

第 2 回 次の文章を読んで、問 1～4 に答えなさい。

解答時間 20 分

In many parts of the world, people are becoming increasingly concerned about the amount of food that is wasted every day. Restaurants throw away meals that were prepared but never served, supermarkets remove products that are still safe to eat, and households often discard food simply because it does not look fresh enough. At the same time, millions of people continue to suffer from hunger or poor nutrition. For this reason, food waste is now seen not only as an economic problem but also as an ( A ) and moral one. Some people argue that the solution is simple: consumers should become more careful and buy only what they really need. Others, however, point out that the problem is too large and complex to be solved by personal effort alone. If society wishes to reduce food waste in a serious and lasting way, broader changes in the food system may be necessary.

One promising idea is the use of “smart labels” on food products. In many countries, shoppers rely on printed dates such as “best before” or “use by” when deciding whether food is still ( B ). However, these labels can be misunderstood. A “best before” date often refers to quality rather than safety, but many consumers throw away such food as soon as the date has passed. As a result, enormous quantities of edible food are discarded. Smart labels are designed to solve this problem by giving more accurate information about the actual ( C ) of food. Some of them change color in response to temperature or bacterial activity, allowing consumers and sellers to judge freshness more precisely. Others can be connected to digital systems that track the movement and storage conditions of products throughout the supply chain. By replacing rough estimates with more reliable data, smart labels could help reduce unnecessary waste while improving public confidence in food safety.

The introduction of such labels, however, is not without difficulties. The technology would increase production costs, at least in the beginning, and small businesses might find it difficult to adopt. In addition, consumers would need to learn how to interpret the new information correctly. If people do not trust the labels, or if they find them confusing, the system may fail to achieve its purpose. Yet supporters of the technology argue that (1)once smart labels become widely accepted, they may change the relationship between consumers and food itself. Instead of depending on fixed dates printed long before

a product reaches the kitchen table, people may begin to make decisions based on evidence that reflects real conditions. If <sup>(2)</sup>that happens, food may no longer be treated as something to be thrown away at the first sign of uncertainty, but as a valuable ( D ) to be used with greater care and responsibility. Such a shift would not end hunger by itself, but it could become an important step toward building a more sustainable society.

問1 空所( A )～( D )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) resource      | (イ) edible     |
| (ウ) condition     | (エ) artificial |
| (オ) environmental | (カ) appetite   |
| (キ) schedule      |                |

問2 下線部(1) once smart labels become widely accepted とは、具体的にどのような状態を指すか。本文の内容に即して、35 字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。

問3 下線部(2) that の指す内容を、40 語前後の日本語で答えなさい。

問4 本文の内容と合致するものを、下の(ア)～(オ)から二つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- (ア) Many people throw away food after the “best before” date because they correctly understand that it always indicates the limit of safety.
- (イ) Smart labels may help reduce food waste because they can provide more exact information about the freshness and condition of food.
- (ウ) The writer argues that food waste can be solved completely if individual consumers simply become more careful in daily shopping.
- (エ) According to the passage, the spread of smart labels may encourage people to think of food as something valuable rather than easily disposable.
- (オ) Supporters of smart labels believe that the technology is already inexpensive enough for all small businesses to use without difficulty.

問5 本文の内容を最も適切に表す英語のタイトルを、次の(ア)～(オ)から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (ア) Rethinking Food Consumption | (イ) Smarter Food Information |
| (ウ) Reducing Food Waste         | (エ) Trusting Food Labels     |
| (オ) The Value of Fresh Food     |                              |

本文語数

約 610 語

時間配分の目安

- 本文読解:8～9 分
- 問 1(語彙問題):2～3 分
- 問 2(35 字記述):3 分
- 問 3(指示語問題):2 分
- 問 4(内容一致):2～3 分