

第3問 (配点 9)

You are an exchange student at a UK high school, and your teacher asked you to find an interesting story. You found this story to share in class next week.

THE CONTEST

“One more time, with feeling!” I encouraged my band.

We are capable musicians. In fact, our keyboardist, Yuki, is a classically-trained pianist who regularly performs in front of audiences. Kei, our bassist, has a huge number of followers because of the popular videos she uploads. However, the Ultimate Music Contest was only a few weeks away and I was kind of regretting that we had entered it. I was worried that my band *Cat's Curry* wouldn't be ready. Something felt wrong, but I couldn't figure it out. We continued to practise until our rehearsal time was up. As band leader, I felt additional pressure about the contest. “Tomo, you're too worried. Everything will be OK,” Ren, our drummer, said as she smiled at me and waved goodbye. “I hope so,” I thought to myself.

Back at home, I watched the video I had taken of our rehearsal. As I listened to *Sayonara, and Thanks for Everything*, I thought my ears were playing tricks on me. I carefully listened a few more times. Although it was hard to notice, we were slightly out of rhythm. “How could that be?” I wondered. As I continued to listen, I paid extra attention to each instrument. “I've got it!” I thought excitedly.

At the next practice, I played back the recording and waited for everyone's reaction.

“I've been practising every day!”

“These songs aren't even difficult...”

“What's the matter?”

They didn't understand the problem, so I explained my discovery, “Each of us is showing off. We're playing for ourselves, not for the band!” From that day on, our focus shifted and the band took a step forward on its musical journey. Like the saying goes, “The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.” Although *Cat's Curry* did not win the contest, we all felt it was the best performance of our lives.

問 1 Which person is telling the story? 8

- ① Kei
- ② Ren
- ③ Tomo
- ④ Yuki

問 2 Choose **four** out of the five options (①~⑤) and put them in the order they happened. 9 → 10 → 11 → 12

- ① The band changed its attitude.
- ② The band decided to practise more often.
- ③ The band leader identified the problem.
- ④ The band leader was concerned about the band.
- ⑤ The band registered for a contest.

問 3 How did the band most likely feel after the competition? 13

- ① Awful
- ② Embarrassed
- ③ Independent
- ④ Satisfied