

国公立大学 | 説明問題演習③

解答時間: 20 分

次の英文を読み、下記の問いに答えなさい。

When More Choice Becomes a Burden

Modern life offers people an extraordinary range of choices. Consumers can select from hundreds of products, students can choose among numerous courses, and workers may have several possible career paths. Such variety is usually regarded as a sign of freedom. ①Yet having more options does not always make people feel more free. In some circumstances, it can make decisions more difficult and their results less satisfying.

One reason is that each additional option requires attention. When only a few alternatives are available, people can compare them relatively easily. As the number increases, however, they must consider more differences and imagine more possible consequences. ②The effort required to choose may eventually become greater than the benefit provided by having additional options. Faced with too much information, people may postpone a decision or avoid making one altogether.

Choice can create another difficulty after a decision has been made. Selecting one possibility means giving up others. When many attractive alternatives were available, people can easily imagine that one of the rejected options might have produced a better result. ③A larger number of alternatives can therefore make people less satisfied with the choice they actually made. Instead of enjoying what they selected, they may continue thinking about what they gave up.

This does not mean that people would be happier without choice. Having no meaningful alternatives can leave them powerless, and some degree of choice is essential to personal independence. ④The important point is that the value of choice depends not only on its existence but also on whether people can manage it effectively. More choice is beneficial only when people can compare the alternatives without being overwhelmed by them.

The challenge, therefore, is not simply to maximize the number of options. A society that wishes to increase individual freedom must also help people understand the choices they face. Providing clear information and organizing alternatives in useful ways can make decisions easier. Freedom may depend not merely on how many doors are open, but on whether people can understand where those doors lead.

(1) 第 1 段落の “①Yet having more options does not always make people feel more free.” 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 “②The effort required to choose may eventually become greater than the benefit provided by having additional options.” とはどのようなことか。前後の内容に即して、50 字前後の日本語で説明しなさい。

(3) 第 3 段落の “③A larger number of alternatives can therefore make people less satisfied with the choice they actually made.” とあるが、それはなぜか。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 4 段落の “④The important point is that the value of choice depends not only on its existence but also on whether people can manage it effectively.” 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) People feel most satisfied when they are given as many alternatives as possible, even if comparing them requires considerable effort.

(イ) Because choosing one option means rejecting others, people should generally avoid considering alternatives once a decision becomes necessary.

(ウ) Choice contributes to freedom, but increasing the number of options is not always beneficial unless people can understand and manage them.

(エ) The main problem with modern choice is that people usually lack enough information to recognize how many alternatives are available.