

問題Ⅰ，Ⅱ，Ⅲは解答を一つずつ選び，マークシートに記入しなさい。

I . Read the following article and answer the questions as indicated.

Food Banks Are Vital Community Organs

I. B. Kerenne (2025)

① At the dawn of the twenty-first century, few would have predicted the spread of poverty we see in economically developed countries today. However, the 2008 financial crisis, the pandemic-induced economic downturn, and a surge in global inflation have brought about a cost-of-living crisis where increasing numbers of households are struggling to afford the most basic of everyday necessities. Governments cannot cope. Instead, many households are now relying on the [1] of others in the form of food banks: non-profit organizations that distribute food and other everyday items to financially vulnerable people.

② Food poverty in developed nations has huge consequences for children's education and health. People are often too ashamed to blame illness on poverty, so researchers have not been able to establish clear links between ill-health and food poverty. [2] this is changing; for instance, in a recent survey of OECD countries, a cheaper, nutritionally poor diet has been identified as a key factor in shorter life expectancy. At the same time, school teachers are increasingly reporting pupils' performance in class is lowered by empty stomachs. Further, there has been a rise in absences due partly to the shame created by an inability to afford lunchtime meals.

③ The exact reason people use food banks is difficult to identify, but experts agree that it is [3]. Low-income households with young children or those who rely on state benefits usually find that the meager amount of money remaining after rent and utility costs is often insufficient to avoid hunger, let alone provide them with a nutritious diet. Even though these people have close relations and friends, in practice asking for help with groceries is deeply shameful, leading people to use food banks. Elderly people, too, are not immune: retirees living alone without the support of family or friends close by sometimes run out of money and have to rely on these local services.

④ The unfortunate reality is that food banks are here for the foreseeable future. In the two years since 2021, analysts have observed a 50 percent increase in user rates of food banks in the UK. In fact, the number of food parcels distributed has risen from 740,000 in 2021 to nearly 1.5 million in 2024. This is perhaps unsurprising given a 40 percent increase in the number of food banks during the same period. Looking to the future, by 2027 analysts estimate another doubling in food parcel distribution. This will then have increased the 2021 number by just over [4] times.

⑤ Some criticize the clear lack of variety offered by food banks, and thus their inability to offer diverse, nutritional diets. [5]. Although fresh fruits and vegetables might sometimes be in short supply, food banks do provide key staples such as breads, rice and cereals, along with a vast array of other nourishing foodstuffs, from tinned fruit, to tea and coffee, chocolates, and instant noodles. Moreover, while not the same luxury as fresh produce, thanks to donations of freezers from supermarket chains, a limited number of food banks have even been providing frozen meat and vegetables.

⑥ From a food waste perspective, food banks also provide corporations with a way to get rid of unwanted or unsellable – but perfectly edible – food. Large supermarkets have been notorious for [6] excessive stock despite the near certainty that much of it will remain on store shelves unsold. While supermarkets have been accused of taking the cheapest way out by simply [7] of the majority of unused stock, legal efforts from local governments have slowly forced supermarkets to reconsider their wasteful business practices and begin [8] with local food banks, thus marking an important shift in the broader war against food waste.

⑦ Opponents often claim that food banks promote a cycle of unsustainable [9] among users. However, food bank operators take this as a point of pride. Food banks today have evolved beyond simply providing food. They now provide workshops on a range of topics with the ultimate goal of getting users to stand on their own two feet. These include basic financial planning, raising awareness of state benefits that many users may not know about, as well as help towards navigating benefit applications, and advice on nutrition and dieting.

⑧ In sum, food banks are a source for good. They embody community spirit – something that should be the cornerstone of any moral society. They do not require government support and they can outlast changes in government policy. More and more households are unable to cope with rising living costs, [10], it is necessary to ask who might next end up needing food banks. It is crucial that communities continue to support those less fortunate, for even you yourself may end up having to line up for free food.

Answer the questions [1] – [10] as indicated.

1. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [1] in Paragraph ①?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (1) on the mark sheet.
 1. availability
 2. goodwill
 3. necessity
 4. profit

2. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [2] in Paragraph ②?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (2) on the mark sheet.
 1. As a result,
 2. However,
 3. Indeed,
 4. On the one hand,

3. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [3] in Paragraph ③?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (3) on the mark sheet.
 1. a lack of social connections mixed equally with poverty
 2. due more to poverty than to a lack of social connections
 3. merely a combination of having young children and poverty
 4. primarily old age and lack of social connections

4. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [4] in Paragraph ④?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (4) on the mark sheet.
 1. five
 2. four
 3. three
 4. two

5. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [5] in Paragraph ⑤? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (5) on the mark sheet.
1. On both counts food banks fail the test
 2. That is a point no one would contest
 3. This becomes obvious on closer inspection
 4. This is by no means the case
- 6, 7, 8. Place three of the words below into the most suitable of the gaps marked [6], [7], and [8] in Paragraph ⑥. Each word may be used only once. Fill in the corresponding slots under the numbers marked (6), (7), and (8) on the mark sheet.
1. acquiring
 2. cooperating
 3. disposing
 4. donating
 5. selling
9. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [9] in Paragraph ⑦? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (9) on the mark sheet.
1. abuse
 2. debt
 3. dependence
 4. life
10. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [10] in Paragraph ⑧? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (10) on the mark sheet.
1. also
 2. hence
 3. nevertheless
 4. regardless

II. Read the following article and answer the questions as indicated.

Something Smells Off: The Unpalatable Reality of Food Banks

Bill Thurman (2025)

① The existence of food banks in any rich, developed nation is evidence of a society that unfairly allows the poor to suffer extreme hardships. Take the UK, for instance. How is it that one of the richest welfare states, with GDP per capita in the global top 10 percent and with over 150 billionaires, is seeing a rise in food banks accompanied by an increase in shoplifting of food? How is it that the USA is also dealing with a similar state despite even higher average GDP and more billionaires? Both these countries illustrate the social consequences of [11].

② When food banks were first established, they were [12]. The goal was to provide food for those in certain poorer areas, such as those where unemployment suddenly surged, or where low-income households were experiencing short-term difficulties. To be sure, it is reasonable for external charities and corporate enterprises to establish a small, limited number of food banks for urgent cases. What has come about, unfortunately, is the opposite – a widespread charity industry. The central goal of charities such as food banks is to defeat poverty, yet their numbers are continually growing. Is this not a contradiction?

③ Over the past two decades, developed countries have been actively cutting welfare benefits. Thus, charitable organizations, including food banks, have emerged to help those in need. Rising numbers of food banks seem to result from state inaction. But, in reality, [13]. According to reports from several European and Asian countries, state employees at job centers routinely encourage people struggling to put food on their tables to use food banks. Outsourcing the burden of poverty to charities is surely morally bankrupt. Moreover, it ignores governments' obligation to guarantee their citizens' right to food.

④ A common misconception that charities often attempt to exploit is that expanding food banks will help reduce the number of people suffering from food poverty. One such [14] case occurred in 2021 when a large food bank claimed its

usage had doubled to two million users. Sceptics were [15]; after demanding more details about this figure, the food bank revised the figure down, clarifying that there had only been an increase to 800,000 unique users of their food bank. This typical case highlights how some charities seek publicity by claiming how [16] the problem is. According to one academic's survey, food bank users account for only a quarter of those desperately in need of food, highlighting that more food banks will do little to solve growing hunger.

⑤ The idea that food banks can provide nutritious diets does not hold up to close examination. Food banks mostly request items with long shelf lives such as canned goods that are full of preservatives and high in salt and sugars. Clearly this tendency is a practical necessity. However, it [17]. True, low-income households tend to have neither the equipment and skills, nor the time and energy to prepare meals from scratch. As a result, such people prefer food banks' offerings. Food banks may ease immediate hunger, but the lack of nutritious options may also create health issues for years to come, placing more strain on healthcare services.

⑥ Proponents often say that food banks are [18] the bureaucracy that characterizes government welfare programs. Indeed, navigating the application to receive government benefits is time-consuming and, for those needing urgent assistance, simply impossible. However, the concern that people without genuine need may take advantage of food banks has also created particular bureaucratic issues. Many larger food banks now require referral letters from a medical clinic or an employment center, in addition to photo ID, proof of unemployment and benefits, and proof of financial hardship. This complex procedure is more than enough to [19] potential users with genuine needs.

