

ベーシックセンター

英 語

600 words(1)

次の文章を読み、下の問いの ~ 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。なお、文章の左にある(1)~(8)は段落の番号を表している。

- (1) Controversial issues such as the global economy, military conflicts, and the environment are difficult, if not impossible, for competing countries to deal with in a calm and peaceful manner. It is for this reason that a number of international organizations have been created. The most important of these is probably the United Nations (UN). Founded in 1945, the UN has come to play an essential role in our world today.
- (2) In spite of its importance, there are limitations to what the members of the United Nations can accomplish. All UN members participate in the annual General Assembly meeting, and each country's ambassador has one vote. Sometimes it can be difficult to reach agreements on urgent issues. Perhaps because of this, leaders of major industrialized countries came to feel the need for other formats, such as face-to-face meetings, in order to seek more effective solutions to critical problems.
- (3) In 1975, the first of what later became yearly "summits" was held when the leaders of six countries — France, Italy, Japan, West Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States — gathered in France to discuss in person the global economic problems caused by the 1973 oil crisis. Later Canada and Russia were invited to join, and the number of countries participating increased to eight. These countries came to be known as the Group of Eight (G8).
- (4) Over the years, the G8 has addressed many different issues. The main topic at early summits was the global economy. In the early 1980s, leaders also discussed political issues such as the Cold War, and from the end of the 1980s, topics included problems relating to the environment and health. Thus, the scope of the topics taken up in the summits has broadened.
- (5) Although the summits place leaders in the spotlight, it is the workers who are involved in

preparations that make the summits possible. One important group of such workers is the “Sherpas,” who are the personal representatives of the G8 leaders. They are called this because, like the guides who lead climbers to the summits of the Himalayan Mountains, they provide guidance to the leaders at each summit. In addition, the Sherpas negotiate on behalf of their leaders before a summit begins so that when the leaders arrive all but the most important decisions have been made.

- (6) While G8 summits have attracted great interest from the public, there has been debate about their usefulness. Supporters argue that the summits played a crucial role in raising awareness of issues like climate change and hunger, and that such worldwide media attention prompted action not only by G8 member nations, but also by volunteer and aid organizations.
- (7) On the other hand, G8 summits have drawn a lot of criticism. Some insist that they either did not take up the most important issues facing the world or did not bring about satisfactory solutions to the problems they tried to address. It has also been suggested that the participating members were too few, and that it was unrealistic to talk about the world economy while not including China. In addition, many critics have argued that G8 summits were nothing more than media events in which the leaders were only shown in a positive light.
- (8) Overall, however, most would say that it is necessary for world leaders to have more access to one another than is possible at the UN, and that summits lead to a clearer awareness of global issues as well as problems affecting individual countries. While summits may not always result in immediate action, they do in fact highlight the challenges the international community faces.

問1 According to the passage, summits are more effective than the United Nations partly because .

- ① each participating country has an equal vote in decision-making
- ② leaders have an opportunity to discuss key issues in person with other leaders
- ③ peace between countries at war can be brought about immediately
- ④ problems that concern more than one nation are dealt with completely

問2 Paragraph (4) mentions that the range of topics discussed at the summits has .

- ① become more technical since the first summit was held
- ② decreased and discussion has become more focused
- ③ evolved so that more diverse issues are covered
- ④ remained mostly unchanged from year to year

問3 According to the passage, one thing the “Sherpas” do for a summit meeting is to .

- ① make the most significant decisions on behalf of the leaders
- ② substitute for the leaders when they are absent
- ③ take the leaders on guided tours around the summit site
- ④ work on solving minor problems before the leaders arrive

問4 One criticism against G8 summits that is **NOT** expressed in the passage is that .

- ① there are a limited number of nations making decisions that affect the world economy
- ② there have been no major results to the issues they faced
- ③ they are primarily held to gain attention for world leaders who are attending
- ④ they have been extremely costly to organize and hold for the host country

問5 On the whole, the author of the passage .

- ① basically has a favorable view of the summits and what they achieve
- ② believes there is little room for improvement of the summits
- ③ feels that the summits should be held on a monthly basis
- ④ insists the summits be replaced by a new international organization

問6 When paragraphs (1) through (8) are divided into five groups, which grouping is the most appropriate?

| | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 | Group 5 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ① | (1) | (2) | (3)(4) | (5)(6) | (7)(8) |
| ② | (1) | (2)(3) | (4)(5) | (6)(7) | (8) |
| ③ | (1)(2) | (3) | (4) | (5)(6) | (7)(8) |
| ④ | (1)(2) | (3)(4) | (5) | (6)(7) | (8) |