

平成 14 年度 東北大学工学部編入学試験問題

英 語

下記の文章を読み、次ページの間に答えよ。

The evening of April 26, 1986. Europe's media alert the public to unusually high atmospheric radiation readings over Scandinavia.

Days later, the fearful continent learns why.

A huge explosion has blown the roof off Reactor Four at Chernobyl in Soviet Ukraine and a radioactive cloud is blowing northwestwards. According <sup>(1)</sup> ( ) the United Nations, some 5 million people were exposed to the radiation or otherwise affected by the Chernobyl disaster. More than 4,000 people who took part in the former Soviet Union's clean-up attempt have since died and another 40,000 involved in the operation became ill or were disabled.

But after 15 years the nuclear industry has received the endorsement of U.S. President George W. Bush, <sup>(2)</sup> which <sup>(3)</sup> it hopes could herald its rehabilitation into public acceptance. Bush last month unveiled a national energy plan to boost domestic U.S. energy supplies, with fossil fuels and atomic power playing a key role.

<sup>(4)</sup> The industry has always maintained that the Chernobyl accident resulted <sup>(5)</sup> ( ) a design flaw which Western reactors do not share — the lack of a structure to contain radioactive material in the case of an accident. It has also pointed to poor regulation inherent <sup>(6)</sup> ( ) the centrally planned Soviet system which disintegrated a decade ago. <sup>(7)</sup> Such reasoning failed to convince the United States — which had its own near-meltdown at Three Mile Island near Middletown, Pennsylvania, in 1979 — and governments in Europe that the public would accept new nuclear plants to meet expected increases in electricity demand. So what has changed?

The answer is global warming. Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels — oil, coal and gas — which fire 80 percent of the world's power plants, are being linked to rising world temperatures which threaten to melt the polar ice caps, engulfing lowland areas and wiping low-lying Pacific islands from the map within a century. But as Vaughn Gilbert, spokesman for U.S. reactor manufacturer Westinghouse, says: <sup>(8)</sup> The only carbon emissions that come from a nuclear plant are from the nostrils of the people working there.

In fact, around 30 Western-designed nuclear reactors are under construction around the world, all outside the U.S. and western Europe, adding to the current total of over 430.

Within the European Union, only Finland is considering building a new <sup>(9)</sup> plant and a parliamentary decision on that was delayed recently until the end of the year. But Foratom, the Brussels-based European nuclear industry umbrella group, believes <sup>(10)</sup> Washington cannot be ignored. <sup>(11)</sup> What we observed in the past was (that) most of the developments in the energy field started in the U.S., then Europe followed — with a time delay but sometimes with higher amplitudes," says Foratom's executive secretary, Wolf-Juergen Schmidt-Kuester. (Asahi Weekly, June 3, 2001)

(注) alert : 警告する Chernobyl : チェルノブイリ endorsement : 支持, 承認 herald : ~を予告する  
flaw : 欠陥 Western reactors : 西側諸国の原子炉 fire : ~の燃料となる power plant(s) : 発電所  
engulfing : (水中に)沈める low-lying : 低地の nostril(s) : 鼻の穴  
umbrella group : 傘下におく組織

[1] 文中の(1),(5),(6)の( )内に適当な前置詞をそれぞれ[ ]中の(a)~(c)から選んで、解答欄にアルファベットで記入せよ (a,b または c)。

- (1) [(a) by (b) to (c) of]
- (5) [(a) from (b) for (c) at]
- (6) [(a) under (b) on (c) in]

[2] 下線部(8)の意味と最も近い文を次の(a)~(c)から選び、解答欄にアルファベットで記入せよ。

- (a) 原子力発電所の2酸化炭素放出は大きい。
- (b) 原子力発電所から出る2酸化炭素は人間に無害である。
- (c) 原子力発電所は2酸化炭素を放出しない。

[3] 下線部(2)の whichは何を指すか。

[4] 下線部(3)の itは何を指すか。

[5] 下線部(9)の plant と最も関連の深い語句を本文中から選んで挙げよ。ただし”plant”を含まないものとする。

[6] 下線部(10)の Washington が示すものは何か。

[7] 下線部(4)を和訳せよ。

[8] 下線部(11)を和訳せよ。

[9] 下線部(7)の Such reasoning の内容を具体的に述べよ。

[10] 下線部(7)の Such reasoning は米国やヨーロッパ各国政府を説得できたか。それは何故か。