

【英語読解問題】

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

In today's digital age, the way we consume information has changed dramatically. We read text messages, news articles, and social media posts on our smartphones and computers every day. In fact, we are probably reading more words now than at any other point in human history. However, a crucial question arises: does the medium we use to read affect our comprehension and memory? Recent studies by psychologists and educators suggest that reading on paper and reading on a screen are fundamentally different experiences.

When you read a physical book, you experience a physical sense of progress. You can feel the weight of the pages you have read in your left hand and the pages you have yet to read in your right hand. Furthermore, you can unconsciously remember where a certain piece of information was located on a page, whether it was at the top left or the bottom right. (1)This physical connection makes it easier for our brains to map the text spatially, which greatly helps us to remember the details of the story or argument.

(A), when reading on a digital screen, we often scroll down continuously. This scrolling movement destroys the spatial mapping of the text. Because the text flows like a river, readers often lose their sense of place within the material. In addition to this, digital screens naturally encourage a reading habit called "skimming." Skimming means reading quickly to get only the main idea, rather than reading every single word carefully. While skimming is very useful for checking emails or finding specific facts quickly, it is not suitable for deep, focused understanding.

Another disadvantage of digital reading is the presence of distractions. When reading on a tablet or smartphone, you are constantly one click away from checking social media or watching a video. Notifications popping up on the screen easily interrupt your concentration. A study conducted in Europe showed that students who read a short story on printed paper remembered the plot much better than (2)those who read the exact same story on an electronic device.

Technology has certainly made reading materials much more accessible and convenient. Digital devices are perfect for quick searches and casual reading. However, if we want to deeply understand complex information and remember it for a long time, turning off the screen and opening a paper book (3)(be / might / the / choice / better).

(390 語程度)

【設問】

- (1) 下線部(1) "This physical connection" は具体的にどのようなことを指していますか。日本語で答えなさい。
- (2) 空所 (A) に入る最も適切な語句を、次のア～エの中から選びなさい。
ア. Therefore イ. For example ウ. On the other hand エ. In addition
- (3) 本文中の "skimming" の説明として最も適切なものを、次のア～エの中から選びなさい。
ア. すべての単語を注意深く読み、内容を完全に記憶すること。
イ. 要約を作成するために、文章の重要なキーワードだけを書き出すこと。
ウ. 特定の事実を探するために、画面を何度も上下にスクロールすること。
エ. すべての単語を丁寧に読むのではなく、要点だけを掴むために素早く読むこと。
- (4) 下線部(2)の "those" が指しているものを、本文中の英語2語で抜き出しなさい。
- (5) 下線部(3)のカッコ内の語を、文意が通るように正しく並べ替えなさい。
- (6) 本文の内容と一致するものを、次のア～エの中から選びなさい。
ア. 現代人は歴史上のどの時代よりも文字を読まなくなっている。
イ. 画面をスクロールして読むことは、読者が文章のどこを読んでいるかの感覚を失う原因になる。
ウ. スキミングは、複雑な情報を深く理解し、長期的に記憶するために最も適した読書法である。
エ. ヨーロッパの研究では、電子機器で読書をした学生の方が、紙で読んだ学生よりも物語のあらすじをよく覚えていた。