

ベーシックセンター

英 語

脱文挿入(2)

次の文章の ～ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①～④のうちから一つずつ選べ。

Laughter is a part of everyday life. We all know that laughter is good for us. But what is laughter?

Plato, a classical Greek philosopher, saw laughter as a social act. For Kant, an 18th century philosopher, laughter was a reaction to a sudden, unexpected change. Bergson, an influential thinker in the first half of the 20th century, said that laughter was a machine-like act, while Freud, who studied the human mind, asserted that laughter releases tension and liberates mental frustration.

Natural scientists are also providing answers. Modern scientific study of the brain explains that laughter is linked with . These are involved in activities necessary for survival, such as basic emotions. In 1998, researchers identified a small area in the brain associated with these functions, the stimulation of which produced joyful laughter.

Such a scientific approach to laughter has advanced our knowledge and it has greatly improved our understanding of laughter coming from emotion. It does not, however, explain why people automatically laugh when they are tickled. Some scientists believe that this is due to the body's ability to react quickly to unexpected stimulation. This explains why people do not laugh when they tickle themselves.

Clearly, from a variety of viewpoints — social, scientific, or physical. Given this complexity, laughter will keep attracting the attention of people for a long time to come. But it is important, as we think about laughter, to remember sometimes just to laugh.

問 1

- ① Generally, intellectuals have not been interested in this human behavior.
- ② On this point, most thinkers have agreed with each other.
- ③ Studies of this topic seem to point in one direction.
- ④ Various intellectuals have tried to answer the question since ancient times.

問 2

- ① important brain functions
- ② individual life spans
- ③ modern life stresses
- ④ powerful philosophical opinions

問 3

- ① it is absurd to understand laughter
- ② it is not necessary to examine laughter
- ③ laughter can be understood
- ④ laughter should not be examined