英　語

英語コミュニケーションⅠ・Ⅱ・Ⅲ
論理・表現Ⅰ・Ⅱ・Ⅲ

（注意事項）

1. 解答開始の指示があるまで問題冊子を開いてはいけません。

2. 問題冊子と解答用紙は別になっています。解答はすべて解答用紙に記入しなさい。

3. 解答用紙の各ページの所定欄に受験番号、氏名を記入しなさい。

4. 試験終了後は問題冊子を持ち帰りなさい。

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Part 1　Read this article and answer the questions that follow.

Wow! I Got to Ride on the Bullet Train

When I was ten years old, I didn't know a whole lot about Japan. That was before the emergence of the Internet. The only images of Japan I saw back then were in books and magazines. I often visited my local library to borrow anything and everything I could find about the country. My favorite photos and drawings were of Japan's famous bullet trains. I clearly remember thinking that they looked so **futuristic**. Whenever I looked at them, I instantly thought that Japan was a highly developed nation. **They** seemed far superior to the old, slow, gray, and unattractive ones I took every day. I once watched a great documentary about Japan on television. It showed long, sleek, gleaming white trains whizzing through the Japanese countryside, with Mount Fuji in the background. This was in stark contrast to the train system where I lived. I would spend hours looking at travel books, dreaming of visiting Japan. It was the country I most wanted to visit. However, I never envisaged having enough money to be able to go there; to experience riding these high-speed trains.

In junior high school, I had to do a project on another country. Naturally, I chose Japan. I wanted to learn more about this amazing country. I had already spent several years collecting photos and information. During my research, I found out a lot more. I discovered that people in Japan didn't actually say "bullet train". They used the term "Shinkansen" instead. I think this was the first Japanese word that I learned. It was interesting to read that the nickname "bullet train" comes from the train's shape (which really does resemble a bullet from a gun), and **its** incredible, bullet-like speed. Furthermore, three of the train's main designers had also designed fighter aircraft during World War II. In addition, I read that the first Shinkansen services launched in October 1964. This was to coincide with the Tokyo Olympics. The train was so speedy that, for the very first time, passengers could take a day trip between Tokyo and Osaka. It **slashed** the one-way travel time from six hours and 40 minutes to just three hours and ten minutes.

My childhood dream was finally **realized** when I got to visit Japan in 1993. One of the first things I did after I arrived was ride the Shinkansen. I bought a ticket to travel from Tokyo to Osaka. I felt excited, like a child at Christmas. The day before my trip, I bought extra film for my camera. That was before the days of digital cameras and smartphones. After I arrived at Tokyo Station, I found my way to the Shinkansen platforms. I was amazed by the number of trains stopping at and leaving the station. They were even more beautiful than I had imagined. I boarded my train and sat in my reserved seat at the back of the car. I remember the train being very fast and quiet, almost like an airplane. The best thing was that the seats had loads of legroom. I was

surprised when a lady walked by with a trolley full of food and drinks. I bought a delicious-looking lunch box. That day, I took dozens of photos of trains, and of my lunch.

Since that day in 1993, I've ridden the Shinkansen many times, and I still love it. I guess for Japanese people, taking that train is probably a **run-of-the-mill** experience, but for me, taking it still has that "wow factor". It brings out the child in me. I think the 10-year-old me would have been very happy. I've learned a lot about the Shinkansen since I moved to Japan. It has carried over 10 billion passengers in its 60-year history. This is about 2 billion more than the current world population. Another incredible fact is there have been no fatalities on bullet trains due to collisions or derailments. Unsurprisingly, the Shinkansen is much more environmentally friendly than cars. The bullet train from Tokyo to Osaka produces only about 16 percent of the CO_2 per passenger that a car would for the same trip. This saves around 15,000 tons of CO_2 each year. Despite these positives, one thing has disappointed me. A planned route from Osaka to Tottori and Shimane was canceled in the 1970s. The Shinkansen would have greatly benefited the San-in region.

This text includes some information from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinkansen (accessed on August 10, 2024) under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License ("Public License").

