

1 次の英文を読んで、問1～問6に答えなさい。(配点30%)

These days, the digital revolution has had an impact on virtually every aspect of the media that we use for information and entertainment. Everything from pictures and pop songs to movies and talk shows can be electronically packaged and made available online. Print media have been similarly affected, with readers increasingly turning to web versions of their favorite newspapers and magazines, which now have the ability to add video, slideshows, and computer graphics to written articles. The most recent development in the digital revolution is the e-reader, a notebook-sized device that allows you to download books as electronic files and read them in a more reader-friendly manner than sitting at a computer screen. Now that several different companies have started to sell their own versions of the e-reader, some are predicting that paper-and-ink books will soon be a thing of the past. I'm not so sure, however. While e-readers will surely become more widespread, I think there are good reasons to believe that traditional books will not disappear any time soon.

The most basic reason is that reading a physical book is simply more comfortable. Manufacturers of e-readers point out that they are more portable than computers. And, to be sure, an e-reader is much easier than the average laptop to use for reading while lying down, relaxing in a favorite chair, or even just with feet up on a desk (my own favorite position). An e-reader is also easier than a laptop when reading on the go, for example, on buses, in coffee shops, while waiting for a train, and so forth. Despite its usefulness, however, the fact remains that an e-reader is a delicate electronic instrument, which cannot stand up to the ways many people like to handle printed text. We cannot, for example, bend it in half while we read so as to concentrate on part of the text. We cannot mark it up with a pencil (though I'm told that a notetaking function will soon be standard for most e-readers). Unlike a book, an e-reader cannot be tossed in a pile of books and papers or shoved into a backpack. In other words, the physical relationship that we have with a traditional book is more intimate and personal. Books are casual and friendly; e-readers are formal and polite.

More importantly, reading a physical book from cover to cover provides a sense of achievement, especially for those of us who like to keep the books that we have read displayed on shelves in our living rooms and offices. With an e-book, we download it, read it, and though it may remain stored as an electronic file somewhere, it is otherwise forgotten: out of sight, out of mind. Physical books, on the other hand, remain with us as reminders of the places that we have been and the issues that have sparked our interest. They also tell other people about us. The books that I have on my shelf communicate a great deal about the things that are important to me to the people who come to visit. And, indeed, when I visit

other people, one of the first things that I notice is the reading material that they have on display. Of course, books can not only be saved and collected, they can also be given away, re-sold, or even thrown away, and this makes the ones that we hang onto all the more important. It is for these reasons that when I want to read something that matters to me, a printed text is essential.

All of this is not to suggest that the development of e-readers is a bad thing. By making it more convenient to read from electronic files rather than printed paper, e-readers save time, money, labor, and natural resources. I predict, however, that e-readers, at least for the time being, will not completely replace printed texts as some have suggested. Instead, it seems more likely that physical books and e-books will each become popular for different kinds of reading. For daily information and more casual reading, the newspapers, magazines, and books that we skim through for content, e-readers will no doubt find a ready customer base. For more serious reading, however, whether it is for work or pleasure, printed books will remain the medium of choice.

問 1 下線部(1)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 2 下線部(2)には, “traditional books” がすぐにはなくならないと書かれています。その理由を二つ日本語で述べなさい。

問 3 下線部(3)には, 外出先でノートパソコンより e-reader のほうが読みやすいと書かれています。その理由を示す単語を一つ本文から抜き出しなさい。

問 4 下線部(4)の “the ways” の例を一つ日本語で述べなさい。

問 5 “otherwise” の具体的な内容がわかるように, 下線部(5)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 6 以下の(a)~(c)は, ①printed text と②e-reader のいずれのかたちで将来読まれることが多くなるでしょうか。本文の内容に即して①か②の記号で答えなさい。

- (a) A novel written by one’s favorite author.
- (b) A magazine article with pictures and graphics.
- (c) A newspaper.

2 次の英文を読んで、問1～問5に日本語で答えなさい。(配点25%)

In the narrow road behind my father's childhood home there was an old telephone pole which, unlike the others, had been built next to a low fence. By climbing the fence, it was just possible for my father to reach the first few handles on the base of the pole and climb to the top, where he would sit on the long wooden bar. This allowed him to escape the craziness of a small house shared with six brothers and sisters, and enjoy his favorite hobby of people-watching. From his point of view from the top of the pole, he could see the road in either direction for several hundred meters as well as the yards of the other houses. However, the thing that he used to enjoy telling us about years later was something that happened pretty much within his own yard.

