

第 7 回 次の文章を読んで、問 1～6 に答えなさい。

解答時間 20 分

Astrology is often associated with newspapers, magazines, and entertainment websites, (1) people read predictions based on the positions of the stars and planets. From a scientific perspective, however, there is little evidence that the movement of celestial bodies directly influences human personality or future events. Despite this lack of (2) support, astrology continues to attract millions of followers throughout Europe and North America. Many people who reject other supernatural beliefs still show interest in horoscopes or zodiac signs. This raises an interesting question: why does astrology continue to hold such influence in modern Western societies?

One reason is that human beings naturally seek patterns and explanations. The world is often uncertain, and people frequently face situations that seem difficult to understand or predict. In such circumstances, astrology offers a system that appears to provide order and meaning. Rather than (A) randomness, many individuals prefer interpreting events through a framework that connects personal experiences to a larger cosmic structure. Psychologists have suggested that this tendency reflects a basic human desire to reduce uncertainty and gain a sense of control. In this respect, astrology functions less as a scientific theory than as a psychological tool.

Another factor involves a phenomenon known as the Barnum effect. Researchers have found that people often accept vague and general descriptions as highly accurate when they believe those descriptions were created specifically for them. Statements such as “You sometimes doubt your decisions but usually try your best” (B) to a wide range of individuals. Nevertheless, many people interpret such statements as uniquely meaningful. (1) This helps explain why astrological readings can appear surprisingly personal even when they are actually broad enough to fit almost anyone. In addition, social media has increased the visibility of astrology by allowing people to share predictions and personality descriptions with large audiences. As a result, interest in astrology has remained remarkably (3) among younger generations.

Although astrology is not accepted as a scientific discipline, its cultural influence remains significant. Historians note that astrology was closely connected with astronomy for much of human history, and traces of that connection remain today. Moreover, astrology often serves social and emotional functions that science does not attempt to provide. It offers stories (4) which people can interpret their experiences, discuss relationships, and (C) on personal identity.

(2) For many people, the value of astrology lies not in whether it is scientifically correct but in whether it helps them make sense of their lives. Whether astrology will continue to influence future generations remains uncertain, but its enduring popularity suggests that human beings seek more than factual explanations alone. They also seek meaning (D).

問1 空所(1)～(4)に入る最も適切なものを, 下からそれぞれ一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。ただし, 同じ記号は一度しか使えません。

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| (ア) through | (イ) where | (ウ) popular |
| (エ) despite | (オ) scientific | (カ) confused |
| (キ) rapidly | | |

問2 本文中の little evidence that the movement of celestial bodies directly influences human personality or future events

の that と同じ用法のものを, 下から一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。

- ① The fact that many young people still read horoscopes surprises researchers studying modern culture.
- ② I think that many people enjoy astrology because it provides simple explanations for complex experiences.
- ③ The book that I borrowed from the library discusses the history of astronomy and astrology.
- ④ Some people were so interested in astrology that they spent hours reading online predictions.

問3 本文中の空所(A)～(D)に入る最も適切なものを, それぞれ下から一つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。

(A)

- ① accept ② accepts ③ accepted ④ accepting

(B)

- ① apply ② applies ③ applied ④ applying

(C)

- ① reflect ② reflects ③ reflected ④ reflecting

(D)

- ① mean ② means ③ meaning ④ meaningful

問4 下線部(1)を日本語に訳しなさい。

2026 年度対応 神戸大学予想問題

問 5 下線部(2)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 6 本文の内容と合致する文を, 下から二つ選び, 記号で答えなさい。

- (ア) The passage suggests that astrology remains influential partly because many people prefer explanations that reduce uncertainty and connect personal experiences to a broader framework.
- (イ) According to the passage, astrology became popular only after social media platforms were developed and therefore had little influence before the modern era.
- (ウ) The Barnum effect refers to the tendency of people to regard broad and general descriptions as personally accurate and meaningful.
- (エ) The writer argues that astrology is widely accepted as a scientific discipline because researchers have confirmed its ability to predict future events accurately.
- (オ) The passage suggests that people value astrology mainly because it provides mathematically reliable predictions about future events.

語数

約 620 語

配点(40 点)

- 問 1(空所補充①～④) 8 点(各 2 点)
- 問 2(that の用法) 2 点
- 問 3(A～D) 8 点(各 2 点)
- 問 4(下線部(1)和訳) 8 点
- 問 5(下線部(2)和訳) 10 点
- 問 6(内容一致) 4 点(各 2 点)