

A. Choose the correct word to match each definition.

1. including a lot of different types

- a. mature b. prohibited c. diverse d. fierce

2. special importance that is given to something

- a. emphasis b. category c. personality d. election

3. the buying, selling, and banking within a country

- a. device b. rote c. passion d. economy

4. an examination of opinions, behavior, etc., made by asking people questions

- a. survey b. promotion c. announcement d. opportunity

5. to say you are annoyed about something

- a. assist b. complain c. realize d. select

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

1. This _____ speaker is small enough to carry easily in my school bag.

- a. realistic b. portable c. familiar d. acceptable

2. I hope this old bookstore will _____ many more years.

- a. hang out b. be around for c. come up with d. evaluate

3. Many teenagers _____ short videos because they are easy to watch.

- a. treat unfairly b. account for c. encourage d. get hooked on

4. We should not _____ people based only on their appearance.

- a. stereotype b. come across c. refer to d. interfere with

5. _____ allows people to express their opinions, even when others disagree.

- a. Blood type b. Body language c. Free speech d. Necessary evil

C. Read the readings and answer the questions.**Reading 1: Finding the Truth Online**

In July 2025, a strong earthquake struck the coast of Kamchatka, Russia. It led to tsunami warnings in Japan and across the Pacific. (㉔) Very quickly, stories and videos spread online, some gaining millions of views. ㉑ Several appeared to show a tsunami hitting a Japanese island. However, many of these reports and videos were fake or misleading. Though they seemed real, they were made with AI-generated content or were older videos shared as if they had just happened.

Incidents such as these are becoming increasingly common. (㉕) People can use a smartphone to share this content across the internet. But fake videos can cause real-life problems. After the 2024 Noto earthquake, 10% of rescue messages online were fake. ㉒ The false messages risked pulling rescue services away from where they were most needed.

As well as natural disasters, fake news is especially common during health emergencies and elections. In anxious or uncertain times, people are more likely to believe what they see. ㉓ Many people also use social media to stay in touch with friends and family. Social media systems make the problem worse. They can create an effect called an “echo chamber.” In other words, people only receive posts they are likely to agree with. Some of these stories are true; others may be false or biased. (㉖)

In Japan, anxiety about false online content is growing. ㉔ Many people feel that social media companies are part of the problem. There is growing support for new rules. According to a 2024 survey by *Asahi Shimbun*, 85% of Japanese voters support tighter rules for social media sites. Critics, however, worry that this could limit free speech. (㉗)

In the age of AI, the ability to evaluate online news is a necessary skill. Many schools now teach students how to _____. As technology improves, however, it will become even harder to know what is real. Getting information will become easier. The important skill will be knowing how to question it.

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

- a. ㉑ b. ㉒ c. ㉓ d. ㉔

2. What is NOT true according to the reading?

- a. Some tsunami videos online were old or created with AI.
b. Fake rescue messages can prevent help from reaching people in need.
c. Social media may create echo chambers that reinforce people’s existing views.
d. Most Japanese voters are against tighter rules for social media sites.

3. Choose the phrase that best fits the blank.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. create online content | b. spot false information |
| c. trust online sources | d. share news quickly |

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

AI now makes it easier to create realistic stories and images.

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| a. Ⓐ | b. Ⓑ | c. Ⓒ | d. Ⓓ |
|------|------|------|------|

5. What is the purpose of this reading?

- a. Explaining how social media helps people during natural disasters
- b. Showing why AI-generated content is becoming more popular online
- c. Explaining the dangers of fake news and how to question information
- d. Comparing different ways governments control social media and free speech

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Reading 2: Is Personality in Our Blood?

What's your blood type? In many parts of the world, it's not a question you'll hear often. But in Japan, blood type is not just biology. It's part of popular culture.

Interest in blood types dates back over a hundred years. In 1916, Japanese doctor Kimata Hara first suggested a link between blood type and personality. ① Blood types are also important when people donate or receive blood. In the 1970s, journalist Masahiko Nomi popularized the idea. He proposed that each type has typical traits. Type A people, for example, are careful and organized. Type B people tend to be outgoing but sometimes selfish. Type AB people are adaptable but indecisive. Type O people are confident and open-minded.

(㉔)

These ideas became widespread in Japan and influenced everyday life. ② People began to prefer certain blood types in relationships. (㉕) Some companies asked about blood type in job applications. The issue even led to accusations of "blood-type harassment," or bura-hara. People with types B or AB, especially, felt they were _____.

But could blood types and personality really be linked? One researcher, Masayuki Kanazawa, believes so. In a 2019 study, he asked Japanese people to rate their personality using words like "careful" or "selfish." He noticed a trend: many chose words that matched their blood type. For example, Type A people were more likely to choose "careful."

(㉖) Critics argue that the differences in Kanazawa's study were small. Also, all the data came from Japan, where blood type ideas are widely known. People may have been influenced by these ideas without realizing it. In a larger 2014 study, researchers used data from over 10,000 people in Japan and the US. They compared people's blood types with their answers to personality questions. ③ They found almost no connection: blood types explained fewer than 0.3% of personality differences.

Today, blood types are still widely discussed in Japan. But belief in this idea is changing. (㉗) Surveys suggest only about 50% of people think there may be a link, and few take it seriously. ④ If there is any link, more research is needed, especially across cultures. Only then can we understand what most affects our personality: biology or culture?

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

- a. ㉔ b. ㉕ c. ㉖ d. ㉗

2. What is NOT true according to the reading?

- a. Blood type beliefs have influenced relationships and hiring in Japan.
b. Kanazawa found that some people chose traits matching their blood type.
c. The 2014 study found a strong connection between blood type and personality.
d. Most Japanese people now take the idea less seriously.

3. Choose the phrase that best fits the blank.

- a. stereotyped and treated unfairly
- b. more common in large cities
- c. given more opportunities
- d. respected and treated equally

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

Most scientists, however, are not convinced.

- a. Ⓐ
- b. Ⓑ
- c. Ⓒ
- d. Ⓓ

5. What is the purpose of this reading?

- a. Explaining why some blood types are treated differently in Japan
- b. Exploring whether blood type is really connected to personality
- c. Describing how blood-type ideas affect Japanese popular culture
- d. Showing how researchers study personality differences between cultures