

第6問 次の文章を読み、下の問い(問1～7)の ～ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①～④のうちから一つずつ選べ。なお、(1)～(7)は段落の番号を表している。(配点 42)

- (1) My niece, Ann, is in her third year at university. She has recently started her job search. When she entered the university, she wanted to be an architect and planned to apply for work in an architectural firm. But as she prepared for her job search, she learned that the way people work has changed a lot in the last few years. She discovered that much of the change has occurred because of what is called the IT Revolution. The “IT (Information Technology) Revolution” refers to the dramatic change in the way information is perceived and used in today’s world.
- (2) Over the past 12 to 15 years, the amount and types of data available on the Internet and, in particular, the speed at which we can process the data, have increased to an extent few people could have imagined. These developments have led to new ways of thinking about how we use information and how we work in information-rich environments. Simply put, doing business no longer relies on location; new information-sharing software has made cooperation at a distance convenient and efficient.
- (3) As a result, many new business models have appeared. One such model is a large corporation arranging to have another company, often located in a different country, perform essential tasks. This became possible with the growth of reliable and secure communications and the ability to move massive amounts of data over long distances in an instant. An early example of this arrangement is in the field of accounting. A company in the United States, for instance, first scans all its bills, orders, and wage payments into the computer and sends the documents to an accounting center in, say, Costa Rica. Basic accounting activity is then carried out at that site. Next, the data is returned via the Internet to the original company, where high-level analysis is done.
- (4) Another example of this type of arrangement is reliance on overseas call centers, which have become increasingly common. It has become possible for a telephone operator in India to answer a customer-service call from

anywhere in the world, respond directly to the customer and offer a satisfactory solution, at a far lower cost to the company than ever before. Many large companies now depend on such call centers. Today in Japan, when you call a toll-free number, there is a chance that someone in Chingtao, China will answer the phone in Japanese to help solve your problem.

- (5) A second business model made possible by the IT Revolution is one in which work is divided into smaller, more specific tasks performed by individuals in different geographical locations. For example, freelance specialists who may be living at a great distance from each other can work together to produce a new semiconductor design. A member of the group living in California does some initial work on the project and uploads the result onto a server. A colleague in Japan spends the day making further additions to the design. Next, someone in Israel accesses it and does his/her portion of the job. Finally the group member in California downloads it and gives it a final check. Thus, freelance specialists in different parts of the world collaborate to complete a single project.
- (6) A similar example is that of a commercial artist who works in the privacy of her beachside home in Hawaii to create a mail-order catalog for a client in Paris. She uses pictures taken by a photographer in Australia, adds text composed by a writer in Canada, includes artwork she created on her computer, and sends the finished product out to the client for final approval. All this is done digitally and according to each worker's own schedule. In this way, the best talent in the world can be chosen for each task.
- (7) With the knowledge she has acquired in the course of her job search, Ann now understands how the nature of work has changed as a result of the IT Revolution. Although she is still interested in architecture, Ann now realizes that this field offers a broader variety of opportunities. Rather than studying architectural design itself, Ann has decided to become an expert in the specifications and materials that architects need for their designs. She also now knows that there is often not enough work in one office for a specialist of this type. However, she is confident she can work as a freelance specialist in collaboration with a variety of people in different countries. Ann now looks forward to taking advantage of the career opportunities that the IT Revolution has opened up.

問 1 Ann realized that people today work in ways unimagined before because

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- ① the amount of data on the Internet can no longer be dealt with effectively
- ② the demand for architects has risen sharply over the last couple of decades
- ③ they think the impact of the IT Revolution is already a thing of the past
- ④ they deal with information entirely differently than in the past

問 2 The statement “doing business no longer relies on location” implies that

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- ① business people must be physically close to each other to do their work
- ② business people need to travel abroad more often in order to do their jobs
- ③ people feel that using information is more important than making profits
- ④ people who are not in the same place can successfully work as a team

問 3 In the example described in paragraph (3), the initial work takes place

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- ① in the United States and the work is completed in Costa Rica
- ② in Costa Rica and the work is completed in the United States
- ③ in the United States, some work is done in Costa Rica, and the work is completed in the United States
- ④ in Costa Rica, some work is done in the United States, and the work is completed in Costa Rica

問 4 According to paragraph (4), the IT Revolution has 48.

- ① not reduced the cost of doing business
- ② influenced where companies locate their call centers
- ③ increased the demand for people who speak Chinese
- ④ eliminated the need for call centers

問 5 If we divide paragraphs (3) through (7) into three groups according to their topics, which grouping is most appropriate? 49

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
①	(3)	(4) (5)	(6) (7)
②	(3) (4)	(5) (6)	(7)
③	(3) (4)	(5)	(6) (7)
④	(3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7)

問 6 When Ann begins working, she 50.

- ① may not be in the same office as the people she works with
- ② will be working at a newly designed toll-free call center
- ③ is likely to move to the city where her employer is located
- ④ wants to join a company where she can stay until retirement

問 7 Discussed in the article is the IT Revolution's 51.

- ① enormous impact on the way workers, rather than companies, think about work
- ② limited impact on the way workers, rather than companies, think about work
- ③ profound impact on the way workers and companies think about work
- ④ slight impact on the way workers and companies think about work