

## Instructions

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

One way ( a ) we evade responsibility for our actions is to hide behind the advice of others. Indeed, one of the main reasons we ask other people what they think is that we hope they agree with what we want to do, and so provide external validation for our choice.

- (1) Lacking the courage of our own convictions, we seek strength in  
(2) those of others.

## Questions

Q1. Fill-in-the-Blanks(6 points)

Choose the most appropriate expression for blank (a).

- ① which ② how ③ in which ④ what

Q2. Translation(20 points)

Translate the following sentence into natural Japanese.

Indeed, one of the main reasons we ask other people what they think is that we hope they agree with what we want to do, and so provide external validation for our choice.

Q3. Identification ①(6 points)

Choose the sentence in which (1)Lacking is used in the same way as in the passage.

- ① Lacking confidence can make it difficult to speak in public.  
② She remained silent during the meeting, lacking confidence in her own judgment.  
③ His constant lacking of patience caused many problems.  
④ The team is lacking a clear leader to guide them in difficult situations.

Q4. Identification ②(6 points)

Choose the sentence in which (2)those is used in the same way as in the passage.

- ① The customs of this region are different from those of the northern islands.

- ② Those books on the shelf belong to the students in this classroom.
- ③ I often avoid arguments with those who refuse to listen to others.
- ④ Her ideas were completely different from those of her closest friends.

Q5. Reading Comprehension(12 points)

Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

(1) Why, according to the passage, do people often ask others what they think before making a decision?

- ① Because they want objective advice that will challenge their plans and force them to reconsider their original ideas more carefully.
- ② Because they hope others will support what they already want to do and make their personal decision feel more justified.
- ③ Because they are mainly interested in collecting a wide variety of opinions before reaching a balanced and neutral conclusion.
- ④ Because they believe other people usually understand the consequences of their actions much more clearly than they do themselves.

(2) What does the passage suggest about people who “seek strength in those of others”?

- ① They completely abandon personal responsibility and let other people decide every important matter in their daily lives.
- ② They often lack confidence in their own convictions and therefore depend on others for psychological support and reassurance.
- ③ They wisely compare many opinions before acting, which shows a mature and responsible attitude toward difficult choices.
- ④ They do not really care whether their decisions are right or wrong as long as other people approve of them publicly.