⑦ Charities and corporate organizations should not bear the burdens of tackling urgent social problems. Governments need to [20] state welfare systems. The thousands of volunteers devoting their time to food banks could better use their time lobbying local and central governments on welfare reform. We have reached a stage where we need to disassemble the charitable food bank system and its connections with large food retailers. Governments may celebrate food banks as a source of pride in demonstrating community compassion, but without immediate state welfare reform, their words are empty.

Answer the questions [11]—[22] as indicated.

11. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [11] in Paragraph ① ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (11) on the mark sheet.
1. a lack of food banks
 2. excessive wealth
 3. high per-capita GDP
 4. massive inequality
12. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [12] in Paragraph ② ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (12) on the mark sheet.
1. always run by local people for local people
 2. intended as permanent fixtures in our communities
 3. most often the result of wider economic conditions
 4. usually set up to deal with an emergency
13. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [13] in Paragraph ③ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (13) on the mark sheet.
1. government job centers only rarely promote the use of food banks
 2. governments directly recommend the use of food banks
 3. governments implicitly suggest using food banks
 4. governments take a clearly neutral stance on using food banks

14, 15, 16. Which of the following would best fill the gaps at [14], [15], and [16] in Paragraph ④? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under numbers (14), (15), and (16) on the mark sheet.

1. persuaded
2. unconvinced
3. unusual
4. vast
5. well-known

17. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [17] in Paragraph ⑤? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (17) on the mark sheet.

1. has short-term negative impacts
2. has surprising benefits
3. has unfortunate long-term results
4. is not necessarily a bad thing

18. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [18] in Paragraph ⑥? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (18) on the mark sheet.

1. central to
2. free from
3. hidden from
4. present in

19. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [19] in Paragraph ⑥? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (19) on the mark sheet.

1. call off
2. let off
3. put off
4. take off

20. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [20] in Paragraph ⑦? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (20) on the mark sheet.

1. improve the efficiency of
2. make gradual changes to
3. put less effort into
4. reduce dependency upon

21, 22. Look at the statements below. Then, based on **BOTH** articles, under the corresponding number (21) and (22), fill in

Slot 1, if only I. B. Kerenne agrees with that statement

Slot 2, if only Bill Thurman agrees with that statement

Slot 3, if both authors agree with that statement

Slot 4, if neither author agrees with that statement

21. Governments should do more to support food banks.

22. Food banks can provide nutritious meals to users.

III. Read the following article and answer the questions as indicated.

Food Waste: Everyone's Loss?

Mo Tyenigh (2025)

① The average consumer on a typical trip to the supermarket gives little thought to the long, complex paths by which food arrives on the shelves. Rather, consumers are focused on value for money: getting the best quality for the most reasonable price. But placing too much emphasis on consumers is insufficient. Consumers act under the influence of a global food production system in which governments and international corporations combine to determine the outcomes. It is through these complicated [23] that one of the key issues of our time emerges: food loss and food waste.

② The sheer scale of food loss and food waste is astounding. According to a 2019 UN report, out of all food produced, food lost after harvest and before it arrives in retailers amounts to 14 percent, wasting a staggering \$400 billion per year. One may reasonably be forgiven for thinking that this food loss is due to the complex background of food production technology and global food supply chains. [24], primarily revolving around unfavorable weather. Yet, food loss is not even the main problem: it is surpassed by the estimated 17 percent of food products that are discarded after the production stage by retailers and by consumers. This is called food waste. The massive scale of this waste makes for grim reading: 1.3 billion tons worth over \$1 trillion is wasted a year globally. The result of food loss and food waste is that approximately one third of all food produced is never consumed.

③ Moreover, huge environmental consequences result from food loss and waste. According to some estimates, food production as a whole already accounts for 40 percent of all land use, 70 percent of freshwater use, and, what is particularly [25], 80 percent of deforestation, and 30 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. This may well be necessary, but given the increasingly unstable state of the earth's environment, it is [26] that nothing goes to waste. We should all be concerned, then, that food loss and waste account for 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions,

according to UN estimates. In turn, these emissions further destabilize the already [27] climate, increasing the likelihood of droughts and floods which can have disastrous effects on crop yields in addition to disrupting supply chains.

④ Solutions to these problems have tended to focus on consumer behavior. Surveys conducted in developed nations commonly find that despite high education levels consumers demonstrate a desire to stock up their fridges and pantries, often without thoroughly considering their ability to consume everything. Inevitably, this practice leads to some items exceeding their expiration dates, particularly dairy, fresh fruit, and vegetables. Of course, consumers have a duty to avoid waste. Ironically, however, being aware of food waste [28]. According to some surveys, many consumers understand food waste issues and two thirds of them express concern. However, the same respondents tend to blame others for the larger problem, while they in fact need to question their own wasteful behavior.

