

- 1 次の英文を読んで、後の設問に答えなさい。解答は解答用紙の指定箇所に記入すること。
(配点比率 30 %)

It's spring in Washington, and Ari Ne'eman, with his navy suit and leather briefcase on wheels, is in between his usual meetings. Ne'eman is a master networker, a guy you'd think was born in a campaign office and bred in the halls of the Capitol. He's fluent in policy-speak and interacts smoothly with high-level officials (he's just had lunch with the acting vice chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)) and inquisitive reporters alike. He's formal but sociable and has a well-timed sense of humor. He also has a problem with velvet. I knew this about Ne'eman — he'd mentioned it when we first started talking more than a year ago — but now, in a D.C. coffee shop, he gets into the sensory details. His father used to drive a car that had fuzzy velvet-like cushioning, and it made Ne'eman crazy to sit in it. "I'd frown because I'd think about how it would feel to get that under your fingernails," he says. I think I see him shudder at the memory.

Ari Ne'eman is 21 years old and has Asperger syndrome, a high-functioning diagnosis on the wide-ranging autism spectrum. Ne'eman's velvet aversion is triggered somewhere deep in his brain, a brain that he happens to relish. He doesn't want anybody to cure his Asperger's. It's who he is, who he's always been. It's why he's had obsessive interests since toddlerhood. When he was 2 years old, he saw a dinosaur skeleton at New York's American Museum of Natural History and announced, "That's a pterosaur." From there he fixated on baseball, reciting players' names and stats endlessly, (①) anyone was listening — a behavior experts call perseveration. Later it was constitutional law. His friend Ben DeMarzo remembers driving with Ne'eman and two other classmates one high-school weekend. DeMarzo and the others wanted to listen to music — the Beatles were a favorite — but Ne'eman had other plans. "Ari made us listen to Supreme Court oral arguments. It was brutal," DeMarzo tells me. He was outnumbered — how'd he win? I ask. DeMarzo laughs. "Ari always wins," he says.

(a) He certainly puts up a fight. Ne'eman is officially studying political science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, but he also runs the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, a nonprofit he founded in 2006, the year after he graduated from high school. The task he has taken on is difficult and controversial: he wants to change the way the world views autism. Autism is not a medical mystery that needs solving, he argues. It's a disability, yes, but it's also a different way of being, and "neurodiversity" should be accepted by society. Autistic people (he prefers this wording to "people with autism," (b) a term many parents use, because he considers the condition intrinsic to a person's makeup) must be accommodated in the classroom and workplace and helped to live independently as adults — and he is pushing

to make this happen for everyone on the spectrum. They should also be listened to. “We’re having a national conversation about autism without the voices of people who should be at the center of that conversation,” he says.

Ne’eman’s network has local chapters in 15 states, and he works closely with organizations like the EEOC and the American Association of People With Disabilities. Neurodiversity activists see their mission as a fight for civil rights, and Ne’eman and others are willing to stir unrest. “Ari’s very straightforward,” says Lee Grossman, head of the Autism Society of America, who supports many of Ne’eman’s efforts. “He tells it like it is from his perspective.” Ne’eman has taken on powerful organizations, specifically Autism Speaks, the largest science and advocacy group in the country, because he believes they rely on fearful stereotypes and focus their research too heavily on what causes autism as opposed to improving quality of life for autistic people today. Last year he helped stop an edgy “ransom notes” ad campaign created by New York University’s Child Study Center to raise awareness about autism. One said, “We have your son” and are “driving him into a life of complete isolation.” It was signed “Asperger Syndrome.” Ne’eman was appalled. “There’s a misperception that autism is some thief in the night that takes a normal child and places an autistic child in its place,” he says. ^(c) “That’s not true.”

The autism spectrum itself, however, is a universe with multiple galaxies, including nonverbal toddlers who bite themselves and college grads who can’t tell the difference between sarcasm and seriousness. This complexity leads to passionate and conflicting viewpoints. Not everybody stands behind Ne’eman, and some strongly oppose his views. ⁽²⁾ One major area of contention: scientific research, which includes the hunt for autism genes.

I knew Ne’eman had a surprising outlook on this and figured he’d have something to say about the recent news that scientists have found common gene variants that may account for up to 15 percent of all autism cases. This is big in a disorder that varies so enormously from one individual to the next. Environmental factors also play a role, but if scientists can test for specific genes — most of which have yet to be discovered — they may be able to intervene much sooner to help kids. One day they might even find a cure. This is exciting for parents who want to understand the roots of the disorder. Therapies — some helpful, some not — compete for their attention and their money, and they’d welcome better, more targeted treatments. But the new genetic advances concern Ne’eman. He doesn’t believe autism can be, or should be, cured. His ultimate fear is this: a prenatal test for autism, leading to “improvement in their quality of life.” ^(d) If a test is developed one day, it will be used, he says. And that means people like him might cease to exist.

