

英 語

答案作成上の注意

- 1 答案はすべて解答用紙の指定された欄に記入しなければいけません。
- 2 英語は1 ページから8 ページまでです。
- 3 解答用紙の受験番号欄は2 か所です。氏名を書いてはいけません。
- 4 解答には筆記用具・消しゴム以外のものを使用してはいけません。
- 5 ※印欄には、何も記入してはいけません。
- 6 問題冊子は、持ち帰ってください。

問題 1 以下の英文を読んで、次の問いに答えなさい（*の付いた語には語注がある）。

You recognize the corporate name Amazon, but do you know how successful the company is today? The online retailer was founded by Jeff Bezos and began operations in 1995. The new company used its early success selling books to expand and become one of the (1)_____ retailers in the world. Today, Amazon generates over \$350 billion in annual revenues, and 2020 profits soared during the COVID-19 pandemic when people used its website to buy just about everything they needed including groceries, cleaning supplies, clothing, toilet paper, and other essential items. And yet, even though it is one of the most successful companies in the world, (a)it doesn't pay dividends to stockholders. Why? The simple answer is that Amazon reinvests its profits to improve its current operations and buy other companies that fit with Amazon's strategic plans to grow and expand.

In many cases, the companies that Amazon invests in or buys are smaller start-up companies that have developed software or new technology that has the potential to become extremely valuable as the world becomes more dependent on automation and technology. For example, it invested in start-ups Aurora (self-driving cars) and Rivian (electric trucks). Now Amazon is expanding and investing even more money in automotive technology with its acquisition of Zoox for \$1.3 billion. What makes this an attractive acquisition for Amazon is Zoox's current projects to develop a self-driving, ride-hailing* vehicle from the ground up that is controlled by its own proprietary software and (2)_____ intelligence (AI). According to many experts, autonomous cars coupled with ride hailing ("robotaxis*" or driverless taxis) could be the way people get from place to place in the future.

The acquisition makes sense: Amazon invested to acquire Zoox's (b)state-of-the art technology and experimental versions of a prototype robotaxi, while Zoox gets financial backing from Amazon. Amazon's current focus is not to implement the technology on its logistics operations for delivering packages, but rather to use the technology to enter a new market that is different from online retailing. If Zoox and its robotaxi are successful, it would (3)_____ Amazon against ride-sharing giants Uber and Lyft as well as Waymo—an autonomous driving start-up subsidiary of Alphabet, the parent company of Google.

When robotaxis begin to serve major cities in the United States, Amazon and Zoox could lead the market. Unlike other robotaxis in development, Zoox's four-wheel vehicle is bi-directional—meaning it can drive both forward and backward as well as side to side—and it can reach speeds up to 75 mph. By combining their strengths, Zoox and Amazon stand a good chance to create a successful autonomous ride-hailing service.

Amazon's acquisition of Zoox highlights its long-term vision of transforming industries beyond e-commerce. (c) By leveraging cutting-edge technology and strategic investments, Amazon is positioning itself to shape the future of transportation, much like it revolutionized retail and logistics. While challenges such as regulatory hurdles and competition from established players remain, Amazon's bold move into the autonomous vehicle space could (4) _____ how we think about mobility and urban life in the years to come.

(出典： *Foundations of Business, 7th Edition* 一部改変)

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【語注】 ride-hailing: 配車サービス
robotaxi: 無人運転タクシー

1. 本文中の (1) ~ (4) に入る最適な語句を下のア~エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|-------------|
| (1) | ア local | イ invisible |
| | ウ smallest | エ largest |
| (2) | ア artistic | イ automatic |
| | ウ artificial | エ at random |
| (3) | ア isolate | イ pit |
| | ウ connect | エ compare |
| (4) | ア exclude | イ protect |
| | ウ exaggerate | エ redefine |

2. 本文中の (a) it doesn't pay dividends to stockholders とあるが、その理由として最も適切なものをア~エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- ア 株主に利益を渡す余裕がないため
- イ 利益を使ってさらに買収や投資を進めるため
- ウ 政府からの指導により配当を制限されているため
- エ 株主が配当を望んでいないため

3. 次のうち、本文の内容と一致するものをア～エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- ア Amazon は Zoox の技術を、自社の物流配送にすぐに応用している。
- イ Zoox の買収の目的は主に e コマース事業の拡大の一環である。
- ウ 自動運転技術に関心を持っているのは Amazon のみである。
- エ Zoox の車両は、双方向に動くことができる革新的な設計となっている。

