

Date: _____ Name: _____

A. Choose the correct word to match each definition.

1. an amount; a serving (of food)

- a. portion b. fatigue c. spike d. staple

2. the middle part of a city where many businesses can be found

- a. proactive b. downtown c. boost d. urbanization

3. the same time after time

- a. engage in b. consume c. on purpose d. consistently

4. feeling new again; rested

- a. tempting b. ancestor c. refreshed d. staple

5. to name; to assign

- a. synonymous b. designate c. stab d. grill

B. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blanks.

1. Our restaurant uses only the best _____ to make all our meals.

- a. register b. ingredients c. evolution d. broth

2. The new president wants to _____ the old president's health care plan.

- a. convicted b. head c. legislation d. abolish

3. Danny is a regular _____ of the restaurants in his neighborhood, so all the owners recognize him.

- a. patron b. phenomenon c. intake d. intellectual

4. Wearing shorts and a T-shirt is not the _____ during winter in a cold climate.

- a. blossom b. norm c. spontaneous d. marine

5. I will _____ you one phone call, but after that you can't make any more.

- a. slump b. require c. grant d. lawsuit

C. Read the readings and answer the questions.

Reading 1: How Safe Are You?

Japan is well known for its very low crime rate compared to the rest of the world. Many have questioned why this is. Some feel that it could be due to social factors. Others believe that perhaps legal reasons are why there is so little crime. It could also be that crimes go unreported. Regardless of the reasons, Japan remains one of the safest places in the world to visit.

Japan's National Police Agency lists six main categories of crime. ① Serious crimes include murder and starting fires **on purpose**. ② Of course, other crimes such as beating up others or stealing show up **on the books** in Japan. ③ However, it is legal to get a divorce from your husband or wife. **Intellectual** crimes are another category of crimes today. ④ These crimes include things like tricking people into giving their money away or copying things illegally. Among other **criminal offenses** reported regularly, one will find things like illegal possession of weapons, such as **swords** and guns, or illegal possession of drugs.

The most logical factor contributing to Japan's low crime rate is its police force. When someone is arrested in Japan, a court does not determine if the person is guilty or not. Instead, this is done behind closed doors with police and lawyers. Though it depends on the crime, about 99% of those arrested are **convicted**. The police are known to be very strict in Japan.

The *yakuza* has long been associated with crime in Japan. At one point, the *yakuza* took credit for Japan's low crime rate because they felt their job was to "keep the streets clean." They saw themselves as the second police. Interestingly, while the *yakuza* has been less interested in violent crime recently, they have begun committing more _____.

Social factors are believed to be another important factor related to Japan's low crime rate. ① Japan is known for its collective society. ② Traditional values include a respect for authority and elders. ③ There are certain social rules that each member of the group must follow, and there is pressure to conform. ④ If someone in Japan commits a crime, it brings shame on his or her family.

Another factor contributing to Japan's low crime rate may be that owning guns is illegal. People are also required to **register rifles** and ceremonial **swords**. However, even though guns may not typically be used by criminals, crimes committed with knives have increased.

It is also possible that many crimes go unreported in Japan. Studies have shown that not all victims of crimes will report them. Women are most often the victims of crimes that are not reported.

Regardless of the reasons behind the low crime rate in Japan, it is important to point out that most people feel that Japan is very safe.

1. Choose the sentence that does not fit the flow of the reading.

a. ①

b. ②

c. ③

d. ④

2. What is NOT true according to the reading?

- a. Making a copy of something is an intellectual crime.
- b. Most Japanese criminals are convicted in courts.
- c. Japanese society teaches people to respect authority.
- d. The *yakuza* once claimed to reduce the crime rate.

3. Choose the word or phrase that best fit in the blank.

- a. white-collar crimes
- b. crimes in other countries
- c. crimes against citizens
- d. online robberies

4. Where is the best place to insert the sentence below?

Shame works as a powerful tool to keep people from breaking rules or breaking laws.

- a. (a)
- b. (b)
- c. (c)
- d. (d)

5. What is the purpose of this reading?

- a. Explaining why some crimes are not reported in Japan
- b. Sharing possible reasons for Japan's low crime rate
- c. Giving causes for the recent increase in Japanese crime
- d. Showing how Japanese police methods keep the country safe

Reading 2: Can You Die from Working Too Much?

Upon traveling to Japan, tourists are often **greeted** by a familiar scene in any subway train in Tokyo. Salarymen are sleeping in their seats. There are teenage girls leaning on each other as they **nap**. Young women in suits are **slumped** against the window of the train. On every corner, there are vending machines with coffee, tea, and energy drinks. Japan is clearly a country that is **exhausted**.

Working long hours is nothing new to the Japanese. Many work well past what is considered a “normal day” in other parts of the world. ① For example, the Netherlands has the shortest work week at just 29 hours. ② In fact, there is such **fatigue** in Japan that many nap at their desks. Such behavior at work is referred to as *inemuri*. It means “sleeping while present,” and it is actually not **looked down on** by employers. ③ Employees are respected for giving their best, even if it means pushing themselves to exhaustion. ④ At times, workers may even pretend to be fatigued in order to appear that they are working harder than they are.

Many rules apply to *inemuri*, which includes who is allowed to do it. Usually, the boss and the lowest-level employees may **engage in** the practice. One must sit up while napping. It must look **spontaneous**, rather than planned. It must also seem that the worker could easily wake up and contribute

again. Sleeping at work is seen as a way to prove that an employee is necessary to the success of the company. Putting in long hours often leads to promotion and greater pay.

Stress and working overtime are common in Japan. In fact, people often work so hard that they die from stress-related illness. There is even a special word for such a happening: *karoshi*. The first case of *karoshi* was in 1969 when a 29-year-old worker suddenly died of a health problem linked to stress.

_____, it was not until the 1980s that people began to take notice of incidents of death when no previous illness was known. Soon, the media picked up on this new **phenomenon** in the workplace.

Due to **bad press**, the Japanese government has attempted to fight the amount of overtime put in by employees. ① Not only do people lose loved ones in such cases, but such deaths leave families without financial support. *Karoshi* has become so common that many families are filing **lawsuits** against companies. ② Much of the overtime is unpaid, which makes it difficult for the government to track.

The good news is that companies are beginning to help their employees find a better work-life balance. ③ They have set limits of the amount of overtime one may work. ④ Larger companies even make a public announcement, asking their workers to go home. However, **in spite of** these efforts, some employees either ignore the requests to **knock off** from work or they take work home.

In time, companies may begin to realize that they need to be more **proactive** about ensuring that the health and safety of their employees come first.

1. Choose the sentence that does not fit the flow of the reading.

- a. ① b. ② c. ③ d. ④

2. What is NOT true according to the reading?

- a. Employers appreciate workers who sleep at their desks.
b. It is common for visitors to see people sleeping on the subway.
c. More employees are working shorter hours these days.
d. Most workers are expected to sleep while sitting up.

3. Choose the word or phrase that best fit in the blank.

- a. For example b. However c. On the other hand d. Because of this

4. Where is the best place to insert the sentence below?

The difficulty lies in the fact that families must prove that the death was work-related.

- a. ① b. ② c. ③ d. ④

5. What is the purpose of this reading?

- a. To give reasons why Japanese companies are so successful
b. To criticize the government for not solving the problem of *karoshi*

- c. To explain why Japanese business workers are often fatigued
- d. To compare the working environments in different countries