

英 語

下記の文章を読み、次ページの問いに答えよ。

There is no doubt at all that the introduction of 'disposable' materials, such as cheap paper and plastics, has been, on the whole, decidedly beneficial. It has reduced the incidence of infectious disease and dramatically diminished the less attractive kinds of domestic chores. The question is, how far ought we to go ^①in this direction? What do we really mean by 'disposable' anyway?

It is all very well to throw away things like towelling and packaging and it is probably an excellent thing to throw away your morning paper, but what about refrigerators and motorcars? It is perhaps possible - just possible - to exaggerate the cynicism of manufacturers and shopkeepers about 'planned obsolescence'. Of course, Nature arranges for all her creatures to die and there is no good reason why the works of man should last for ever. A paper towel is very cheap - much cheaper than one made from cotton or linen - and ^② _____ the cost of washing a durable towel is probably greater than that of throwing away many paper ones. But all this is not true of motorcars or refrigerators. ^③In such things a small addition to the first cost would result in a much longer life and in reduced maintenance costs.

One of the biggest contributions to the total economy would be to make ^④'consumer durables' durable. After all, if such things last twice as long, that is roughly equivalent ^⑤ ___ doubling the production of the article; in other words one can make half as many. ^⑥This does not necessarily cause unemployment because one can use the money which is saved to buy something else - or else perhaps just save it.

Many products wear out - or rather go out of service - ^⑦for silly, shoddy reasons (Oh no, sir, we don't stock spares for out-of-date models). However, the biggest single reason for throwing things away is probably rust. ^⑧I suppose that industries which deliberately live by 'planned obsolescence' ought not to be surprised if they become obsolete themselves.

(From "The New Science of Strong Materials" second edition, J. E. Gordon, Penguin Books, 1991)

(注)

infectious disease:伝染病

towelling: (紙) タオル地

exaggerate:大げさに言う

planned obsolescence:計画的陳腐化

(計画的に使えなくすること)

wear out: (古くなって)使えなくなる

rust:錆びること

obsolete:廃れた

domestic chores:家庭の雑用

packaging:梱包材料

cynicism:皮肉

durable:耐久力のある

shoddy:不誠実な

deliberately:意図的に

問 1 : ①が示す「この方向に」とはどのような方向のことをいっているのか, わかり易く日本語で説明せよ.

問 2 : ②に入る最適な単語を次の中から選び, 記号で答えよ.

(a) however (b) because (c) furthermore (d) although

問 3 : ③を日本語に訳せ.

問 4 : ④が何を示すか日本語で説明し, 文中にある具体例を日本語で示せ.

問 5 : ⑤に入る最適な前置詞を次の中から選び, 記号で答えよ.

(a) of (b) by (c) to (d) on

問 6 : ⑥が指すものをわかり易く日本語で説明せよ.

問 7 : ⑦で示される理由とは何か, 日本語で具体的に説明せよ.

問 8 : ⑧を日本語に訳せ.