When I press Ne’eman on genetic research — doesn’t it have some merit? — he says he doesn’t oppose it outright, but he believes scientists must consider the ethical implications of their work far more carefully. Already couples are testing embryos for diseases like Huntington’s, then choosing to implant only the healthy ones. And who can blame them? But autism isn’t a fatal condition. Should people without the disorder be allowed to judge the quality of life of someone who has it? “That is a message that the world doesn’t want us here,” says Ne’eman, “and it devalues our lives.”

The prospect of no more Ari Ne’emans — whether you agree with him or not — is haunting. Termination of fetuses with Down syndrome is routine today; given the fear that autism inspires in parents, why wouldn’t it follow? And what would our world be like without autism? The vast differences among individuals on the spectrum make the notion even thornier: will parents start demanding to know whether their fetus will be low- or high-functioning? But it’s also impossible to ignore the parents who say they’d do anything to free their children from isolation and pain. Some feel so hopeless so much of the time, they do wonder in private if their children would have been better off not born. And who can blame them?

Ne’eman battles a strange kind of image problem: his critics accuse him of not really being autistic. His mother, Rina, is particularly sensitive about this. “People who see Ari today have no idea where he’s been,” she says. As a young child, Ne’eman spoke cleverly for his age but was socially challenged. “I didn’t understand the people around me, and they didn’t understand me,” he says. He was bullied and rejected — back then he didn’t look at people; he flapped his hands and paced constantly (he still does both today); he brought newspapers to elementary school as leisure reading. “I think the word ‘freak’ may have come up,” he says. He was, at one point, segregated from his peers in a special-ed school. That led to struggles with depression and anxiety so severe he would pick at his face until it bled. I asked Ne’eman how he manages to socialize so well with professionals today. Small talk makes him uncomfortable, but he’s learned to play along. Still, none of it is easy. “You come out of a meeting and you’ve put on a mask, which involves looking people in the eye, using certain mannerisms, certain phrases,” he says. “Even if you learn to do it in a very seamless sort of way, you’re still putting on an act. It’s a very exhausting act.”

He remembers being taught in social-skills training that when people are happy they smile with all their teeth, and when they’re sad they wear exaggerated frowns. “I was always wondering, ‘Why is everybody around me neither happy or sad? They don’t have emotions,’” he says. When you’re autistic, social interaction can be like a foreign language: no matter how fluent you become, you’re never a (②) speaker. Katie Miller, a fellow activist, jokes that

“Ari is the only autistic we know whose special interest and talent lies in networking.” But, she says, “it didn’t come naturally. He’s learned it the way everybody else learns algebra.” Ne’eman has a way of taming the stress he feels: he wears a tie because it puts a soothing pressure on his neck. “It’s a good way of calming my anxiety,” he says.

One of Ne’eman’s latest efforts is a new public-service announcement called “No Myths,” which he (③) create with the Dan Marino Foundation, a funder of autism research. In it, Ne’eman appears in a red sweater and tie along with others on the spectrum, including a man who speaks through a communication device. “Our futures have not been stolen,” Ne’eman says. “Our lives are not tragedies.”^(e) The message is clear: We stand before you. Don’t make us go away.

(Adapted from an article “Erasing Autism” by Claudia Kalb, *Newsweek* May 16, 2009)

設問 1 下線部(1)で表されているような行動を文中でなんと表現していますか。文中で使用されている名詞 1 語で答えなさい。

設問 2 (①)に入れるのに最も適切な語句を以下の語群より選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- | | | |
|------------|-------------------|----------|
| A) because | B) if | C) since |
| D) where | E) whether or not | |

設問 3 下線部(2)の “his view” の内容を端的に表す語を以下の語群より選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| あ) isolation | い) misperception | う) networks |
| え) neurodiversity | お) stereotypes | |

設問 4 文中の下線部(a)~(e)について、文脈上不適切なものが 1 つあります。その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

設問 5 下線部(3)の “image problem” の説明として最もふさわしいものを以下より 1 つ選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- A) People doubt that he has a cognitive deficit.
- B) People doubt that he has autism.
- C) People doubt that he is mentally unstable.
- D) People doubt that he is overly sensitive.
- E) People doubt that his behavior is restless.

設問 6 下線部(4)の 'They don't have emotions' が意味することで、最もふさわしいものを以下より 1 つ選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- あ) People are not educated about social skills.
- い) People don't always show feelings on their faces.
- う) People feel difficulty in understanding autistic people.
- え) People have lower mental health status than autistic people.
- お) People lack compassion for autistic people.

設問 7 (②)に入れるのに最も適切な語句を以下の語群より選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- A) challenged B) creative C) historical
- D) native E) traditional

設問 8 (③)に入れるのに最もふさわしい語句を以下の語群より選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- あ) aimed い) expected う) helped
- え) meant お) planned

設問 9 主人公 Ari Ne'eman と対立する考えを持つ人物もしくは団体の名称を文中からすべて挙げなさい。

設問10 Autism について正しい記述を以下より 2 つ選び、その記号を解答欄に書き入れなさい。

- A) Almost 85% of their genes work well in most autistic people.
- B) Autism is a subgroup of Asperger syndrome.
- C) Autistic people show a variety of symptoms.
- D) Most autistic people dislike velvet.
- E) Multiple factors are involved in the incidence of autism.