

令和 2 年度

英 語

10 : 30 ~ 12 : 10

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I 次の英文を読んで、下の問いに答えなさい。

While many countries around the world welcome and even strive to attract tourists, excessive visitors can lead to “overtourism,” causing various problems.

What is “overtourism”? The term is said to have been created by a website offering information on tourism 2 years ago. Since then, it has become an indispensable* concept both in business and academic discussions on tourism.

① Having too many visitors at a sightseeing spot can lead to a host of problems such as busy streets, traffic jam and noise, causing inconveniences to local residents. It can even spoil the attraction of the site itself.

② Japan aims to increase the number of inbound visitors by more than 10 million to 40 million by 2020, the year of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. As the number of tourists rises across the country, overtourism is expected to become an issue. Its effects are already being felt in Kyoto, one of the most popular Japanese cities for tourists.

③ Japan’s ancient capital attracts more than 50 million visitors each year. We went to the city for this report during a 3-day holiday in the middle of September. On the main street near the Kiyomizu Temple, a world heritage site, was a long line of people waiting for a bus, which has become an everyday sight for locals. A woman living in the vicinity* said, “Buses are always packed. Sometimes, I can’t get on and have to wait for the next one or the one after that. The traffic becomes particularly heavy in the fall, and buses get stuck in congestion.” A man expressed his mixed views, saying, “The livelihoods* of people in this area depend on tourism, so I’m not saying we don’t need tourists, but we do see negative effects from it.” An increase in tourists is also causing noise pollution. A local woman said, “Since minpaku (private lodgings) has become popular, it’s noisy even after midnight, as the houses are close to each other.”

As we interviewed people around Kyoto Station, tourists pulling suitcases arrived in droves. Since I worked in Nara until 2008, I also used to visit Kyoto

quite often, but I was astonished by how much the city had changed in 10 years, with all its foreign travelers.

Kyoto is not just sitting idly* by. At an international tourism expo held in Tokyo in September, Kyoto Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa introduced the city's efforts to cope with overtourism.^④ The mayor has come up with tactics to disperse* crowds in terms of time, area and season. In an interview with NHK, Kadokawa said, “The key is to disperse crowds in crowded times, crowded areas or crowded seasons. Now that sustainable development goals, or SDGs, have become a major theme for countries or cities around the world, the important thing is to combine SDGs and measures to develop Kyoto and promote its tourism.”

At the Nijo Castle, one of Kyoto's major tourist attractions which has been designated as a world heritage site, time dispersion measures are being implemented*. During the summer, the opening time was moved forward by one hour to 8 AM. In addition, a special breakfast set was offered at its garden teahouse, which is normally not open to the public. The plan was a success. The place was fully booked every morning. A woman from Hyogo Prefecture said, “My image of Kyoto was a bustling* city, but it is very calm here. I'm enjoying breakfast in a refreshing atmosphere.” Also among the guests was a couple from the US who had entered right after the gate opened. The man said, “It's nice. It's not crowded. I'm pleased to come early in the morning.”

Efforts to disperse visitors to wider areas have been underway* in the Fushimi district in the city's south. Since Fushimi is not generally packed with people except for the area around the Fushimi Inari Shrine, the city has been trying to steer tourists to Fushimi from the crowded neighboring district.^⑤ As a result of brainstorming, local shopping arcades and travel agents have organized tours to sake breweries. Fushimi is famous for time-honored* sake brands. The rare experience draws sake-loving foreigners.

On the day we covered the tour, 12 people from countries like Norway, Israel

and the US took part. They visited sake breweries, enjoyed tasting and learned about pairing food and sake. The participants seemed to enjoy the tour, which offered an experience different from those of crowded tourist spots. The man from Israel said, “Visiting sake breweries was a great experience. It was interesting and different from what we had experienced in the city’s central area.” A British woman enjoyed the quiet atmosphere, saying, “Definitely less busy, less tourists. I want to come back.”