⑤ One clear way to battle food waste is to reconsider standards concerning when food is discarded. Take Japan's "one-third" rule for discarding food. An orange that expires three weeks after its production, for instance, has to arrive at the retailer within one week, otherwise it will be discarded. While manufacturers and retailers wish to sell produce at peak freshness, these high standards create a huge amount of waste, despite the produce being perfectly safe to consume. If Japan adopted most European governments' more generous "two-thirds" rule, that same orange would have [29] to arrive at the retailer, surely cutting down on waste.

⑥ Similarly, retailers have an important role to play in shaping consumer tastes. Would customers purchase imperfect-looking fruit and vegetables, if they were cheaper? It is hard to say: despite their public claims, most retailers insist on perfect appearance, [30] encouraging the disposal of perfectly edible produce and causing millions of tons of waste every year. In an effort to combat this, some individual supermarkets are now pushing customers to buy so-called "ugly" produce by creating discounted sections for fruit and vegetables of weird and wonderful shapes. One major supermarket chain's spokesperson admitted that, while sales have been slow so far, retailers have a moral duty to influence

customers' habits, by teaching them that ugly produce is just as nutritious.

⑦ Confusing labelling of expiration dates is another key concern, one which leads to a huge ten percent of all food waste. This is unsurprising, given the myriad of types of labels including “use by,” “best before,” “best if used by,” “sell by,” “expiration date,” and others. Many customers, fearing their product is unsafe to consume, simply discard it, with some calling on the government to standardize expiration dates. However, asking national legislators to develop reliable standards makes for [31] process. NGOs, in contrast to governments, are aiming to achieve the same goal far more quickly and cheaply by convincing corporations to cooperate towards standardizing food labelling.

⑧ Tackling food waste is a complex problem that requires [32]. With increasingly disrupted weather patterns brought on by the climate crisis, social unrest, and geopolitical disputes that may become large-scale wars, it is likely that global food production will struggle to keep up with demand. Thus, it is vital that all stakeholders work together, irrespective of financial interests, to ensure maximum food security. Persevering through these coming challenges would not only address food loss and waste but also contribute to defeating hunger, protecting the environment, and ensuring a healthy planet for generations to come.

Answer the questions [23]—[33] as indicated.

23. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [23] in Paragraph ① ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (23) on the mark sheet.
1. changes
 2. interrelations
 3. journeys
 4. problems

24. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [24] in Paragraph ② ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (24) on the mark sheet.

1. However, the reasons are comparatively important
2. Nevertheless, the reasons are comparatively hidden
3. Predictably, the reasons are comparatively simple
4. Surprisingly, the reasons are comparatively straightforward

25, 26, 27. Place three of the words below into the most suitable of the gaps marked [25], [26], and [27] in Paragraph ③. Each word may be used only once. Fill in the corresponding slots under the numbers marked (25), (26), and (27) on the mark sheet.

1. alarming
2. effective
3. essential
4. fragile
5. incompatible

28. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [28] in Paragraph ④ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (28) on the mark sheet.

1. does not always lead to responsible action
2. does not lead to positive self-evaluation
3. may lead to better outcomes
4. usually leads to self-knowledge

29. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [29] in Paragraph ⑤ ?
Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (29) on the mark sheet.

1. half the time
2. one third of an extra week
3. twice as long
4. two more weeks

30. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [30] in Paragraph ⑥? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (30) on the mark sheet.
1. effectively
 2. enthusiastically
 3. hardly
 4. openly
31. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [31] in Paragraph ⑦? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (31) on the mark sheet.
1. a debatably concise
 2. a risky, commercially unattractive
 3. an efficient and cost-saving
 4. an excessively lengthy
32. Which of the following would best fill the gap at [32] in Paragraph ⑧? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (32) on the mark sheet.
1. action to promote international peace
 2. cooperation to combat an uncertain future
 3. freedom for corporations to remain profitable
 4. initiatives to fight global climate changes
33. Which one of the following words is pronounced with the stress on the first syllable? Answer by filling in the corresponding slot under the number (33) on the mark sheet.
1. reside
 2. residence
 3. residential
 4. residual

