

## 【英検®2級+】長文読解 3/10 〈後期〉

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ / Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_/8 ⌚ 6 min

### A

From: Jessica Moore <[j.moore@riversidecenter.com](mailto:j.moore@riversidecenter.com)>

To: Thomas Reed <[t.reed@riversidecenter.com](mailto:t.reed@riversidecenter.com)>

Date: November 12

Subject: Cooking class

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Hi Thomas,

Thank you for agreeing to assist with our cooking class next Wednesday. We originally planned to accept twenty participants, but demand was greater than expected. We have therefore added another session in the afternoon. Participants have already been assigned to either the morning or afternoon session.

The class will focus on preparing nutritious meals with inexpensive ingredients. The instructor will first demonstrate three simple dishes and explain how ingredients can be replaced when certain foods are unavailable. Participants will then prepare one dish themselves in small groups. All the necessary cooking equipment will be provided by the center.

We still need to confirm whether any participants have food allergies. Could you send them a short message asking them to inform us by Monday? Please also check that each cooking station has the required equipment. This will allow us to obtain anything that is missing before the class.

Best wishes,

Jessica Moore

Riverside Community Center

[語注]

① assist[動]～を手伝う ② demand[名]需要、要求 ③ assign[動]～を割り当てる ④ nutritious[形]栄養価の高い ⑤ ingredient[名]材料、食材 ⑥ demonstrate[動]～を実演する ⑦ replace[動]～を取り替える、代用する ⑧ available[形]利用できる、入手できる ⑨ allergy[名]アレルギー ⑩ required[形]必要とされる

(1) Why has an afternoon session been added?

1. The instructor needs more time to demonstrate difficult dishes.
2. More people wanted to participate than the center expected.
3. Several participants cannot attend on Wednesday morning.
4. The center decided to accept people without advance registration.

(2) What will participants do during the class?

1. Purchase inexpensive ingredients from nearby stores.
2. Learn to prepare meals without cooking equipment.
3. Watch a demonstration and prepare a dish in groups.
4. Create three dishes using ingredients they bring themselves.

(3) What does Jessica ask Thomas to do?

1. Ask about food allergies and check the necessary equipment.
2. Decide which participants should attend the afternoon session.
3. Purchase replacement ingredients for people with food allergies.
4. Ask the instructor to change the menu for the class.

**B**

## The Hidden Cost of Fast Delivery

Online shopping has made it possible for consumers to order products within seconds and receive them remarkably quickly. In many cities, customers can now request delivery on the same day or even within a few hours. Although such services are convenient, researchers have begun to examine their less obvious environmental and economic consequences.

One concern involves transportation. When customers expect extremely rapid delivery, companies have less time to combine many orders into a single vehicle. A delivery truck may therefore leave a warehouse before it is completely full. More vehicles may be required to transport the same number of packages, increasing fuel consumption and traffic congestion. Flexible delivery times, by contrast, allow companies to organize routes more efficiently.

Another issue is the number of products that customers return. Because online shoppers cannot examine products directly before purchasing them, some order several sizes or models with the intention of returning those they do not want. Returned products must be transported again, inspected, and repackaged. In some cases, processing a return costs a company more than the product itself is worth.

This does not mean that online shopping is necessarily more harmful than traditional shopping. A single delivery vehicle carrying many orders may be more efficient than numerous customers driving separately to stores. The environmental impact depends on several factors, including delivery speed, distance, and the number of products returned. Some companies are therefore encouraging customers to select slower delivery when immediate service is unnecessary.

## [語注]

① consumer[名]消費者 ② consequence[名]結果、影響 ③ rapid[形]急速な、迅速な ④ combine[動]～を組み合わせる ⑤ consumption[名]消費 ⑥ congestion[名]混雑、渋滞 ⑦ efficiently[副]効率的に ⑧ intention[名]意図、意向 ⑨ inspect[動]～を点検する ⑩ environmental impact[名]環境への影響

(4) What concern about rapid delivery is mentioned?

1. Customers often receive products they did not order.
2. Companies must construct additional warehouses in cities.
3. Vehicles may carry fewer packages than they could.
4. Drivers may have difficulty finding customers' homes.

30 (5) Why can flexible delivery times be more efficient?

1. Companies have more time to combine orders and plan routes.
2. Customers can collect packages directly from warehouses.
3. They reduce the distance between customers and stores.
4. Customers cannot order several products at once.

(6) Why do some customers order several versions of a product?

1. They plan to give extra products to others.
2. They cannot examine products directly before purchasing them.
3. Stores require them to compare several models at home.
4. Several versions are usually cheaper when ordered together.

(7) What does the fourth paragraph suggest about online shopping?

1. It is always more harmful than traditional shopping.
2. Its environmental impact depends on delivery and returns.
3. Slower delivery makes online shopping environmentally harmless.
4. Online shopping eliminates the need to transport products.

(8) Which of the following is true?

1. Faster delivery always reduces the amount of fuel used.
2. Returns can create additional transportation and processing costs.
3. Traditional shopping always requires fewer vehicles.
4. Companies generally refuse to offer slower delivery.