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- 1 英文を読んで、(1)~(5)のそれぞれの選択肢から、本文の内容に最も適するものをそれぞれ1つずつ選び、記号で答えなさい。(1)() (2)() (3)() (4)() (5)()

Awaji Island

Have you ever been to Awaji Island? It is called Awaji-shima in Japanese. It is in the center of Osaka Bay. It is *surrounded by Osaka and Hyogo *prefectures and Shikoku. You can visit it by car or ship.

Awaji Island is popular for its history, food, beautiful views of sunset, hot springs and so on. Many people go there to enjoy them every year. But do you know that this island was called “*Onokoro Island*” a long time ago?

In social classes of Japanese history, you have studied the two names *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki*. They tell us ancient Japanese stories. And also they are called *myths, or gods’ stories. In those stories, you can see that Awaji Island was the first island of Japan.

Two gods *created this island first. One of them is a *male god. His name is *Izanaginomikoto*. And the other is a *female god. Her name is *Izanaminomikoto*. They were sent down from the gods’ world to create lands and people on the earth. They made a large round *stream in the ocean with a “*heavenly spear.” Out of that stream, they made drops of sea water. The first drop became the first land. Its name was “*Onokoro Island*,” Awaji Island. They continued to perform this “*creation of the land.” They made the first lands and the first people of Japan. So there are many places that have the legends of Japan’s creation.

In ancient times, Awaji Island was also known as the country of food. Its name was “*Miketsu-kuni*” in old Japanese. From this country, many kinds of *agricultural products and seafood were sent to the Japanese *Imperial Court.

Even now, it is famous for its *rich soil and sweet water. They have brought *rich harvests such as tasty rice, sweet onions, a lot of seafood, mountain herbs and *seasonal vegetables. If you go there, you can enjoy delicious organic onions with Awaji beef at a restaurant.

You can see a local shrine festival. People enjoy carrying their *omikoshi* up to a mountain, an ancient *sacred place. You can also see a traditional *puppet theater performance there. This is *Ningyo Joruri* in Japanese. All of the players of puppets and its musical instruments are local people on the island. This is because they must pass on this ancient culture to future generations.

On Awaji Island, you can find that people are keeping their culture to pass on to their children. If they don’t do that, it will be a problem for us today and a bigger problem for our kids tomorrow. Imagine there are no delicious food, no culture to attract people, or no people to perform a festival. People cannot keep living their happy lives. Keeping traditions is very important for us. Don’t you think so?

(注釈) surrounded 「囲まれて」 prefecture 「県」 myth 「神話」 create 「創造する」

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male 「男の」 female 「女の」 stream 「流れ」
 heavenly spear 「天沼矛 [天からの槍]」
 creation of the land 「国生み [日本の国を生み出すこと]」 agricultural 「農業の」
 Imperial Court 「皇室」 rich soil 「肥沃な土」 rich harvest 「豊作」
 seasonal 「季節の」 sacred 「神聖な」 puppet 「操り人形」

- (1) ア. We can fly to Awaji Island from Kobe.
 イ. We can enjoy seeing a sunset from a hot spring on Awaji Island.
 ウ. We can read about “*Onokoro Island*” in *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki*.
 エ. “*Onokoro Island*” was the first name of Japan.
- (2) ア. The two gods made the gods’ world.
 イ. The two gods put a “heavenly spear” into the ocean.
 ウ. “*Onokoro Island*” was called Awaji Island in ancient times.
 エ. The two gods wrote about “creation of the land.”
- (3) ア. A long time ago, there was no food on Awaji Island.
 イ. “*Miketsu-kuni*” was an important country for the Japanese Imperial Court.
 ウ. From the mountain of Awaji Island, its soil went down into the sea.
 エ. On Awaji Island, you can cook tasty organic onions at a restaurant.
- (4) ア. The ancient culture is not for the future.
 イ. All Japanese people must pass on *Ningyo Joruri* to future generations in Awaji Island.
 ウ. The players of puppets and its music come from other countries.
 エ. *Omikoshi* is carried up to a mountain at the shrine festival.
- (5) ア. There is no culture to attract people to Awaji Island.
 イ. If there is a problem in the future, there will be no children on Awaji Island.
 ウ. If there are no people to perform a festival, there will be no delicious food on Awaji Island.
 エ. If we don’t keep our traditions, it will be a problem.