

## Instructions

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Humor is the broad term used to describe situations, <sup>(1)</sup>characters, speech, writing or images that <sup>(2)</sup>amuse us. At the physical level, it is no more than an <sup>(3)</sup>involuntary response to a stimulus — laughter. Although we can imitate this in social contexts where we feel an obligation to be polite, genuine laughter comes upon us spontaneously; it is beyond our control. It may be a motor response, ( a ) we seek out experiences that will result ( b ) laughter, and if we don't get the physical reaction, we don't feel that we have been amused.

## Questions

### Q1. Vocabulary(6 points)

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the boldfaced word.

(1) characters

- ① people in a story    ② written symbols
- ③ strong personalities    ④ moral values

(2) amuse

- ① entertain    ② frighten    ③ confuse    ④ disappoint

(3) involuntary

- ① intentional    ② automatic    ③ repeated    ④ visible

### Q2. Fill-in-the-Blanks(6 points)

Choose the most appropriate word for each blank (a)-(b).

Choose from the options ①-④. Do not use the same word more than once.

- ① and    ② but    ③ in    ④ from

### Q3. Grammar / Usage(6 points)

Choose the sentence in which used is used as a past participle.

- ① This is a tool used to open heavy wooden doors safely.
- ② He used a map to find the small village in the mountains.
- ③ People used to laugh more freely in informal gatherings.
- ④ She is used to hearing polite laughter in formal situations.

Q4. Translation(20 points)

Translate the underlined sentence into natural Japanese.

Although we can imitate this in social contexts where we feel an obligation to be polite, genuine laughter comes upon us spontaneously; it is beyond our control.

Q5. Reading Comprehension(12 points)

Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

(1) What does the passage say genuine laughter is like?

- ① It is always produced intentionally in formal situations.
- ② It is a spontaneous reaction that we cannot fully control.
- ③ It is mainly a social habit learned in childhood.
- ④ It happens only when we are trying to be polite.

(2) What distinction does the author make between polite laughter and genuine laughter?

- ① Polite laughter is always louder than genuine laughter.
- ② Genuine laughter is voluntary, while polite laughter is involuntary.
- ③ Polite laughter can be imitated, but genuine laughter arises spontaneously.
- ④ Genuine laughter appears only in group situations.

(3) What is the author's main point in the final sentence?

- ① We often want experiences that lead to real laughter, and without that reaction we do not feel truly amused.
- ② Laughter is only a physical movement and has no connection to enjoyment.
- ③ People avoid humorous experiences because laughter is beyond their control.
- ④ The best humor is always found in writing rather than in real life.