

第 6 回 次の文章を読んで、問 1～7 に答えなさい。

解答時間 20 分

Elon Musk is widely known for his ambitious goal of making humanity a multi-planetary species. While many business leaders focus on short-term economic success, Musk has repeatedly argued that the long-term survival of human civilization requires the establishment of self-sustaining communities beyond Earth. His most famous project is the effort to send large numbers of people to Mars and eventually create a permanent settlement there. According to Musk, a civilization that exists on only one planet (A) risks from natural disasters, global conflicts, or other unexpected events. For this reason, he believes that humanity should not depend entirely on Earth (1) its future. This vision has become one of the central goals of SpaceX.

Musk's interest in science and space began long before he became a successful entrepreneur. He was born in Pretoria, South Africa, in 1971 and grew up in an environment where books, computers, and ideas played an unusually important role. As a child, he was often quiet and deeply (B) in books about science and exploration, especially science fiction, encyclopedias, and stories about exploration. Some accounts of his childhood describe him as socially isolated and sometimes bullied by other children, experiences that may have strengthened his habit of relying on his own imagination rather than on approval from those around him. He also became interested in computers at an early age and taught himself (2). By the time he was twelve, he had created a simple video game and sold it to a computer magazine. (1) These early experiences helped shape the belief that difficult problems could be attacked through knowledge, invention, and persistence.

After moving to North America, Musk became involved in a series of technology companies before founding SpaceX in 2002. At that time, many experts considered private space exploration unrealistic or economically (3). Musk disagreed. He argued that the cost of space travel could be reduced significantly if rockets were designed to be reused rather than (C) after completing only one successful mission. Over time, SpaceX successfully developed reusable rockets and became one of the most influential organizations in the space industry. (2) This achievement strengthened Musk's belief that human missions to Mars

were not merely a dream but a realistic long-term objective.

Despite these accomplishments, many scientists and engineers remain cautious about large-scale migration to Mars. A permanent settlement would require solutions to problems involving (4), food production, water supply, and human health. Critics argue that the enormous resources required for such projects could instead help (D) urgent environmental issues facing many countries. Nevertheless, Musk continues to argue that the two goals are not contradictory. In his view, improving life on Earth and preparing for life beyond Earth are both important investments in humanity's future. ⁽³⁾Whether his vision is eventually realized or not, it has already changed the way many people think about the future of space exploration.

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。

選択肢

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| (ア) for | (イ) programming | (ウ) radiation |
| (エ) impractical | (オ) in | (カ) crowded |
| (キ) damaged | | |

問 2 本文中の破線部 の as 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 Modern technology is changing rural life as we know it today.
- ② As the weather improved, the game was continued as planned.
- ③ As I had expected beforehand, the results were disappointing.
- ④ He is considered as one of the most influential innovators today.

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 face | ② faces | ③ faced | ④ facing |
|--------|---------|---------|----------|

(B)

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| ① absorb | ② absorbs | ③ absorbed | ④ absorbing |
|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|

(C)

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| ① discard | ② discards | ③ discarded | ④ discarding |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|

(D)

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| ① solve | ② solves | ③ solved | ④ solving |
|---------|----------|----------|-----------|

問 4 下線部(1)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 5 下線部(2)の This achievement が指す内容を, 20 字前後の日本語で具体的に説明しなさい。ただし, 句読点も 1 字に数えます。

問 6 下線部(3)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 7 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) Musk believes that establishing communities beyond Earth could reduce the risks faced by a civilization that depends on only one planet, which is why Mars plays a central role in his long-term vision.
- (イ) The passage suggests that Musk became interested in computers only after founding SpaceX, and that his interest in technology developed mainly through his work in the space industry.
- (ウ) According to the passage, the successful development of reusable rockets supported Musk's belief that human missions to Mars could become a realistic objective rather than remain only an unrealistic dream.
- (エ) The writer argues that many scientists and engineers now regard large-scale migration to Mars as more urgent than addressing environmental and social problems on Earth.
- (オ) The passage suggests that Musk believes humanity must choose between improving life on Earth and preparing for life beyond Earth because pursuing both goals at the same time would be unrealistic.

語数:約 620 語

配点内訳

- 問 1(語彙・語法補充)8 点(各 2 点)
- 問 2(as の用法)2 点
- 問 3(動詞の形)8 点(各 2 点)
- 問 4(和訳)6 点
- 問 5(指示語説明)4 点
- 問 6(和訳)8 点
- 問 7(内容一致)4 点(各 2 点)

合計 40 点