

国公立大学 | 説明問題演習①

解答時間: 20 分

次の英文を読み、下記の問いに答えなさい。

Memory Is Not a Recording

Most people think of memory as a storehouse in which past experiences remain unchanged until we need them. Yet psychological research suggests otherwise. ①What we remember is not simply a copy of what we originally experienced but a version of the past that the mind constructs when remembering takes place.

This reconstruction occurs because the mind does not rely on the original experience alone. When people remember an event, they combine the details they noticed at the time with information acquired later, expectations based on similar experiences, and sometimes suggestions made by others. Consequently, memories may contain elements that were not originally present, while actual details may disappear. People are usually unaware of this process.

Memory can also change each time it is recalled. Discussing an experience or repeatedly telling one's own version of it can gradually reshape what is remembered. ②Indeed, confidence in a memory may sometimes increase precisely because the memory has been repeatedly reconstructed. Familiarity with a particular version of the past can create a feeling of certainty even when that version is inaccurate.

Such instability may appear to be a defect. Yet preserving every detail would not necessarily make memory more useful. Most of the information we encounter is irrelevant to our later needs, and storing all of it with equal precision would make it difficult to identify what matters. Human memory instead preserves relationships, patterns, and meanings while allowing many details to disappear. ③This apparent weakness may therefore contribute to memory's usefulness.

Accuracy remains important when memory is used as evidence. But memory also helps us use past experience to understand the

present and prepare for the future. A record intended as evidence must resist change, whereas a memory used to guide future action may benefit from being reorganized as circumstances change. Memory's failure to preserve the past perfectly, therefore, does not necessarily make it defective.

【設問】

- (1) 下線部①とはどういうことか。第 2 段落の内容に即して、50 字以内の日本語で具体的に説明しなさい。
- (2) 下線部②で、記憶に対する確信が強くなることがあるのはなぜか。第 3 段落の内容に即して、50 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。
- (3) 下線部③の *This apparent weakness* が指す記憶の性質を、第 4 段落の内容に即して、40 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。
- (4) 第 4 段落によれば、あらゆる情報を同じように正確に保存する記憶が、必ずしも有用ではないのはなぜか。50 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。
- (5) 本文の内容と最もよく一致するものを、次の(ア)～(エ)から 1 つ選びなさい。
 - (ア) People are usually aware that later information has changed their memories, although they may be unable to identify exactly which details have been altered.
 - (イ) Repeatedly reconstructing a memory can strengthen confidence in it because familiarity may create a sense of certainty even when the memory is inaccurate.
 - (ウ) Human memory would be more useful if every detail of an experience were preserved equally accurately, since important information could then be selected later.
 - (エ) Since memory changes whenever it is reconstructed, the author argues that it should not be relied upon either as evidence or as a guide to future action.