

次の英文は、ある英字新聞からの抜粋である。よく読んで下の設問に答えよ。

Thanks to shorter working hours, more working mothers and values that are slowly but surely changing, Japan's (A) "thirtysomethings" are leading the way in redefining fatherhood. The infamous chichioya fuzai--absentee dad-- is slowly giving way to younger fathers trying to balance work and home lives.

They are starting to come home earlier, spend weekends with their families and even help out with the household chores. They are learning the creativity of cooking and the joys of child-rearing, two tasks their fathers (1) shunned as women's work.

(B) A new law enacted last year giving both parents the right to take child-care leave has even prompted a handful of men to sign up as "house husbands." And for the first time, beginning next April, all high school boys will be required to take home economics.

"In our fathers' generation, what was most important to the family was a father who worked hard and brought a lot of money home," said Mutsumi Ota, 34, a company employee who was one of the first men to take paternity leave. "But what is most important to families today isn't only money. It's something else."

For a growing number of younger parents, raised amid affluence, that "something else" seems to be greater family intimacy ...

To be sure, values are slow to shift. But rapid economic changes are prompting new family relationships out of sheer necessity. As women continue to enter the work force in record numbers, dual-income households (2) outstripped single-earners for the first time last year.

At the same time, (C) the lingering recession has motivated firms to scale back overtime and entertainment expenses, cutting down on after-work drinking bouts. And the government has launched a deliberate campaign to shorten work hours in the face of international criticism.

The so-called "1.57 shock," Japan's lowest birthrate in history, has also (3) set off national cries to ease the burden of child care on mothers. Some people say the low rate points to a "quiet rebellion" by overburdened women.

(4) All told, the effect is that more husbands come home earlier and face growing requests, often demands, from their working wives to (5) pitch in. One survey, for instance, showed the percentage of women supporting traditional gender roles in the home dropping from 36.6% in 1987 to 9.3% in 1992.

設問(1)本文中の下線部(A)の意味を日本語で表せ。

設問(2)本文の文脈を考慮して、下線部(1)～(5)の意味にもっとも近いものを、それぞれ与えられた(イ)～(ニ)から1つ選び、その記号を記入せよ。

(1) shunned

- (イ) respected
- (ロ) avoided
- (ハ) welcomed
- (ニ) criticized

(2) outstripped

- (イ) succeeded
- (ロ) replaced
- (ハ) surpassed
- (ニ) expelled

(3) set off

- (イ) relieved
- (ロ) suppressed
- (ハ) postponed
- (ニ) provoked

(4) All told

- (イ) Strange to say
- (ロ) Frankly speaking
- (ハ) All in all
- (ニ) Above all

(5) pitch in

- (イ) resign
- (ロ) relent
- (ハ) contribute
- (ニ) adapt

設問(3)本文中の下線部(B)の意味を日本語で表せ。

設問(4)本文中の下線部(C)の意味を日本語で表せ。