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英 語

(解答番号 ~)

第 1 問 次の英文を読んで、後の問い(問 1 ~ 10)に答えなさい。

(*印の語(句)については、注釈を参照すること。)

When the 95-year-old Fujie Sakamoto assisted in delivering* her last baby on Oct. 20 after 70 years, she quietly but emotionally described it as “nice and peaceful.” She started working as a midwife* around the time of Japan’s defeat in World War II. She has since assisted in 5,000 births, and she was the oldest active midwife in Japan until she retired in October this year.

Born in Minabe next to Tanabe, Sakamoto moved to Osaka in her teens to enroll in a nursing and obstetrics school* while working at a dental clinic. When the war ended in 1945, she returned to her hometown. At 21, Sakamoto began her career as a midwife in Tanabe. As mothers more frequently gave birth at home around that time, Sakamoto then had to rush to pregnant women’s houses by bicycle even late at night. Sakamoto was so busy in the 10 years following the end of the war (1) she once assisted in deliveries for five days (2) in a row.

She opened a maternity clinic* in 1976 as fewer people decided to give birth at home. It was relocated in 1997 to a residential area near the central part of Tanabe. The two-story maternity clinic had a sign (3) “open throughout the year.” On its first floor was a childbearing chamber* and a Japanese-style room where the mother and child could stay following birth.

According to Sakamoto, what is important in childbearing is to bring babies into the world in “a natural fashion.” (4) In line with this philosophy, Sakamoto patiently waits for newborns to come out of the womb spontaneously, (5) [(1) how (2) takes (3) no (4) long (5) matter (6) it]. “Babies come out when they

like to do so,” Sakamoto said. “I (6)let nature take its course.” When a mother is suffering from terrible labor pains,* Sakamoto continuously rubs their lower back while reassuring them, “It’s OK, It’s OK,” to help ease the pain.

At her clinic, a mother and child are allowed to spend time in the same room for five days after the birth, because Sakamoto believes that infants’ minds become filled with love when they are repeatedly held and breastfed* by their mothers. “Babies can sense what their mother is feeling through the warmth of their skin,” said Sakamoto.

Her accumulated experience, skills and cheerful personality (7)spread through word of mouth, attracting many pregnant women around Tanabe. One of the babies she helped to deliver has just turned 70, she has been the family’s midwife for over four generations. Sakamoto has also deliver all six of her grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

With fewer people having children in Tanabe and elsewhere across the country, only two to three deliveries are made a month at Sakamoto’s maternity clinic, around half that of 10 years ago. According to the health ministry, the number of children born at maternity clinics fell to 5,410 in 2017 from 10,610 in 2007. Whereas there are 366 such facilities across the nation at the end of the fiscal year in 2017,* the figure is 100 lower than that for the end of the fiscal year in 2011. Under such circumstances, Sakamoto decided to close her business after holding talks with the assistant midwife and other staff members, although she still feels (8) to continue working.

Sakamoto said she will continue offering advice on health and child care following her retirement as a midwife. “Mothers today appear to be too hastily to try and make children stand on their own for no reason,” Sakamoto noted. “They should do things slower. Each child has a unique personality, so mothers just need to respect that.”

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注釈 : delivering 「(赤ん坊を)取り上げる」 midwife 「助産師」
a nursing and obstetrics school 「看護助産学校」
a maternity clinic 「助産院」 a childbearing chamber 「分娩室」
labor pains 「陣痛」 breastfed 「お乳をもらっている」
the end of the fiscal year in 2017 「2017 会計年度末」

問 1 本文中の空所(1)に入れるのに最も適当なものを, 次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① although ② so ③ that ④ when

問 2 本文中の下線部(2)“in a row”とほぼ同じ意味を表すものを, 次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① on and off ② on and on ③ on end ④ on its own

問 3 本文中の空所(3)に入れるのに最も適当なものを, 次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① saying ② calling ③ telling ④ writing

問 4 本文中の下線部(4)“In line with this philosophy”とほぼ同じ意味を表すものを, 次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① Contrary to this principle
② For the sake of this principle
③ In accordance with this principle
④ On the basis of this principle

問5 本文中の下線部(5)が「どれだけ時間がかかっても」という意味の英文になるように[]内の①～⑥の語を並べ換えたときに、3番目と5番目にくるものをそれぞれ一つずつ選びなさい。3番目 5番目

- ① how ② takes ③ no
④ long ⑤ matter ⑥ it

問6 本文中の下線部(6)“let nature take its course”とほぼ同じ意味を表すものを、次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① allow the babies to be born naturally
② care for the babies on my own
③ deliver the babies on my own
④ give birth to the babies naturally

問7 本文中の下線部(7)“spread through word of mouth”とほぼ同じ意味を表すものを、次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① passed from generation to generation
② passed from person to person
③ passed from one town to the next
④ passed from one period to the next