It was a typical summer day — hot and sticky, noisy cicadas\* — the kind of day in which any sort of movement seems difficult. My father had quickly run out of things to do for fun inside the house and had been sent outside by our grandmother, who was working in the kitchen. With nothing else to do, he naturally headed for the best place to spend an unexciting morning. Not long after he had seated himself on the wooden bar, his older brother Tom came walking out the back door, bored and looking for something to occupy his time. Seeing Tom, my father held his breath. Tom was something of a bully\*, and would no doubt prefer to pass the time being mean to someone smaller and weaker than himself. However, to my father's relief, Tom did not notice him, but walked down the road, no doubt in search of trouble.

With Tom out of sight, peace returned to the street. My father looked around and, seeing nothing out of the ordinary, soon floated off into his own thoughts. The cicadas sang, the sun burned hot, and time seemed to come to a stop. Then, the peacefulness was broken by a small cry. At first my father couldn't tell if it was a person or an animal. However, the voice was not only human, but belonged to his brother Tom, who was now running back up the road, his head back in panic and fear. Although it was unusual for my father to see Tom in such a condition — Tom was usually the cause of the fear, not the victim — the reason soon became clear: he was being chased by a McMullen.

The McMullens were a family of boys, larger and poorer than my father's family, and were the bullies of the neighborhood. Even the toughest kids around would run and hide at the sight of a McMullen walking down the street. This particular McMullen was about Tom's age, but a full head taller, with thick arms and a mark under one eye, but more importantly he was carrying a rock which he would have thrown if they both hadn't been running so fast. My father never found out what Tom did to the McMullen boy to make him so angry, but he was

sure it had something to do with that rock.

Several things then happened quickly: Tom reached the gate to his yard and ran through as our grandmother walked out the back door of the house to see what all the shouting was about. Just as Tom ran past her towards the safety of the kitchen, the McMullen boy, who had reached the gate, threw the rock, which made a brief flight through the air and landed perfectly on grandmother's foot.

In my memory, my grandmother was always a big woman with a loud laugh and strong physical presence. How really frightening she must have been at that time! The McMullen boy stopped cold when he saw this large angry woman looking down at him over her glasses — clearly, this was not a person just to scold. There was a moment of silence in which even the cicadas seemed to have stopped. Then there was another chase; only this time it was the McMullen boy running from my grandmother, who needed no rock to make her point.

\*cicadas 蝉

\*bully (複 bullies) 弱い者いじめをする人

問 1 下線部(1)の“this”は何を指すか、説明しなさい。

問 2 筆者の父親はなぜ下線部(2)のようにしたか、説明しなさい。

問 3 下線部(3)の“such a condition”は何を指すか、説明しなさい。

問 4 下線部(4)を訳しなさい。

問 5 下線部(5)によると、筆者の祖母はどのような行動をとると考えられるか、説明しなさい。

**3** 次の(1)~(5)の各組の英文の空所には、同じ綴りの語が入ります。a と b に共通する最も適切な1語を解答欄に記入しなさい。(配点 10 %)

- (1) a. Would you (        ) the door?  
 b. His house is (        ) to the station.
- (2) a. I was born (        ) the morning of April 8, 1992.  
 b. She has a large ring (        ) her wedding finger.
- (3) a. I don't (        ) much for sports.  
 b. You must take (        ) of the newborn kittens.
- (4) a. Can you (        ) me the salt?  
 b. I need to (        ) this class in order to graduate.
- (5) a. He started to (        ) the number of students in the room.  
 b. You can (        ) me in for tonight's party.

**4** 次の(1)~(5)の日本語に相当するように、英文の空所に入れるべき適切な1語を解答欄に記入しなさい。(空所に語頭の1文字がすでに示されているが、必ずその文字を含めた語全体を記入すること。)(配点 10 %)

- (1) 私たちのチームの勝利は、彼の体調次第だろう。  
 The victory of our team will (d     ) on his physical condition.
- (2) 彼はバスに乗るかわりに歩くことにした。  
 He decided to walk (i     ) of taking the bus.
- (3) 私の聞いたところによると、彼がレースに勝った。  
 (A     ) to what I heard, he won the race.
- (4) これらの写真を見ると、いつも楽しかった子供時代を思い出す。  
 These pictures always (r     ) me of my happy childhood.
- (5) 私は彼の態度が我慢できなかった。  
 I couldn't (p     ) up with his attitude.

- 5 現在ではインターネットで様々な情報を簡単に手に入れることができます。これは良いことでしょうか、悪いことでしょうか、あるいはその両方でしょうか。自分の意見を 120 語程度の英語で述べなさい。(配点 25 %)