4. 本文中の (b)state-of-the art technology の意味として最も近いものをア～エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- ア 古くから使われている伝統的な技術
- イ 価格が安くて使いやすい技術
- ウ 最も進んだ最新の技術
- エ 誰でも自由に使える公開技術

5. 本文中の (c)By leveraging cutting-edge technology and strategic investments, Amazon is positioning itself to shape the future of transportation の意味として最も近いものをア～エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- ア Amazon は、小売業の分野ではなく、伝統的な運送業に集中している。
- イ Amazon は、新技術を見捨て e コマースだけに注力している。
- ウ Amazon は、最先端技術と戦略的投資を活用して、交通の未来を作ろうとしている。
- エ Amazon は、輸送部門を戦略的に売却して、物流の将来に備えている。

問題2 以下の英文を読んで次の問いに答えなさい。

The cost of tickets to the Broadway musical “Hamilton” skyrocketed at one point over the summer as scalpers charged \$1,000 or more for tickets to the show, when the average ticket’s face value was \$189. In response, Senator. Chuck Schumer is proposing federal legislation that would prohibit the use of software to facilitate ticket scalping. Do we really need legislation to curb this practice?

Scalpers are using bots to buy up a large share of tickets online before the public gets a chance to purchase them. Then they resell those tickets for much higher prices. This is a modern twist on a practice that has long been demonized by the public and legislators.

Scalping certainly results in some consumers paying higher prices than they otherwise would. But in (1) for high prices, consumers can get the tickets they want, when they want them, without waiting in line or competing to be among the first to buy them online at a given time. Opponents mistakenly conclude that high prices are the fault of scalpers, when in fact prices are high because of a large demand and a limited supply.

Scalping benefits the scalper and the buyer, by getting tickets to whomever values them most highly. If someone decides at the last minute to attend a play, a concert or a game, they can find tickets at some price. Without scalpers, some people who value the event highly would be unable to buy tickets for seats of the quality they desire.

Scalping can also benefit ticket producers—the sports teams or performing artists who supply tickets—in two ways. First, it enables them to earn ticket revenue through face-value prices long before an event, while scalpers bear the risk that demand and prices might fall below the price they paid. Second, because of scalpers, the initial demand for tickets may be higher than it would otherwise be, enabling ticket producers to charge more.

Ticket producers incur expenses long before an event, such as the cost of renting an arena. They can keep their selling costs down by selling all or most tickets quickly rather than over an extended period of time. By buying tickets when they first become available and holding an inventory to sell at times that are most convenient to consumers, scalpers connect buyers with sellers and benefit both. They act as brokers, and the difference between the price they pay and the price they receive is their reward for doing this. The more scalpers compete to buy and resell tickets, the lower the markup that each will earn.

If scalpers are few in number and skilled at (2) each consumer’s demand for tickets, they can charge each consumer a price close to the maximum he or she is willing to pay. The higher the average price they can charge per ticket, the more they can pay to the team or performing artists who produce the tickets.

Scalping does alienate some consumers who pay higher prices to buy from scalpers who got to the ticket site before they did. As a result, these consumers may be less willing

to attend future events. If performing artists or sports teams want to avoid alienating their loyal customers, they can choose their method of distributing tickets to (3) that goal, such as by setting aside a percentage of tickets to sell at what they consider a reasonable price to those customers. In many cases, though, ticket producers may prefer to lock-in a high price and sell all their tickets quickly, which may mean selling a large percentage of their tickets to scalpers.

Laws to prevent scalping are unnecessary and prevent mutually beneficial transactions. Scalping only occurs when original ticket sellers charge a price that's lower than some consumers are willing to pay. If scalpers use software that's efficient at buying and selling tickets, it will save time and effort and each party involved in the process benefits. In one way or another, the ticket producer, the scalper and the people who attend the event will each be better off.

(出典 : *Principle of Economics 10th Edition* 一部改変)

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1. Scalperはなぜ高い値段でチケットを売りさばくことができるのか。下のア～エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- ア They use bots to buy up a large share of tickets online after the public gets a chance to purchase them
- イ They use bots to buy up a large share of tickets online due to limited access to tickets.
- ウ Before the public has chance to buy tickets, scalpers use bots to buy up a large share of them.
- エ They get up early to line up for tickets and buy up a large share of tickets.

2. 本文中の(1)～(3)に入る最適な語句を下のア～エから一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

- | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|
| (1) | ア exchange | イ time |
| | ウ expense | エ charge |
| (2) | ア exhibiting | イ fighting |
| | ウ assessing | エ initiating |
| (3) | ア book | イ accomplish |
| | ウ leave | エ match |

問題 3 「あなたにとって大学で学ぶ意義」について、70～80 words 程度の英文で書きなさい。