

[Ⅱ] 次の文章を読んで設問に答えなさい。[*印のついた語句は注を参照しなさい。] (80点)

Earlier this year, a museum in Amsterdam was the scene of a terrible crime. During their rounds at the end of a busy day, curators* were horrified to discover that one of their most prized exhibits — a small shiny object glittering with 220 diamonds — was missing. A security video showed two young men in baseball caps loitering near the display case, but the police had no other ^(a)leads. The world's most expensive cheese slicer ^(b)was gone. In some countries, a theft from the national cheese museum might sound like the plot for an animated children's film. In the Netherlands, however, cheese is a serious business. For the Dutch, cheeses, milk, yogurts and other dairy products are not only staple ^(c)foods but national symbols, and the bedrock* of a major export industry.

The Netherlands' love of all things dairy is largely a consequence of its unique geography. Four hundred years ago, much of the country lay under water, and much of the rest was swampy marshland. "The buttock* of the world," was how one 17th century visitor described it, "full of veins and blood, but no bones." Over the next centuries, though, the Dutch embarked on an extraordinary project to rebuild their country. Thousands of canals were dug, and bogs* were drained by hundreds of water-pumping

windmills. Some of the new land was built on, but large areas were also allocated to help feed the growing population of cities like Amsterdam. (d) Silty* reclaimed* soil proved perfect for growing rich, moist grass, and that grass in turn made perfect food for cows. Thousands of the creatures soon were grazing happily on reclaimed land. (中略)

In the Netherlands, milk became a popular drink at a time when clean water was in short supply. Any (W) wasn't drunk was churned into* butter or cheeses, often named after the towns where they were traded, such as Gouda. In a neat circularity, stacks of tough cow hides* were even used as foundations for buildings in Amsterdam: the cows which grazed on reclaimed land providing the foundations for further reclamation. By the 20th century, the Dutch had fallen head over heels in love with the cow. Today, the country's affection for all things bovine* continues. The Netherlands now has more than 1.6 million dairy cows — roughly as many as Belgium, Denmark and Sweden combined. (The UK has slightly more, but is roughly six times the size). (中略) According to the dairy association ZuiveNL, nearly 18,000 Dutch dairy farms now support 60,000 jobs nationwide. Nearly 7 billion euros of dairy products are exported each year, to countries (X) far away as China, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia. With the Dutch economy taking a battering* in recent years, the humble dairy cow now finds itself shouldering an unlikely burden, as one of the big beasts keeping the Dutch economy off the ground.

日本では
牛乳が主!

Dutch dairy exports might be even larger were it not for the fact that the Dutch eat so much dairy themselves. To the Dutch, milk and cheese are staples, as essential (Y) part of the weekly shop as rice is for a Chinese shopper or teabags are for an Englishman. It's said that about a sixth of the average Dutch food shopping bill goes on dairy products. In a typical year, the average Dutch person consumes more than 25% more milk-based products than their British, American or German

counterparts. (中略) In today's Netherlands, piles of cheese cubes make a popular bar snack, and nothing is more likely to get Dutch lips licking than a *kaasplankje* cheese platter*. But cheese also makes a popular breakfast. Cereal isn't as popular as elsewhere in Europe, and morning trains are filled with commuters eating homemade brown-bread-and-cheese sandwiches for breakfast, often with milk or yogurt on the side. Urban legend tells of a wealthy executive who complained to the national airline KLM about the food provided in business class. There was no need for all the fancy hot food and champagne, he said. A tasty cheese sandwich and a glass of milk would do just fine.

One might think that an all-dairy diet would be bad for waistlines, but in fact the Dutch have grown mostly in the opposite direction. In the mid-1800s, the average Dutchman was about 5 feet 4 inches tall (1m62cm) — 3 inches (7.5cm) shorter than the average American. In 150-odd years of scoffing* milk and cheese, however, the Dutch soared past the Americans and everyone else. These days, the average Dutchman is more than 6 feet tall (1m83cm), and the average Dutch woman about 5 feet 7 inches (1m70cm). The Dutch have gone from being among the shortest people in Europe to being the tallest in the world. (中略)

In recent years, dairy farmers throughout Europe have fallen on hard times. Exports to Russia, a sizable market for Dutch cheese, collapsed last year during the conflict in Crimea. This year, the abolition of EU milk production quotas has forced milk prices down by some 20% in parts of the continent. For most Dutch, though, their love of lactose* is as strong as (Z). Milk remains one of the nation's favorite drinks, and cheese a national religion.

(*) The diamond slicer that was stolen from the Cheese Museum has sadly never been found. In desperation, the company that made and owned it, Boska, has offered a reward (あ)(い)(う) will (え) the interest (お) its countrymen. Anyone who finds the slicer can claim

the world's largest cheese fondue*.