IV. Read the following letter to the editor and answer the questions (a-c) as indicated.

次の日本語の文章は問題ⅢのMo Tyenigh氏の論考に対する、田部泰三 (Tabe Taizo) 氏の投書である。

Tyenigh氏は、食品の廃棄問題 (“food loss” と “food waste”) の深刻な実態を取り上げ、その問題に関わる責任の所在の複雑さを指摘している。しかし、食品廃棄問題の責任の一端を担っているはずの消費者に対して、Tyenigh氏はその責任をより強調すべきである。消費者は一層の主体性を持って行動すべきで、そのためには消費者に対する教育の機会を増やす必要がある。

昨今の消費者の中には、献立を綿密に決めてから食品を購入したり、カット済みの食材を購入したりして、無駄をなくそうと努力する人がいる。その一方で、お買い得商品を広告でチェックしてから来店する人や閉店間際を狙って値下げされた商品を買込む人も多い。これらの消費者は、賢く日々の食費を抑え、結果的に食料品店の売り上げにも貢献しているかもしれないが、結局買い過ぎて食べきれずに廃棄してしまいがちである。現状では、食料品小売業者の食品廃棄に対する取り組みをチェックし、場合によっては不買運動に踏み切るほどの主体性を持った消費者は、極めて少ないと言わざるを得ない。

私は少なくとも2つのレベルでの消費者教育が必要だと考える。まず、本当に必要な食品を選び抜き、買った食品を無駄にしない消費者を増やすための教育である。さらに、主体性をもって食品廃棄問題に関心を寄せ、行動する消費者を増やすような教育である。しかし、こうした教育は政府や企業の責任で行うのではなく、消費者同士で行うしかない。そのためには、まず一部の消費者が地域やSNS上で発信を行い、人々が食品廃棄問題について目にする機会を増やす必要がある。そうすれば、やがてより多くの消費者が緩やかに繋がって、食品廃棄の現場を見て、専門家や生産者とも意見を交換するようになる。その結果、日々の生活の中で食品の消費を見直し、我が国の政府に必要な対策を講じるよう働きかけるような消費者が増える。それが望ましい消費者教育のあり方ではないだろうか。

Answer the questions [a]—[c] as indicated.

- a. Which of the following does Tyenigh support, but Tabe would most likely oppose? Write the correct number in box (a) on answer sheet B.
1. Consumers have no responsibility for their wasteful behavior.
 2. Governments are too slow to produce real change.
 3. Retailers should educate consumers about their shopping choices.
 4. Standardizing food labeling will contribute to decreasing food waste.
- b. Which of the following would **most likely** be Tyenigh's **main** critique of Tabe's piece? Write the correct number in box (b) on answer sheet B.
1. Consumers' responsibility in choosing long-lasting products is not sufficiently discussed.
 2. NGOs' encouragement of the consumption of "ugly" produce is downplayed.
 3. The geographical scope of the piece is undefined.
 4. The potential impact of changes in consumer behavior is overly stressed.
- c. Which of the following topics is mentioned **neither** by Tyenigh **nor** by Tabe? Write the correct number in box (c) on answer sheet B.
1. Corporations working together towards reducing food waste
 2. Governments' introduction of measures to address food waste
 3. Government monitoring of retailers' efforts to reduce food waste
 4. Retailers' obsession with the appearance of the products

V. Choose one of the questions below and write an essay in response.

以下の設問 (A), (B) の中から一つ選んで, 問題文 I ~ IV を基にして, 自分の意見を解答用紙 B の V 欄に英語で論じなさい。注意点をよく読んでから書くこと。

- (A) Should the Japanese government encourage food banks? Why or why not?
- (B) How should the Japanese government address the issue of food loss and food waste?

注意点:

- (1) 解答欄の左上に注意すること。選択した設問 (A・B) のどちらかを丸で囲みなさい。
- (2) 自分の意見と異なる見解に言及し, それを批判すること。具体例を挙げながら論じなさい。
- (3) 問題文 I, II, III または IV で言及されている見解やことがらを最低一つ取り上げること。その際には, 問題文から丸写しするのではなく, 自分の言葉で言い換えること。問題文を直接引用する場合は, 引用符 (quotation marks) を使うこと。どちらの場合でも, 参照した箇所に著者名と出版年を記すこと。