

次の英文を読んで、後の設問に答えよ。

(50点)

In my school days in the 1980s, I remember my English teacher explaining how his favorite time of the day was his car journey to and from school, as it was the only time of the day where he was truly alone with his thoughts. He could not be disturbed by colleagues, students, his wife, the telephone or by anyone or anything else. Those days were before the age of the cell phone and the Internet, and since that time it has become increasingly difficult to escape from the huge amount of communication and information.

1

Recently, the *New York Times* described a venture capitalist who, while attending a live, work-related presentation, was also surfing the net on his computer and constantly checking his mobile device for calls and mails. Another related example is the rise in popularity of the jogger *pram. A jogger pram is a three-wheeled pram that enables parents to take their children with them while jogging. The pram has been incredibly popular because it ① caters for a really busy lifestyle where we never have enough time, so we try to do as many things as possible at any given moment. These are examples of the way modern life is forcing us to “multi-task.” ② This term was originally a computing term used to describe the ability of a computer to carry out a number of tasks at the same time.

All this technology and multi-tasking enable people to do two, three or four different things at the same time, greatly increasing their productivity levels. The constant flow of information also helps individuals to keep in touch with changes that affect them and their businesses. This enables them to keep up-to-date with developments and use the information for their benefit. Finally, all of these improvements mean that we have more free time than ever before.

Or does it? Across the developed world, working hours are increasing steadily. We are apparently becoming more efficient, and it is taking more of our time than ever. ③ This paradox has been examined by David Meyer, a psychology professor at the University of Michigan. He found that multi-tasking actually hinders productivity. People who constantly switch their attention between tasks can take up to 50 percent longer to complete those tasks than if they finished one before starting another. Technology and the pace of modern life have slowly reduced our attention spans, making us more easily bored than ever. We need constant *fixes of new information to satisfy this “addiction.”

2

Computer and technology manufacturers like to *play down any negative references to their products arguing that any decisions to use their products depend on individual

choice. This is, of course, true, but consumers are (㉔) to powerful forces. These come from both the people around us and marketing. The thought of life without these products would be unbearable as it would “unplug” us and leave us helpless in a low-technology world.

3

4

*pram : 「乳母車」 *fix : 「(麻薬の) 注射」

*play down ~ : 「~を軽視する」

(★およそ 850 words)

Knowledge is Power

by John Barton, Anthony Sellick, Norio Shimamura, Kumiko Hoshi (成美堂)

(1) 空所 1～4 に入れるのに最も適当なものをそれぞれ次の中から 1 つずつ選び、記号で答えよ。(各 6 点)

- a** Maybe we should all switch our phones off for the day and enjoy some time with our thoughts and retake control. For all the trouble this may cause, my English teacher would certainly approve.
- b** It is not difficult to see how this has happened. Cell phones are now so cheap that almost everyone owns one. They have also become so technologically advanced that the newest models can perform an incredibly wide range of tasks: making and receiving telephone calls; sending and receiving e-mails; accessing the Internet; listening to music; and even watching television. Computers are more powerful and compact than ever, and it is possible to access the Internet anytime, anywhere, with a variety of devices. We have all been swept into this new age where information is constantly available and we can contact and be contacted 24 hours a day.
- c** Could we live without these products? Undoubtedly we have done so and we could, but we all recognize the fact that we cannot turn back the clock and that life without a mobile phone and the Internet would be almost unthinkable. Perhaps the key to the future is how we value and use our time. As the pressure on our time increases, we need to become better at recognizing where technology benefits us and where it does not. A recent example described a man who lost his cell phone. He experienced initial panic and sadness worrying how serious the impact on his life would be. However, he soon felt extremely calm, and a peaceful silence descended on his life. He came to realize how unnecessary most of his calls were and a variety of improvements occurred in his life together with a sense of retaking control.

d Another aspect is that once the stream of data has started to flow, it is very difficult to turn off or control. This has been called the subculture of the “Always On.” Cell phones, in particular, can come to life in almost any situation from having dinner with your family to walking down the street. The ring tone has become a demanding master requiring obedience at all times.

(2) 下線部①の意味に最も近いものを次の中から1つ選び、記号で答えよ。(4点)

a imitates **b** maintains **c** satisfies **d** simplifies

(3) 下線部②を和訳せよ。(8点)

(4) 下線部③の具体的内容を日本語で説明せよ。(10点)

(5) 空所④に入れるのに最も適当なものを次の中から1つ選び、記号で答えよ。(4点)

a equal **b** hostile **c** indifferent **d** open

⇒この問題のヒントは、この回の添削問題の最後に掲載しています。
悩む問題があれば、ヒントを参考に解いてみましょう。