The city is also trying seasonal dispersion methods. Although popular all year around, Kyoto becomes particularly crowded during cherry blossom season in the spring and the fall foliage* season. To ease congestion during these seasons, the city has been trying to get tourists to visit in early summer to enjoy the fresh green maple leaves.

Kyoto is also planning to launch other measures. For instance, tourist facilities in Arashiyama, a popular spot for viewing autumn foliage, will start collecting data on the number of visitors on a trial basis. The data will be disclosed on a website real-time to ease congestion. An expert says Kyoto’s measures will be a case study for other cities around the world.

Overtourism surfaced earlier in other countries. In Venice, Italy and Barcelona, Spain, the issue has reached the point where citizens are carrying out protests, demanding that the tourists leave.

Venice is a city known for attracting tourists in droves on large cruise ships. ^{⑥ a)} Once the visitors disembark*, they descend en masse* on a small area. When that happens, the city becomes as crowded as a popular theme park. The Italian government has decided that the huge cruise ships will be diverted* from the city center. The city has launched measures such as building barriers at peak times to set up separate walking paths for tourists.

The Dutch city of Amsterdam has banned beer bikes in parts of the city center, which are multi-passenger bicycles which people ride while drinking beer. The ban was imposed because citizens complained that the city had become too

much of a tourist attraction. Local media reports say some residents have moved away, complaining that the city has lost its traditional charm.

Overtourism is also affecting the environment. The Philippine government took the unusual move in April of closing the popular resort island of Boracay to tourists. The government said the increase in visitors had led to water pollution. Sewage systems* have since been upgraded and the island will be partly reopened to tourists in late October.

The Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization, Zurab Pololikashvili, spoke to NHK about why overtourism has become a problem around the world. He said one factor is the growing number of tourists. There were more than 1.3 billion tourists around the world last year. Their number is growing at a rate of 3 to 4 percent per year. More people from the middle class are travelling abroad as economies grow in developing countries. He also listed factors like the emergence of low cost carriers and improved flight connections between continents. In view of the growing problem, the United Nations designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The world body has held conferences in multiple countries and is working to solve the issue.

NHK World-Japan, October 11, 2018 より作成

* [注]

indispensable: absolutely necessary

vicinity: a surrounding area or district; neighborhood

livelihoods > **livelihood:** a way of earning money in order to live

idly: without taking any action

disperse: to spread across or move away over a large area

implemented > **implement:** to carry out

bustling: full of busy activity

underway: in progress; happening now

time-honored: considered important because of having existed for many years

foliage: the leaves of a plant or tree

disembark: to leave a ship or boat

en masse: all together

diverted > divert: to turn from one course to another

sewage systems: wastewater systems

問 1 下線部①を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 2 下線部②によれば、この記事が公開された時点の inbound visitors の数は何人と推計されるか、日本語で答えなさい。

問 3 下線部③について、ア)これはどの都市を指しているのかを答え、イ)これにより発生している問題を、この段落から二つ日本語で簡潔に答えなさい。

問 4 下線部④の内容を、この段落から日本語で三つ挙げなさい。

問 5 下線部⑤を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 6 下線部⑥ a)と下線部⑥ b)について、ア)どのような問題が起きているか、イ)それへの対策を、日本語で答えなさい。

問 7 下線部⑦の背景を、日本語で二つ挙げなさい。

II 次の英文を読んで、下の問いに答えなさい。

We have long known about massive piles of garbage that blot* the surface of the oceans. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a sprawling 1.6 million square km mass floating between Hawaii and California that is estimated to contain about 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic — or about 250 pieces per person on the planet — and weighs about 80,000 metric tons. A similar patch stains the Atlantic Ocean.

Because plastic floats, scientists had assumed that those horrific spectacles were the worst of the problem. They recently discovered, however, that plastic can be found far below the ocean surface. ^① In fact, most of the plastic is underwater, from just below the waves to the deepest parts of the ocean. Concentrations are higher the greater the distance from shore. Plastic fibers have even been found in the stomachs of creatures in the Marianas Trench, the lowest point on Earth at 12,000 meters below sea level. Japan is pressing for action in the Group of 20 to counter this discovery; it is long overdue*.

