavy burden from

the cost of their health and pension programs. We may all be entering a diminished old age.

*demographer	人口統計学者
*fertility	出生(率)
*counterpart	対応する人
*dividend	配当金
*replacement level	現人口を維持するだけの出生率

問1 下線部(1)、(2)を日本語に訳せ。

問2 空欄(a)、(b)、(c)、(d)、(e)に適切な前置詞を1語入れよ。

問3 空欄(ア)、(イ)、(ウ)、(エ)、(オ)に入るべきもっとも適切な動詞を次の中から選べ。必要な場合には形を変えよ。

bear      buy      contain      meet      pay      raise      remain  
rise      take      win

問4 下線部(3)には、以下の単語をすべて一度ずつ用いた文が入る。その文で、4番目と8番目に来る単語は何か。(文頭に来る単語も小文字にしてある。)

are      before      countries      developing      get      growing      most      old  
rich      they

問5 次の単語の中には、アクセントのある音節の数字が他と異なっているものが1つある。その単語の番号を答えよ。

(1) con-sid-er-a-ble      (2) de-vel-op-ing      (3) dra-mat-i-cal-ly  
    1 2 3 4 5                      1 2 3 4                      1 2 3 4 5  
(4) av-er-age                      (5) i-ni-tial-ly  
    1 2 3                              1 2 3 4

問6 以下の文のうち、本文の内容に合致するものを2つ選び、番号で答えよ。

- (1) ある予測では、世界の人口は2070年までに現在の約1.5倍になるが、その後減少する。
- (2) 世界的な出生率の低下は発展途上国から始まり、先進国へ波及した。
- (3) 日本の人口は21世紀後半には現在の3分の1になると予想される。
- (4) 発展途上国は、先進国よりも高齢化現象の進行が緩やかである。
- (5) 出生率の低下は、永続的な経済成長をもたらす。
- (6) 日本の経済的成功は、先進国の人口増加に依存していた。
- (7) インドや中国は、高出生率のせいで経済が低迷している。