

2017年

1 次の英文を読んで、以下の各問に答えなさい。(30点)

The issue of poverty and its connection to food insecurity* is an increasing problem worldwide, including in the US. When people think of the US, they don't often think of poverty or lack of food; however, the latest statistics show that more Americans are living in poverty today than at any time in the last 52 years. In fact, it has been reported that the US had approximately 2.6 million people who were facing poverty last year. Increasing poverty means ⁽¹⁾ an increasing number of people who do not have enough money to buy food.

Food banks are centers where people who are living in poverty get an opportunity to receive healthy food to survive. At present, there are now 46.2 million Americans living with food insecurity, and many of them show up at food banks. Marcia-Wells, an officer at a local food bank in Tennessee, told news reporters, "We have seen a steady increase in the number of food insecure households since the bad economy of 2008." The statistics are not surprising because poverty and unemployment go hand-in-hand with food insecurity. In the US, food insecurity simply means people cannot get fresh or healthy food to meet their daily needs. The poverty line for a family of four in 2014 was \$22,314 with 15.1 percent of Americans living below that level. This is the highest ratio since 1993.

Not surprisingly, unemployment remains high at 9.1 percent, meaning 14 million Americans cannot find steady work. Young people under 30 are having a particularly hard time. "It is all about jobs. In America, if you don't have a job, you don't have much self-respect," said Timothy Smeeding, Director of the Institute for Poverty Research at the University of Wisconsin. He is passionate about this issue and is concerned about the significant relationship between poverty, employment, and food insecurity. He believes, "The ⁽⁴⁾ longer a person is unemployed in their 20s, especially non-college graduates, the harder it is to find a stable job with a good salary and benefits."

Ms. Wells sees all types of people going to food banks but thinks the increase in citizens using food banks over the last two years has been caused by unemployment. In particular, senior citizens and single parents rely on food bank services. "I was at a food bank just recently and met a woman who was having trouble raising her two grandchildren," Wells said. "She receives \$120 worth of government food coupons* that can only be used for food. Unfortunately, the coupons usually run out before the end of the month." She also stated, "The woman was so glad there was meat at this particular food bank because she had not eaten it in a month. It was simply too expensive. One major problem is that a lot of seniors are forced to choose between buying food or buying medicine."

Food insecurity does not just mean feeling hungry. Specifically, it means limited or irregular access to quality food. About 15 percent of households in the US face a food shortage and about a third of those are in the severe category, where people are eating less than they should be. Some rural and poor urban neighborhoods are considered "food deserts" as there are no supermarkets or other shops selling fresh, healthy food at good prices. In the same way, food insecurity significantly affects certain minority groups. Overall, African Americans and Hispanic Americans are 2.5 times more likely to face food insecurity than European Americans.

According to a published report in the US, being poor in America is not a life-or-death issue. This report shows that 80 percent of poor households have air-conditioning, and 42 percent of poor people own their own homes. One third of poor Americans have wide-screen TVs, and two thirds of poor Americans have DVD players. Director Timothy Smeeding has doubts about this analysis. He argues there are certain things that have become regular parts of life. Unlike much of the world, poverty in the US "does not mean living on one dollar per day." It is more like "eight dollars per person, per day," Smeeding said.

Back at the food bank in Tennessee, Marcia Wells knows poor Americans still have an easier time than people in many parts of the world. "I certainly see that our problems seem smaller when compared to the widespread poverty and hunger you see in other countries," she said. "But it is all relative and food insecurity is no less real here, in relation to the American lifestyle," she added.

*food insecurity 食料不足がもたらす生活の窮乏

*food coupons 生活扶助のための食料品引換券

Adapted from an online article written by Chris Arsenault (2011), published by *Al Jazeera*.
Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2011/09/2011915172736118705.html>

問 1 本文中の下線部(1)~(6)の各語について、置き換え可能な同意語を選択肢 a ~ d の中から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。(6点)

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| (1) approximately | a. exactly | b. mainly | c. roughly | d. typically |
| (2) steady | a. consistent | b. irregular | c. rapid | d. slow |
| (3) hand-in-hand | a. effectively | b. opposite | c. separately | d. together |
| (4) significant | a. casual | b. crucial | c. exact | d. informal |
| (5) rely on | a. believe in | b. count on | c. give up | d. shrink from |
| (6) widespread | a. basic | b. extensive | c. incredible | d. severe |

問 2 次の(1)~(6)について、本文の内容と一致する場合には○、一致しない場合には×を記入しなさい。(12点)

- (1) The number of Americans who are living in poverty is at its highest level in the past five decades.
- (2) Marcia Wells believes that the latest economic decline is an outcome of food insecurity.
- (3) Unemployed Americans in their 20s are more likely to experience food insecurity later in their lives.
- (4) The woman who is receiving \$120 worth of food coupons every month can barely manage to raise her two grandchildren.
- (5) Some households in urban neighborhoods may experience food insecurity despite the fact that there are grocery stores and supermarkets nearby.
- (6) The experience of poverty is the same regardless of a society's economic standards and people's lifestyles.

問 3 次の(1)~(4)について、本文の内容と一致するように、下線部にあてはまる最も適切なものを、選択肢 a ~ d の中から一つ選び、記号で答えなさい。(12 点)

- (1) People who are least in danger of food insecurity are _____.
- a. company employees
 - b. ethnic minorities
 - c. senior citizens
 - d. single parents
- (2) According to Professor Smeeding, the main factor that negatively affects the self-respect of people who did not go to college is _____.
- a. education
 - b. food insecurity
 - c. poverty
 - d. unemployment
- (3) Seniors often end up being food-insecure because _____.
- a. they are expected to raise their grandchildren
 - b. they have trouble finding a stable job with a good salary and benefits
 - c. they need to choose from spending money on either food or medicine
 - d. they receive government food coupons
- (4) The most appropriate title for this article would be _____.
- a. Causes of Food Security in the US and Other Countries
 - b. Health Problems Associated with Hunger
 - c. Poverty and Food Insecurity Rise in the US
 - d. Unemployment and its Connection to Food Deserts in the US