2026年度　総合型選抜Ⅰ　英語等有資格型

適　性　検　査

英　　語

次の英文を読んで，第1問～第3問に**日本語で**答えなさい。

How old are you? From an early age, the answer to that question is literally at your fingertips. And it probably took only a fraction of a second for you to come up with an answer. (1) Could there be an easier question, really? Many aspects of your life are filtered by the number of your years. The response to this and many other questions, which strike at the core of your identity and your day-to-day experience, can really only be stated if you know the answer to that simple question.

Yet, remarkably to those of us who place so much significance on our age, that same question is meaningless to members of some other cultures. This is not simply because members of such cultures fail to keep track of the earth's revolutions around the sun, but because they do not have the means of precisely quantifying such revolutions. In other words, they do not have numbers. Among the Amazonian natives known as the Munduruku, for instance, there are no precise words for numbers beyond 'two.' In the case of their Amazon counterparts the Pirahã, no number words of any sort are used, not even for 'one.' How then could the "how old are you" question be answered by speakers of these languages? Or what of other number-based questions that, to most of the world's people, also get at basic aspects of life? Consider a few more examples: What is your salary? How tall are you? How much do you weigh? In a world without numbers, (2) such questions are useless — unaskable and unanswerable. These questions and their potential responses cannot be formulated, at least not with any precision, in anumeric cultures. And for much of the history of our species, all human cultures were anumeric. Numbers, the verbal and symbolic representations of quantities, radically transformed the human condition.

Despite what we once thought, (3) numbers are not concepts that come to people naturally and natively. While quantities and sets of items may exist independently, apart from our mental experience, numbers are a creation of the human mind, a cognitive invention that has altered forever how we see and distinguish quantities. This notion is perhaps unintuitive to many of us who have lived our entire lives with numbers, having had them brought into our mental experience from infancy. Yet, like another key interrelated symbolic innovation of our species — language — numbers are in fact a culturally variable creation. Unlike language, however, numbers are absent in some of the world's populations. They are an innovation that permanently impacts how most, but not all, people interpret much of their daily experience.

(4) Numbers transformed the human experience. Perhaps the best way to understand that is to examine how we perceive the passing of time. I have noted that, without numbers, you obviously cannot label the quantity of the earth's trips around the sun since your birth. But maybe, you might counter, you could still have some sense of how old you are. You could know you were born before your sister and after your brother, for example, so you could know you are older than the former and younger than the latter. And you could recognize the changes of seasons and appreciate that you have lived through previous seasonal cycles. So you could at least know you are many years old, and perhaps know that you have experienced comparatively more or fewer years than your contemporaries. Yet, for anumeric peoples, such a sense of age is vague if one does not have recourse to numbers. The role of numbers in our temporal perception is more apparent, though, when we consider the passing of time at its most basic level — apart from how we enumerate years.

(Adapted from Caleb Everett, *Numbers and the making of us: Counting and the course of human cultures*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017, pp. 9–11)

第１問

（１）下線部(1) Could there be an easier question, really?とありますが，その理由は何ですか。本文に即して説明しなさい。

（２）下線部(2) such questions are useless とありますが，その理由は何ですか。such questions とは具体的にどのような問いなのかを明らかにした上で，本文に即して説明しなさい。

第２問

筆者は数について，下線部(3) numbers are not concepts that come to people naturally and natively とありますが，その理由は何ですか。根拠を含めて，自分の考えを 200 字以内（横書き）で述べなさい。（これは考えの良し悪しを見る問題ではなく，自分の考えを日本語で展開する能力を見る問題です。書く内容は，本意でも架空でも構いません。）

第３問

筆者によれば，下線部(4) Numbers transformed the human experience.とありますが，たとえば数があることにより，できることは何ですか。その根拠を本文にないものも含めて自分の考えを 200 字以内（横書き）で述べなさい。（これは考えの良し悪しを見る問題ではなく，自分の考えを日本語で展開する能力を見る問題です。書く内容は，本意でも架空でも構いません。）