

No1

Name: _____ / Date: _____ Score: _____ / 6(目標 5/6) ⌚ 8 min

Read each passage and choose the best word or phrase from among the four choices for each blank. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and mark your answer.

Passage 1

The Disappearance of the Indus Valley Civilization

The Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished over four thousand years ago in what is now Pakistan and northwestern India, is regarded as one of the earliest and most advanced urban societies.

5 Archaeological evidence reveals well-planned cities, sophisticated drainage systems, and standardized construction methods. Despite these achievements, the civilization declined and eventually disappeared. (26), scholars have struggled to determine the precise causes of its collapse.

10 For many years, it was widely believed that a sudden invasion by external forces led to the civilization's downfall. This theory was largely based on scattered archaeological findings and interpretations of ancient texts. More recent research, however, (27). Instead, evidence suggests that gradual environmental
15 changes played a far more significant role.

Geological studies indicate that shifts in river systems may have disrupted agriculture and trade networks that sustained Indus cities. In addition, climate data suggest a long-term weakening of monsoon patterns, leading to reduced water supplies. Some
20 researchers argue that efforts to identify a single dramatic event responsible for the collapse (28). Rather, the decline appears to have resulted from a combination of interconnected factors that unfolded over several centuries.

- (26) ① For instance
② As a result
③ Nevertheless
④ In short
- (27) ① supports the invasion theory in greater detail
② raises doubts about this traditional explanation
③ confirms the accuracy of ancient written records
④ focuses mainly on military conflicts
- (28) ① have already produced clear conclusions
② may oversimplify a complex historical process
③ ignore the role of environmental conditions
④ rely too heavily on technological explanations

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. flourish: 繁栄する | 7. collapse: 崩壊 |
| 2. archaeological: 考古学の | 8. gradual: 徐々の |
| 3. sophisticated: 高度な、洗練された | 9. disrupt: 混乱させる |
| 4. drainage: 排水(設備) | 10. interconnected: 相互に関連した |
| 5. standardized: 標準化された | 11. unfold: 展開する、(時間をかけて)進行する |
| 6. decline: 衰退する/衰退 | |

Passage 2

Electric Vehicles and Environmental Impact

In recent years, electric vehicles (EVs) have been widely promoted as a solution to the environmental problems caused by conventional gasoline-powered cars. Because EVs produce no exhaust emissions during operation, they are often presented as a key technology for reducing air pollution and combating climate change. It appears, however, that the overall environmental benefits of electric vehicles are not as straightforward as initially assumed (29).

A growing body of research has examined the full life cycle of electric vehicles, including the production of batteries and the generation of electricity used to charge them. These studies indicate that, in regions where electricity is still largely produced from fossil fuels, the reduction in total carbon emissions may be limited. Furthermore, the mining of rare metals required for battery production has raised concerns about environmental degradation and labor conditions.

The situation resembles earlier cases in which technological innovations were expected to reduce resource consumption but instead led to increased demand. (30), the greater availability of electric vehicles may encourage people to drive more frequently or purchase additional vehicles. Experts note that this problem (31), provided that cleaner energy sources are adopted and policies are implemented to discourage excessive consumption.

- (29) ① have been clearly demonstrated by recent studies
② depend heavily on how electricity is produced
③ have already transformed transportation systems
④ result mainly from consumer behavior
- (30) ① In contrast
② Similarly
③ Regardless
④ For example
- (31) ① has little connection to transportation policy
② cannot be addressed through technological change
③ is unlikely to attract public attention
④ can be mitigated through appropriate measures

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- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. vehicle: 車両 | 8. emission: 排出物 |
| 2. conventional: 従来型の | 9. degradation: 劣化、環境破壊 |
| 3. exhaust: 排気(ガス) | 10. availability: 入手可能性、普及度 |
| 4. combat: 対抗する | 11. consumption: 消費 |
| 5. life cycle: ライフサイクル | 12. implement: 実施する |
| 6. generation: 発電 | |
| 7. fossil fuel: 化石燃料 | |