

次の英文を読み、設問(A～D)に答えよ。

Valerie looked again at her watch. It was getting dark now and she wished she had brought her coat. What could have happened to Richard? He might have had to work late at the office. But he couldn't have forgotten about their appointment – she was sure of that. "Maybe he's had an accident!" The thought struck her suddenly, but she (1)dismissed it at once. (ア)She mustn't let herself get carried away by her imagination. "He's just late, that's all," she told herself.

The rush hour was now at its peak, and in the concourse of the station people kept bumping into her as they hurriedly passed. An old man with a brown shopping bag was approaching. Valerie noticed an expression of pain on his lined face, and she saw that he was walking with difficulty. Then suddenly he stumbled and collapsed at her feet.

She bent down and touched the old man's shoulder. "Are you all right, sir? Can I help you?" she asked. He made an effort to answer, but he couldn't speak. "Can you walk, sir? I'll help you." The old man nodded. Slowly and with great difficulty she helped him to his feet. He leaned heavily on her arm as she led him toward the taxi stand.

Just then a taxi (2)pulled up in front of them, and Valerie helped the old man in. "Quick! Take us to the nearest hospital," she told the driver. "OK, lady," he answered and drove off at full speed.

Valerie left the hospital (あ)with mixed feelings. She was relieved that the old man was now in safe hands, but she was still worried about Richard. She had told the taxi driver to wait for her, and she decided to go back to the station just (3)in case Richard turned up.

The taxi was already moving when a young man dashed out of the hospital and waved at them frantically. "Let him come with us," said Valerie to the driver. "He probably wants to go to the station, too." Then she realized with a shock that the young man was Richard. "Val!" he shouted when he recognized her. "What on earth are you doing here?" "I was just going to ask you the same question," Valerie said as he got in.

"I waited (4)ages for you at the station." "I'm terribly sorry, Val," said Richard. "But something unexpected happened. Let me explain."

"I was on my way to the station when I noticed an old lady leaning against a lamp post and looking very ill. Nobody was paying any attention to her, so I asked her

if she was all right. Just at that moment she fainted, and I had to grab her to keep her from falling. Well, I couldn't very well leave her, so I put her in a taxi and took her to the hospital."

(い)"What a coincidence!" she exclaimed when he had finished. "I had exactly the same experience, except that it was an old man instead of an old woman." Then she told him what had happened at the station. As she expected (イ)Richard was as surprised at her story as she had been at his. "You're kidding!" he said. "No, it's true. (う)Otherwise, why would I have gone to the hospital?" Richard was silent for a moment. Then he said: "This is how things are in our world."

A. 下記の英文(a~m)の中から、本文の内容と一致するものを5つ選び、その記号をマークせよ。

- a. When Richard arrived at the station, Valerie had already gone.
- b. There were so few people that Valerie couldn't believe that she was at the station.
- c. Valerie found out that Richard had had an accident and been taken to the hospital.
- d. Actually Richard was not able to meet Valerie at the station because he had to work late at the office.
- e. Valerie was sorry that she didn't have a coat with her.
- f. Valerie was very angry at Richard for having kept her waiting so long.
- g. Valerie was at a loss because she didn't know where the taxi stand was.
- h. Valerie thought that the old man who was carrying a brown shopping bag was in pain.
- i. Richard had completely forgotten about his appointment with Valerie.
- j. Valerie immediately called an ambulance to take the old man to the hospital.
- k. Richard paid attention to an old lady who looked sick and was resting against a lamp post.
- l. The young man who waved at Valerie turned out to be Richard.
- m. It was not easy for Valerie to help the sick old man to walk.

B. 下線部(1~4)の意味に相当するものとして最も適切なものを、それぞれ a~d から1つ選び、その記号をマークせよ。

(1) dismissed

- a. got upset by
- b. put out of mind

- c. lost sight of
- d. felt regret at

(2) pulled up

- a. appeared
- b. stopped
- c. approached
- d. passed

(3) in case

- a. provided that
- b. in spite of the fact that
- c. whenever
- d. thinking of the possibility that

(4) ages

- a. for old times
- b. for old days
- c. for a long time
- d. for ancient times

C. 下線部(あ～う)について、それぞれ本文の内容に照らして、最も適当なものを a～c から 1 つ選び、その記号をマークせよ。

(あ) with mixed feelings

- a. 老人と老婦人のことを考えて複雑な気持ちで
- b. 安堵と心配が入り交じって
- c. 愛情と憎しみの板挟みになって

(い) What a coincidence!

- a. 「見事につじつまが合っているわ」
- b. 「思っていたとおりね」
- c. 「ふたりとも同じことをしていたのね」

(う) Otherwise, why would I have gone to the hospital?

- a. 「でなきゃ、病院に行くわけなんかないじゃないの」
- b. 「ところで、なぜ病院に行ったと思う」
- c. 「病院へ行ったのは、別の理由よ」

D. 下線部(ア、イ)を和訳し記入せよ。