

国公立大学 | 説明問題演習②

解答時間: 20 分

次の英文を読み、下記の問いに答えなさい。

Why Failure Does Not Always Lead to Learning

People often say that we learn from our mistakes. The statement sounds reasonable, but failure itself does not automatically produce learning. ①What matters is not simply whether we fail, but what information we are able to obtain from the failure. A mistake can become useful only when we can identify what went wrong and use that knowledge to change what we do next.

This is easier when the relationship between an action and its result is clear. In many situations, however, several factors affect the result at the same time. A business project may fail because of poor planning, unexpected competition, bad timing, or some combination of these. ②The mere fact that an outcome was unsuccessful does not tell us which part of our behavior should be changed. Because several possible causes are involved, we cannot identify the appropriate change simply from the result itself.

Our interpretation of failure creates another difficulty. People naturally want to protect a positive image of themselves. As a result, they may explain failure by blaming circumstances rather than examining their own decisions. ③Such explanations can reduce the educational value of failure. If people attribute failure entirely to forces outside their control, they have little reason to reconsider their own behavior.

Learning from success presents the opposite problem. When an action produces a good result, people tend to repeat it. Yet success may sometimes result from luck or favorable circumstances rather than from the quality of the decision itself. Repeating a successful action without understanding why it worked may therefore be just as misleading as ignoring the causes of failure.

Experience becomes valuable when we examine the connection between our actions and their consequences. ④The real lesson of

experience lies in explanation rather than outcome. What improves future judgment is not the result alone but an understanding of why that result occurred.

【設問】

- (1) 第1段落の “What matters is not simply whether we fail, but what information we are able to obtain from the failure.” とはどのようなことか。前後の内容に即して、60 字以内の日本語で具体的に説明しなさい。
- (2) 第2段落の “The mere fact that an outcome was unsuccessful does not tell us which part of our behavior should be changed.” とはどのようなことか。前後の内容に即して、50 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。
- (3) 第3段落の “Such explanations can reduce the educational value of failure.” とあるが、なぜ失敗の教育的価値が低下するのか。前後の内容に即して、40 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。
- (4) 第5段落の “The real lesson of experience lies in explanation rather than outcome.” とはどのようなことか。前後の内容に即して、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) Failure is generally more useful for learning than success because unsuccessful outcomes make the causes of our mistakes easier to identify.
 - (イ) People often fail to learn from unsuccessful experiences because they examine their own behavior too closely instead of considering external circumstances.
 - (ウ) Both success and failure can be misleading when people focus on the outcome without understanding the causes that produced it.
 - (エ) Once people know whether an experience ended in success or failure, they can usually determine which behavior should be repeated or changed.