問8 本文中の空所(8)に入れるのに最も適当なものを、次の①～④の中から一つ選びなさい。

- ① healthy enough ② old enough
③ too healthy ④ too old

問9 本文の内容に合うよう、次の(1)・(2)の空所に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①～④の中から一つずつ選びなさい。

(1) During Sakamoto's seventy-year career as a midwife, (). 10

- ① she lived in Osaka and returned to her birthplace, Tanabe
- ② one of the mothers she helped deliver turned 70
- ③ she assisted in delivering her great-grandchildren's babies
- ④ the number of babies delivered at her maternity clinic greatly decreased

(2) In 2017 the number of babies born () was about half as large as that in 2007. 11

- ① at maternity clinics in Tanabe
- ② at maternity clinics in Japan
- ③ at Sakamoto's maternity clinic
- ④ at home in Japan

問10 次の(1)～(4)の各文が、本文の内容に合っていれば①、合っていなければ②を選びなさい。

(1) サカモトさんが取り上げた赤ちゃんは、5,000人に上る。 12

(2) 自宅での出産が減ったため、サカモトさんは1997年に助産院で働き始めた。

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(3) 2011会計年度末の時点で全国に466の助産院があった。 14

(4) 引退後もサカモトさんは育児のアドバイスを続けるつもりである。 15

第2問 次の英文の空所 ～ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、下の

①～⑥の中から一つずつ選びなさい。ただし、同じものを繰り返し用いないものとする。なお、空所の番号は、解答欄の解答番号と一致させてある。

(*印の語(句)については、注釈を参照すること。)

In recent years, Russia's Far East has provided many riches for scientists studying the of ancient animals. As the permafrost* melts, affected by climate , more and more parts of woolly , canines* and other prehistoric animals are being discovered. Often it is mammoth tusk* who discover them.

“Why has Russia's Far East come through a real spate of* such unique findings over the last ? First, it's global warming. It really exists, we feel it, and local people feel it strongly. Winter comes later, spring comes earlier,” said Sergei Fyodorov, a scientist with the North Eastern Federal University. “And the second very serious reason why there are a lot of findings is the very high of mammoth tusks in the Chinese market.”

注釈：permafrost 「永久凍土層」
tusk 「牙」

canines 「イヌ科の動物」
a real spate of 「実に多数の」

① change

② decade

③ hunters

④ price

⑤ remains

⑥ mammoths

第3問 次の(1)~(5)の会話の空所 ~ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①~④の中から一つずつ選びなさい。なお、空所の番号は、解答欄の解答番号と一致させてある。

(1) A: Oh, Jake, you have grown up. How old are you now?

B: I'm fifteen, but I'll be sixteen next month.

A: Yes, you'll finally be able to get your driver's license.

① You're getting older.

② I just can't wait!

③ I wish I were younger.

④ Happy birthday to you!

(2) A: Where are my glasses? I can't find them.

B: Huh! They're on the top of your head.

A: I'm so forgetful these days.

① Let's make some memories.

② I dropped my glasses and broke them.

③ Oh, how silly of me.

④ I still don't remember where I put them.

(3) A: I'm sorry I'm late. I got caught in heavy traffic.

B: It would've been quicker.

A: Yeah, you're probably right.

① Why didn't you go there on foot?

② You should've come here by bus.

③ I'll take you home in my car.

④ Why didn't you take the subway?

(4) A: Excuse me. 25

B: No, I'm afraid not. The convenience store should be able to help you, though.

A: Thanks a lot!

- ① The fridge is almost empty.
- ② Do you have change for 10 dollars?
- ③ Is there a convenience store nearby?
- ④ I need 2 dollars for the parking meter.

(5) A: Oh, there's an empty seat.

B: 26

A: Why not?

B: We have to change trains at the next station.

- ① I don't mind sitting.
- ② I'm not standing in your way, am I?
- ③ I can't stand it anymore.
- ④ I wouldn't bother sitting down.

第4問 次の(1)~(10)について、空所 ~ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①~④の中から一つずつ選びなさい。なお、空所の番号は、解答欄の解答番号と一致させてある。

(1) it looked like rain, my husband went golfing.

- ① But ② Despite ③ However ④ Though

(2) She told me that she would be back 10 p.m.

- ① by ② for ③ in ④ until

(3) He insisted on her with him.

- ① comes ② come ③ coming ④ to come

(4) You should get your back out if it's causing you pain.

- ① to check ② checking ③ check ④ checked

(5) I can't find my umbrella. Someone it by mistake.

- ① must take ② must be taken
③ must have taken ④ must took

(6) This suit is inferior that one in quality.

- ① as ② so ③ than ④ to

(7) He works harder now than he 33.

- ① used ② used to ③ was used ④ was used to

(8) This house is 34 as that one.

- ① as twice large ② large as twice
③ twice as large ④ as large twice

(9) My daughter 35 a Frenchman last year.

- ① married to ② got married to
③ married with ④ got married with

(10) How many 36 ?

- ① you could solve problems ② could you solve problems
③ problems you could solve ④ problems could you solve