(By Ben Coates, writing for *BBC News*, September 29, 2015)

[注] curators (curator 博物館学芸員)

bedrock 基礎

buttock 尻

bogs (bog 沼地)

Silty (silt 沈泥)

reclaimed (reclaim 埋め立てる)

churned into (churn into かき回して～にする)

hides (hide 皮革)

bovine 牛の

battering 打撃

kaasplankje cheese platter チーズの盛り合わせ

scoffing (scoff どんどん食べる)

lactose 乳糖

cheese fondue チーズフォンデュ (チーズ料理の一種)

II - A 空所(W)～(Z)に入るもっとも適切なものを次の1～4の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------|------------|---------|--------|
| (W) | 1 one | 2 that | 3 thing | 4 what |
| (X) | 1 as | 2 by | 3 such | 4 very |
| (Y) | 1 a | 2 as | 3 in | 4 some |
| (Z) | 1 ever | 2 everyone | 3 much | 4 well |

II - B 下線部 (a)～(g) の意味・内容にもっとも近いものを次の1～4の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

(a) loitering

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 chasing guards | 2 gesturing wildly |
| 3 hanging around | 4 laughing loudly |

(b) leads

1 clues

2 interests

3 metals

4 punishments

(c) staple

1 costly

2 essential

3 local

4 tasty

(d) allocated

1 assigned

2 donated

3 dried

4 rented

(e) bill

1 bid

2 expense

3 habit

4 tax

(f) soared past

1 exceeded

2 insulted

3 surrendered

4 tolerated

(g) sizable

1 competitive

2 large

3 potential

4 risky

Ⅱ－C 波線部 (ア)～(キ) の意味・内容をもっとも的確に示すものを次の 1～4 の中からそれぞれ一つ選び、その番号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

(ア) In a neat circularity

1 In a perfect cycle of things and events

2 In a sanitary arrangement of one thing after another

3 With a beautiful residential plan for cows and humans

4 With a noticeably circular building design

(イ) had fallen head over heels in love with

1 had unfortunately lost their affection for

2 had done hard exercise with

3 had turned upside down at the thought of

4 had become utterly devoted to

(ウ) keeping the Dutch economy off the ground

1 reducing the scale of the Dutch economy

2 maintaining the health of the Dutch economy

3 keeping the Dutch economy from recovery

4 isolating the Dutch economy from the global market

(エ) get Dutch lips licking

- 1 stimulate Dutch people's appetite
- 2 close Dutch people's mouths
- 3 prevent the Dutch from thinking about cheese
- 4 make the Dutch feel fed up with cheese

(オ) the Dutch have grown mostly in the opposite direction

- 1 the Dutch have become the most serious opponents of losing weight
- 2 the Dutch have grown to be the most optimistic people
- 3 the Dutch have grown in height as opposed to width
- 4 the Dutch have become opposed to overweight people

(カ) have fallen on hard times

- 1 have failed in their plans to import dairy products
- 2 have entered an economically challenging period
- 3 have been unable to meet the required milk production
- 4 have overcome a difficult era in European history

(キ) cheese a national religion

- 1 cheese is still considered by the Dutch to be almost sacred
- 2 cheese is still seriously debated over in Dutch politics
- 3 cheese still creates national conflicts in the Netherlands
- 4 cheese still plays an important role in Dutch religious activities

II-D 二重下線部の空所(あ)～(お)に次の1～6から語を入れて文を完成させたとき、(う)と(お)に入る語の番号を解答欄に記入しなさい。同じ語を二度使ってはいけません。選択肢の中には使われないものが一つ含まれています。

the company that made and owned it, Boska, has offered a reward
(あ)(い)(う) will (え) the interest (お) its
countrymen

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 1 against | 2 attract | 3 hopes |
| 4 it | 5 of | 6 which |

Ⅱ－E 本文の意味・内容に合致するものを次の1～8の中から三つ選び、その番号を解答欄に記入しなさい。

- 1 The cheese slicer that was stolen from the museum in Amsterdam was featured in a famous animated children's film.
- 2 Extensive land development after the 17th century made the Netherlands suitable for dairy farming.
- 3 One dairy association states that 60,000 jobs are now sustained by more than 20,000 farms all over the Netherlands.
- 4 Every year, the average Dutch person typically spends 25% more money on food than the average British, American or German person does.
- 5 When commuting by train, many Dutch people drink milk or eat yogurt instead of having homemade brown-bread-and-cheese sandwiches for breakfast.
- 6 One story describes how an elite business person criticized the lack of simple dairy products on a Dutch airline.
- 7 The average Dutch woman today has become taller by 8cm than the average Dutchman in the 19th century.
- 8 Recently, as the EU discontinued its system of milk production quotas, the price of milk has fallen in some parts of the North American continent.

Ⅱ－F 本文中の太い下線部を日本語に訳しなさい。

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