

第 8 問 (配点 17)

You are working on an essay about **sports and technology**, following the steps below:

Step 1: Read a range of opinions gathered from the Internet about sports and technology.

Step 2: Take a position on sports and technology.

Step 3: Create an outline for your essay using additional sources.

► [Step 1] Read a range of opinions

Akane (social worker)

There is a strong relationship between the number of Olympic medals a country has and its wealth. If the cost of doing a sport is high, then only those with money can participate in it. Sports should be for all of us, as it benefits our physical and mental health. I am concerned that the continuing development of high-tech, expensive equipment may discourage ordinary people from taking up certain sports.

Fiona (physical trainer)

“Performance” should be seen as the sum of the athlete’s own abilities plus the equipment available to them. All athletes want to use equipment that will maximize their performance. I understand this, but I can also think of some problematic cases. Suppose that two teams with the same ability are in a rowing race. The team with a newer boat model completes the race a fraction of a second faster. This might not be considered fair.

Jack (journalist)

Technology makes sports more thrilling for fans. We are fascinated by new achievements, so sports receive a high level of attention when records are broken. Sports fans, say of the Olympics, want to see their favorite skiers and skaters race faster. Our world is rapidly changing, and society expects to see those changes in sports as well. If records are never broken, then sports become dull for fans.

Michael (retired swimmer)

From elementary school, I practiced swimming seven days a week all year round. Swimming did not require expensive equipment and I used our community pool, which cost little. Through intense training over a period of years, I was able to win my state championship. To me, the spirit of sport is putting in the work to maximize your physical ability. New equipment giving advantages to one athlete over a harder-working one is an injustice.

Tamara (tennis coach)

I am old enough to remember the transition from wooden tennis rackets to so-called “oversized” graphite ones. Players now hit the ball harder; the new rackets also enable us to control the ball better. Is this a problem? No one complains about the new rackets anymore. Sports equipment is continually changing. Innovation in sports technology has improved the quality of games.

問 1 Which of the following best summarizes Akane’s opinion?

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- ① Athletic ability cannot be developed using advanced technology.
- ② Olympic games will be less exciting with the latest equipment.
- ③ Technology can benefit the physical health of elite athletes.
- ④ The cost of sports might be a barrier for people’s participation.

問 2 Both Fiona and Michael mention that

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- ① advanced technology can give unfair advantages to some athletes
- ② equipment should be considered a part of an athlete’s performance
- ③ the spirit of sport is based on hard work and physical ability
- ④ water sports should require training without technology

► [Step 2] Take a position

問 3 With the above opinions in mind, you have taken a position on sports and technology and written some notes below. Choose the best options to complete [40] — [42]. (You must have all of [40] — [42] correct to get points.)

POSITION: We should accept advancements in sports equipment technology.

- [40] and [41] support this position the most.
- An idea shared by these two people is that [42].

Options for [40] and [41] (the order does not matter):

- ① Akane
- ② Fiona
- ③ Jack
- ④ Michael
- ⑤ Tamara

Options for [42]:

- ① advancements in technology promote the evolution of sports
- ② athletes play a role in the enhancement of sports equipment
- ③ technology contributes to the breaking of sporting records
- ④ technology helps improve the experience of playing sports

► [Step 3] Create an outline for your essay

Technology in Sports

Introduction

There are some issues with sports technology, but because of its current and potential contributions, we should accept it.

Body

- REASON 1: [the common idea in Step 2]
- REASON 2: 43 [based on Source A]
- REASON 3: Advanced technology in sports equipment can contribute to injury prevention. [based on support from Source B: 44]

Conclusion

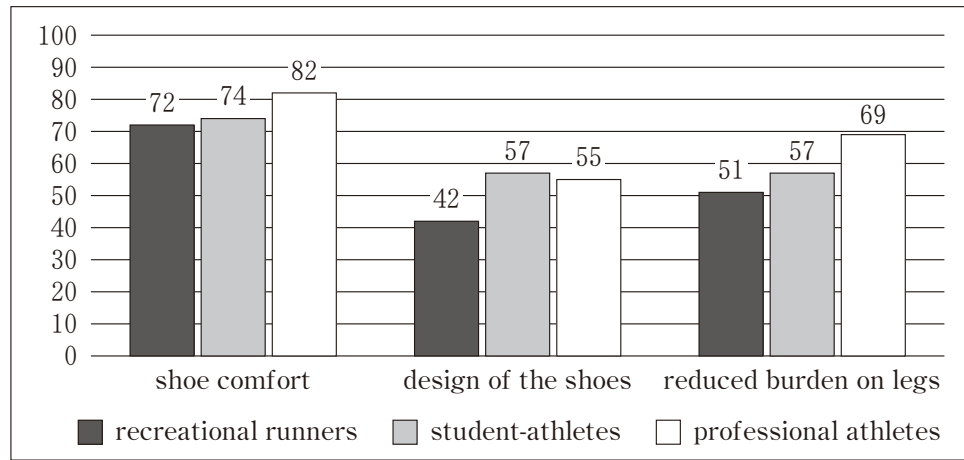
Upon considering the aspects above, advancements in sports technology should be accepted.

Source A

Sports technology makes sports better for everyone. On the other hand, it is sometimes argued that technology can threaten the integrity or value of a sport. This threat comes when new technology enables athletes to do their sport too easily or is only accessible to certain athletes, giving them an advantage. Wise regulation can ensure that this does not happen. For example, in 2016, a new running shoe was developed that improved runners' times by up to 4%. People in the running world became concerned that it could damage the sport's integrity. In 2020, World Athletics set concrete specifications for running shoes and regulations on their materials. It also created a rule that any shoe used in a race had to be available on the market for at least four months beforehand. As a result of these measures, no running shoe could be constructed in a way that made running too easy and every runner could benefit from new technology.

Source B

A sporting company released a new type of running shoe that uses advanced technology. To investigate user experience, they conducted surveys on three groups of runners each consisting of 100 people: recreational runners, student-athletes, and professional athletes. Some of the data from this survey is given below. The graph shows the number of people who responded positively to some of the shoe features.



問 4 Based on Source A, which of the following is the most appropriate for REASON 2 in the essay outline? 43

- ① New technology will make a sport more accessible and thus motivate more people to start it.
- ② New technology with regulation improves the sporting experience while maintaining a sport's value.
- ③ The introduction of new technology can enhance the integrity of a sport by making it easier.
- ④ The regulation of new technology may lower the integrity of a sport by discouraging innovation.

問 5 Based on Source B, which of the following best supports REASON 3 in the essay outline?

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- ① Advanced technology in shoes may encourage more students to run regularly. This is supported by the data; student-athletes rated the running shoes higher than the other groups in two of three features.
- ② In addition to preventing injury, the running shoes are pleasant to wear. This can be concluded by the fact that more than three quarters of the respondents in each group felt the shoes were comfortable.
- ③ More than half of the runners in each group felt the burden on their legs was reduced. This implies that people may maintain better physical condition thanks to the technology.
- ④ The effectiveness of the new shoe was most evident for recreational runners with more than half feeling less burden on their legs. Advanced equipment can contribute to enjoying running for a longer period of time.