

[受験番号] _____ [名前] _____
(Examiner's Number) (Name)

I. Read the following article and answer the questions below.

Japanese movie theaters are beginning to recover from the decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Continuing to produce films that audiences want to watch on the big screen will ensure a resurgence in the popularity of movies.

Box-office revenue in the nation was ¥213.1 billion in 2022, and attendance at movie theaters reached 152 million. Both figures were up more than 30% from the previous year, approaching the levels seen (1) the pandemic.

Movie theaters fell on tough times when they were forced to temporarily close their doors or limit attendance as infection control measures, but audiences are apparently returning as restrictions have been eased.

Movie theaters offer the advantage of a large screen and an excellent acoustic environment, as well as a sense of unity among the audience members, just like at a concert. An increasing number of new releases are available only through online video streaming services, but the appeal of movie theaters appears to have been reevaluated.

Among the four blockbuster hits that exceeded ¥10 billion in box-office revenue, driving the overall increase, three were animated films, (2) “One Piece Film Red.”

The Japanese live-action film with the highest box-office revenue for the year was “Kingdom II: Far and Away” at ¥5.1 billion, far (3) animated films.

Among Japanese films, in recent years, animated films based on popular manga have been notable blockbuster hits. They have become a driving force in the nation’s cultural industry, with expectations for various revenue sources, such as sales of related goods and exports. However, live-action films need to be improved to attract new audiences that have little interest in anime.

The overall appeal of live-action movies must be boosted through such elements as the subtle emotional expressions and actions of the actors, as well as beautiful images that only live-action films can offer.

Movie theaters in Japan are increasingly polarized into two types: cinema complexes operated by major movie and other companies, and smaller facilities (4) independent theaters. Cinema complexes, which can screen popular films dozens of times a day on their many screens, tend to exclude unknown films.

(5), small, independent theaters, which screen unique films, have served as a venue for nurturing the talent of young directors.

Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, whose “Drive My Car” won the Oscar for Best International Feature Film at the Academy Awards last year, has also gained recognition (6) opportunities to present his works at small, independent theaters.

Measures to increase the number of visitors to small, independent theaters are limited to such occasions as on-stage greetings by directors and actors, and post-screening talk events. Some theaters are closing (f) tough financial situations.

If young filmmakers lose a place to present their work, it could lead to the decline of the Japanese film industry. Major film companies must also think about how to respond to this situation.

(From “Make More Films that People Want to Watch in Theaters,” The Japan News, February 19, 2023)

1. Choose the most appropriate word(s) from the following list in the box to fill in each (1) to (6) in the text above.

- (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

(a) behind (b) due to (c) in contrast (d) including (e) such as (f) through
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2. Answer the following questions in English.

(1) According to the article, what is suggested to ensure a resurgence in the popularity of movies after the COVID-19 pandemic?

(2) Compared to the ones in 2021, how much did box-office revenue in the nation and attendance at movie theaters increase in 2022?

(3) According to the article, what are the advantages of watching movies in theaters?

(4) What kind of three movies among the four blockbuster hits that exceeded ¥10 billion in box-office revenue?

(5) What was the Japanese live-action film with the highest box-office revenue for the year of 2022?

(6) What has become a driving force in Japan's cultural industry?

(7) What tendency of cinema complexes operated major movie and other companies is pointed out?

(8) What can be the measures to increase the number of visitors to small independent theaters?

II. Read the following article and answer the questions below.

Modern and contemporary buildings designed by famous architects are being demolished across the nation due to aging. Buildings with high cultural value need to be preserved and passed on to future generations.

The Nakagin Capsule Tower, a condominium building in Tokyo's Ginza area that was considered to be an iconic work of Kisho Kurokawa, was demolished last year. The building was viewed as a symbol of the Metabolism architectural movement that originated in Japan, and was visited by tourists from abroad.

Retrofits to enhance the building's earthquake resistance were needed to save it. Some residents campaigned for its preservation and looked for a company that would purchase the building, but no contract was concluded. The high cost involved in the retrofits is believed to have been the reason for such reluctance.

Reinforced concrete buildings constructed during the period of rapid economic growth in the 1960s and 1970s have reached the end of their statutory useful life and are facing the need for renovation or demolition. It is regrettable that buildings that had cultural value and were loved by local communities have been lost one after another.

In addition to private buildings, there has not been good progress in the preservation of public facilities either. It was decided this year that the former Kagawa Prefecture Gymnasium — known as the “Boat Gymnasium” and designed by the late Kenzo Tange — would be demolished, after eight years of debate over whether it should continue to exist. Ways to utilize the gymnasium to make up for the renovation costs reportedly could not be found.

Japanese architecture is highly regarded internationally. How can fascinating buildings be preserved? How can funds be raised for such a purpose? Wide-ranging discussions are needed.

This month, a panel of experts at the Cultural Affairs Agency released a report on such issues. The report recommended that the government compile a list of famous buildings and unique residences in various regions and publicly recognize them.

There is currently a program to designate historical buildings 50 years or older as national treasures or important cultural properties. The new program of government recognition would be a mechanism for selecting

famous buildings and the like that are less than 50 years old as candidates for future cultural properties and informing the owners in advance.

The panel's recommendations are aimed at preventing demolition by informing owners, as well as local governments and residents, that the buildings are worth preserving.

To safeguard such buildings, it is important for the central and local governments to set up discussions with the owners and carefully listen to their intentions. Then, they should explore effective ways to utilize the buildings, such as creating plans to utilize them as local landmarks.

If it is difficult to raise funds for preservation, soliciting donations online through crowdfunding might be an effective option, in addition to obtaining support from local governments and companies.

Even if buildings ultimately must be demolished due to lack of funds or other circumstances, there is also the option of using digital technology, including photographs and video, to preserve a record of such structures.

(From The Japan News, July 26, 2023)

(1) Describe the problems associated with preserving modern and contemporary buildings of cultural value, as highlighted in the text.

(2) What factors contribute to the demolition of such buildings?

(3) The text mentions the possibility of raising funds for preserving through crowdfunding. Explain the concept of crowdfunding and discuss its potential advantages and limitations in preserving cultural landmarks.

(4) In what ways can digital technology, such as photographs and video, be employed to preserve the record of structures that ultimately need to be demolished? Provide examples and discuss the importance of such digital preservation.

(5) Which title is the best for this article?

- a. Recognize, Protect Cultural Value of Modern and Contemporary Structures
- b. Recognize, Protect Cultural Value of the Structures of Ancient Times
- c. Recognize, Protect Cultural Value of National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties
- d. Recognize, Protect Cultural Value of Historical Public Facilities

III. Describe a recent trend or innovation in your field of design that has captured your attention. Explain why you find it interesting and its potential impact on the industry or society. Your essay should be written with more than 50 words.