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()つぎの英文を読んで,間に答えなさい。

During difficult times such as these, you may be inclined to conclude that the world is against you. That, however, would be an incorrect conclusion. The world is not against you; Nature is.

The essence of Nature is an infinity of possibilities. At any given point at any given time for any given action, an incalculable number of distinct things can happen next. For the most part, this is good news. Over the long run, the principle of infinite possibilities has been essential to the creation, diversity, and mystery of life.

But day-to-day human existence is just a bit different. AAn infinity of possibilities does not always work to our advantage. That's because there is usually only a finite set of things that can go right. In fact, we human beings tend to define things that way. 1For instance, when the lawn mower is working, one thing is going right. But when the lawn mower is not working, one or more things have gone wrong.

Although we can define the things that we want to go right, we cannot limit the behavior of Nature by similar definition. Instead, Nature requires that there always will be an infinite number of things that can happen next. Among the infinite number of things that can happen next, most will not affect you. Some, however, will. Among Bthem, there is always a number of things that can go wrong. Unfortunately, this number is also very large.

Anyone who has ever taken a lawn mower out of the garage for the first grass cutting of spring understands this problem. There is one right condition: The lawn mower works. Somehow, though, over the course of winter, one or more things have gone wrong: The spark plug (2), the wire from the spark plug to the engine(2), the gasoline tank (2), all of the oil (2), et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

This is the Lawn Mower Principle. By this principle, 3(1) things (2) can go wrong (3) many more (4) than (5) can go right (6) there are (7) that. Therefore, it is our job in life to act to limit the likelihood of negative outcomes and to increase the probability of a positive outcome. Without question, the most serious negative outcome that we have to limit is the probability of our extinction. According to those (C) study the evolution of our planet for a living, about 99.9 percent of all of the species that have ever inhabited the Earth are now extinct.

We would all like to believe that we humans are different; that our chances of survival are something better than 1,000 to one. In more than a million years of existence, we have already survived lions, (4), and bears, Ice Ages, volcanic eruptions, (4), tsunamis, tornadoes, (4), floods, drought, famine, (4), pestilence, and war.

But more things will go wrong. More than 90 percent of all existing species may fail to 5(a) the next million years. If we are to 5(b) their fate, then we will have to 5(c). However, successful evolution in the Information Age will be very different from what it was in the

Stone Age. In this new age and in each age after it, our survival will depend less on our willingness to 5(d) and more on our courage to do what is right.

A. 下線部 A を和訳し, 解答欄に書きなさい。

B. 下線部 B の them は本文中のどの語を指しているか。その 1 語を解答欄に書きなさい。

C. 下線部 C のカッコに入る適切な 1 語を解答欄に書きなさい。

1. 下線部 1 で筆者は何をいいたいのか。つぎの中から 2 つ選び, 解答欄の該当する番号をマークしなさい。

- (1) 芝刈機がちゃんと機能しているなら, ひととおりうまくいっている。
- (2) 芝刈機が動いたとしても, うまくいくとはかぎらない。
- (3) 物事は 1 つ狂いが生じると, つぎつぎと悪いことが重なるものだ。
- (4) 物事は 1 つが正しければ, あとはなんとかなるものだ。
- (5) 芝を刈っている人が働いていないと, どうにもならない。

2. 下線部 2 の 4 つのカッコに下の (a) (b) (c) (d) を前後の意味が通るように入れ, その順番をつぎの中から 1 つ選び, 解答欄の該当する番号をマークしなさい。

- (a) will no longer carry the spark
- (b) has mysteriously turned into black tar
- (c) has been broken
- (d) has inexplicably taken in water

- (1) a-c-b-d
- (2) b-a-d-c
- (3) c-a-d-b
- (4) d-b-c-a

3. 下線部 3 の語群を正しい英文に並べ換え, その順番どおりに解答欄の該当する番号を 1 列につき 1 つずつマークしなさい。

4. 下線部 4 の 4 つのカッコに下の (a) (b) (c) (d) の語をもっとも適切な順序で入れ その順番をつぎの中から 1 つ選び, 解答欄の該当する番号をマークしなさい。

- (a) earthquakes
 - (b) hurricanes
 - (c) tigers
 - (d) plague
- (1) c-a-b-d
 - (2) c-b-a-d

(3) d-a-c-b

(4) d-b-c-a

5. 下線部 5 の (a) (b) (c) (d) の 4 つのカッコにはつぎの語が 1 つずつ入る。それぞれにもっとも適切なものを 1 つ選び、解答欄の該当する番号をマークしなさい。

(1) avoid (2) evolve (3) fight (4) survive

6. 本文の内容と一致するものをつぎの中から 1 つ選び、解答欄の該当する番号をマークしなさい。

(1) 自然がはらむ可能性は、それがどんなに神秘にみちていようと、ついには深い幻滅をもたらす。

(2) 自然の本質をなすものは無限の可能性である。ある時点にあることが起きていても、つぎには無数の事柄が生じうる。

(3) 世界は人間に逆らっていないし、自然も人間に逆らっていない。

(4) 人類の 0.1 パーセントは将来も地球上で生き残ることができると、科学者は予想している。

(5) 人間は進化することにより生存競争に打ち勝ってきた。

(6) 情報化時代における人類の生存率は、石器時代の生存率よりも低くなるだろう。