1. How much did the writer know about Japan when she was ten?
   a. not much
   b. a lot
   c. a whole lot
   d. nothing

2. The word "**futuristic**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.
   a. destiny
   b. advanced
   c. upcoming
   d. expected

3. The word "**They**" in paragraph 1 refers to _____.

    a.   bullet trains

    b.   photos

    c.   drawings

    d.   developed nations

4. In a TV show the writer watched, bullets trains were_____ Mount Fuji.

    a.   behind

    b.   alongside

    c.   in front of

    d.   in the background of

5. Why did the writer think she might never get to Japan?

    a.   She thought it was too far away from where she lived.

    b.   She thought there were too few high-speed trains.

    c.   She didn't think she would ever be wealthy enough.

    d.   She thought it would be too quick an experience.

6. How long did the writer spend gathering information about Japan before starting her project?

    a.   one year

    b.   many years

    c.   two years

    d.   three or more years

7. The word "**its**" in paragraph 2 refers to _____.

    a.   a nickname

    b.   the bullet train

    c.   a speeding bullet

    d.   a gun

8. Where did some of the bullet train's creators come from?

    a.   the plane-building industry

    b.   the army

    c.   a design school

    d.   Osaka and Tokyo

9. People rode the first bullet trains_____ the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

    a.   at the same time as

    b.   just before

    c.   just after

    d.   first

10. The word "**slashed**" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.

    a.   added

    b.   timed

    c.   measured

    d.   reduced

11. The word "**realized**" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to _____.

    a.   understood

    b.   achieved

    c.   noticed

    d.   sold for

12. What amazed the writer about Tokyo Station?

    a.   How many bullet train platforms there were.

    b.   The fact that people did not have smartphones.

    c.   How many train arrivals and departures there were.

    d.   The number of beautiful platforms there were.

13. Where on the bullet train did the writer sit?

    a.   in a free seat

    b.   on a board seat

    c.   at the back of the train

    d.   in a seat she had booked

14. What did the writer most like about the bullet train seats?

    a.   They were exactly like airplane seats.

    b.   There was little legroom.

    c.   There were so many seats.

    d.   She could sit and stretch her legs.

15. How many pictures did the writer take of trains and her lunch box?

    a.   12

    b.   between 12 and 23

    c.   at least 24

    d.   half a dozen

16. The word "**run-of-the-mill**" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to _____.

    a.   fast

    b.   normal

    c.   healthy

    d.   exciting

17. How many passengers have ridden the bullet train over the past six decades?

    a.   more than 10,000,000

    b.   more than 1,000,000,000

    c.   more than 10,000,000,000

    d.   more than 10,000,000,000,000

18. How many people have died on bullet trains because of accidents?

    a.   a few

    b.   quite a few

    c.   numerous

    d.   none

19. In what way are bullet trains better for our world than cars?

    a.   They create less carbon dioxide.

    b.   They are more comfortable.

    c.   They are cheaper.

    d.   They save 15,000 tons of trash.

20. How did the writer feel about the abandoning of a rail service to Shimane?

    a.   beneficial

    b.   saddened

    c.   canceled

    d.   old

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Part 2 **Writing Task**

What do you know about bread and rice? Which do you think is better?

(You need to write 150 words or more.)

Part 3

Sakura is talking with a clerk at an airport check-in counter.

Fill in the blanks with the information for the conversation.

Sakura: Good morning.① _____the flight to Tokyo?

Clerk: Yes. May I have your ticket and your passport?

Sakura: ② _____

Clerk: Thank you. Now, where would you like to sit?

Sakura: ③ _____

Clerk: All right. Here is your boarding pass, and your boarding time

is 11:40 at Gate C. Please go up the escalator

④ _____

Sakura: Thank you very much.

Part 4 **Read the article below and answer the question that follows (80~100 words).**

What Makes People Laugh?

Laughter is social. Most laughter is about being friendly with other people. Most laughter says, "I don't want to compete with you. I want to be friendly with you." This kind of laughter brings people together.

We often laugh when we feel nervous. At the beginning of meetings, someone often tells a joke when everyone feels nervous. It is usually a small joke, but we laugh a lot. Our laughter helps us relax.

Sometimes we laugh because we think we are better than other people. When we laugh at another person, we are saying, "I am better than you." This kind of laughter makes others feel bad.

(Adapted from *Q1:Skills for Success*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press)

Why do people laugh?