

第2問 (配点 12)

You are an exchange student at a UK university and want to hire a bicycle. You find an announcement on the university website with a comments section for students.

University Bicycle Hire Service

15 October 2025

Announcement: End of Service

Bicycle hire services will stop at the end of March 2026. Unfortunately, the hire service is now going into debt. While we have not increased hiring fees, overall demand is still decreasing. Our costs also keep increasing because many bicycles are returned requiring more than basic maintenance. Furthermore, too many bicycles hired by students are being stolen.

There are three alternative services for you. All three require a security deposit which is returned if the bicycle comes back without damage.

- *Pedals & Wheels* is closest to the University. They charge £25 per day for standard bicycles. Electric bicycles are £50 per day. Both require a security deposit (£200).
- *Bob's Bikes* charges £15 per day (no electric bicycles available). The security deposit is £100.
- *XPower Bikes* charges £20 per day for standard bicycles and £55 for electric ones. The security deposit is £150 for either.

Share your comments below



Gordon

Last year, free copy machines at the library ended. Now it's bicycle hire services. I feel the University isn't serious about providing necessary services for students. By the way, *Pedals & Wheels* didn't return my security deposit due to a scratched pedal. It would be better for them to ignore such small things. I haven't used the other two shops.



Mandy

The announcement is not an issue for local students. Most already own bikes anyway. However, it's a big problem for exchange students, especially those on brief visits needing temporary transport. Bicycles at *XPower Bikes* are less fashionable, but the shop is open seven days a week.

問 1 Why did the University decide to end bicycle hire services?

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- ① The fees paid by students for the service kept on rising.
- ② The students' security deposits were being stolen.
- ③ The University lacked staff to maintain the bicycles.
- ④ The University was losing money by providing the service.

問 2 Which is true about the bicycle hire alternatives? 5

- ① *Bob's Bikes* is nearer to the University than *Pedals & Wheels*.
- ② Electric bicycles can be hired from two of the three shops.
- ③ *Pedals & Wheels* is the most expensive for each type of bicycle.
- ④ The security deposit at *XPower Bikes* is the lowest of the three shops.

問 3 Which option expresses Gordon's opinion? 6

- ① He has hired bicycles from two of the three shops in the past.
- ② *Pedals & Wheels* should keep customers' deposits for minor damage.
- ③ The University isn't doing its best to offer students essential services.
- ④ The University stopped providing free copy services at the library.

問 4 According to Mandy, which is true? 7

- ① Most local students are getting worried about the end of the service.
- ② The announcement impacts short-term exchange students the most.
- ③ *XPower Bikes* is closed for business on the weekends.
- ④ *XPower Bikes*' strength is that it offers trendy bicycles.