Scientists have discovered that the highest concentrations of microplastics — tiny pieces of material less than 5 mm in size — are in water 200 to 600 meters deep and reach levels of 12 to 15 particles* per square meter, amounts comparable to those of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. They concluded that the presence of these plastics “extends much further and more extensively into the waters, sediments*, and animal communities of the deep sea” than previously realized. That has triggered* alarm bells since the deep ocean is the world’s largest ecosystem, a giant food chain populated by animals ^② in constant motion, moving up and down as well as huge distances across those waters. Most anything and everything in those waters is consumed and passed from one species to another.

This grim state of affairs is the result of 70 years of plastic manufacturing. It’s estimated that annual global primary plastic production is 270 million tons; annual plastic waste is 275 million tons. ^{③ a)} Scientists reckon* that about 8.8 million ^{③ b)}

tons of plastic enters the ocean annually. Forecasts show that the amount of plastic in the ocean could triple within 10 years, while the weight concentration will double by 2030 and again by 2060.

Plastics break down over time, but it can take hundreds of years. In many cases, they dissolve into microplastics, which never degrade*. Most plastic discovered by researchers was polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which goes into single-use plastics, such as food packaging.

The health effects of this plastic plague are not yet clear. The plastic itself may not be problem; rather, there is concern that resins* in the microplastics attract chemicals such as persistent organic pollutants*, that attach to the plastics and are eaten by marine animals and passed up the food chain, eventually reaching humans.

Waters around Japan have a higher density of microplastics than the global average, with one study of 29 rivers in the country revealing that every river contained microplastics. The highest density occurred around highly populated areas, proof that the pollutants originate on land and find their way to the sea. It is estimated that 90 percent of plastic in the oceans come from just 10 of the world's rivers; this is an urban problem.

^⑤ Japan is attacking on two fronts. In March, the government released the draft Strategy for Plastic Resources Circulation to prevent the release of microplastics into marine environments by 2020. It covers the reduction, reuse and recycling of plastics in general and aims to implement measures that stop the release of microplastics into marine environments and promote additional study of the problem. Current rules are voluntary and various industries are working to reduce their emissions*. Plastic bans are increasingly popular, and last week Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko announced that it will become mandatory* to charge for disposable plastic shopping bags as early as next April. Environment Minister Yoshiaki Harada announced a plan to introduce a uniform ban on free plastic shopping bags at supermarkets and other shops.

Those announcements were followed by agreement at the end of a G20 meeting over the weekend to establish an international framework to cooperate to reduce marine plastic waste. This follows criticism of Tokyo last year for refusing to sign, at the Group of Seven summit, the Ocean Plastics Charter which sought to make all plastics recyclable by 2030. The government argued then that more time was needed to stop this plague. Action must follow this year's G20 leader's meeting, not more studies that substitute for genuine remedial steps.

The Japan Times, June 17, 2019 より作成

* [注]

blot: spot

overdue: not done by the required or expected time

particles > **particle:** a very small piece of something

sediments: solid substances that settle at the bottom of a liquid

triggered > **trigger:** to activate or release or cause something to happen

reckon: to calculate or figure or estimate

degrade: to break down

resins > **resin:** 合成樹脂

pollutants > **pollutant:** a substance that makes air, water and soil dangerously dirty, and is caused by cars, factories and so on

emissions > **emission:** a substance that is released

mandatory: required by rule

問 1 下線部①を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 2 下線部②を日本語に訳しなさい。

問 3 下線部③ a)と下線部③ b)について、ア)それぞれの数値を日本語に直し、イ)それぞれの数値は何を示しているか、日本語で答えなさい。

問 4 下線部④について、その内容がどのようなものであるか、この段落から日本語でまとめなさい。

問 5 下線部⑤では、何が an urban problem と捉えられているのか、この段落から簡潔に日本語でまとめなさい。

問 6 下線部⑥の具体策を日本語で二つ挙げなさい。