

**記述英語**

**實踐演習編 # 1**

① Antarctica is a vast, frozen mystery. Is it thawing, threatening coastal cities? Or is it, in fact, freezing? Like everything else in Antarctica, the Ross Ice Shelf is unusually large, a thick mass of frozen water bigger than Texas. <sup>(1)</sup>It is deeply mysterious, for its ice, like the ice that covers the rest of Antarctica, conceals far more than it reveals.

② Three years ago, the Ross Ice Shelf started separating icebergs so big that they <sup>(A)</sup>provoked wonder. What does this sudden flood of icebergs mean? Was the ice shelf, as most scientists think, responding to its own internal rhythms of expansion and retreat? Or was it reacting, through some connection in the ocean perhaps, to the general warming that has taken place almost everywhere else? A quarter-century ago, such questions would not have seemed terribly urgent. But now the earth is undoubtedly heating up and climate experts report with concerns that 2002 was the second warmest year on record after 1998. And <sup>(B)</sup>with good

reason. Locked away in that ice, after all, is 75% of the earth's freshwater, enough to raise global sea levels 60 meters. And while no one expects all that ice to melt anytime soon, a significant portion enough to swamp low-lying coastal zones and menace major cities from Bombay to Boston conceivably might melt.

③ Within the past year (2001), scientists watched (c)in awe as a giant ice shelf disintegrated in the Antarctic Peninsula in just over one month's time, and in a remote region of West Antarctica, satellites have detected an expanse where glaciers are (D)disturbingly speeding up their transport of ice to the sea.

④ (2)Yet it is hard to estimate what these dramatic developments indicate, for despite scientists' best efforts, Antarctica — the highest, driest, coldest continent on the planet — remains a climatological mystery. For example, while it is clear that the Antarctic Peninsula — a thin portion of land that extends outward above the Antarctic Circle — has been rapidly warming, the vast empty spaces of East

Antarctica which hold the greatest ice sheet on earth appear to be <sup>(3)</sup>doing the opposite. “Here we have a continent that is so important to our future,” says a famous earth scientist, “and we can’t even agree on what’s been going on there for the past few decades.”

⑤ <sup>(4)</sup>In fact, the most basic questions — “Is Antarctica as a whole warming or cooling?” and “Is its ice cover thinning or growing?” — cannot yet be answered definitively. For one thing, the continent is too big and measurement points are too few and far between. Also, scientists lack the long-term records needed to put the present in perspective. This situation is changing, however, as researchers begin systematically to probe Antarctica’s ice and rock for <sup>(E)</sup>clues. Their work is often heroic and dangerous.

**1** 下線部(A)～(E)と意味が最も近いものをそれぞれ1つずつ選び記号で答えなさい。

(A) provoked ( )

- ① took in            ② gave up   ③ called forth   ④ came across

Three years ago, the Ross Ice Shelf started separating icebergs so big that they  
(A)provoked wonder.

(B) with good reason ( )

- ① hopefully            ② pleasingly   ③ promisingly   ④ reasonably

But now the earth is undoubtedly heating up and climate experts report with  
concerns that 2002 was the second warmest year on record after 1998. And  
(B)with good reason.

**(C)** in awe ( )

- ① with wonder
- ② with expectation
- ③ in anticipation
- ④ in disappointment

Within the past year (2001), scientists watched **(C)**in awe as a giant ice shelf disintegrated in the Antarctic Peninsula in just over one month's time,

**(D)** disturbingly ( )

- ① threateningly
- ② quietly
- ③ irregularly
- ④ interruptedly

satellites have detected an expanse where glaciers are **(D)**disturbingly speeding up their transport of ice to the sea.

**(E)** clues

( )

① landscapes

② hints

③ questions

④ searches

This situation is changing, however, as researchers begin systematically to probe Antarctica's ice and rock for (E)clues.

**2** 下線部(1), (2)を和訳しなさい。

(1)It is deeply mysterious, for its ice, like the ice that covers the rest of Antarctica, conceals far more than it reveals.

(2)Yet it is hard to estimate what these dramatic developments indicate, for despite scientists' best efforts, Antarctica — the highest, driest, coldest continent on the planet — remains a climatological mystery.

**3** 下線部(3)の内容を表す英語 1 語を, 本文から抜き出して答えなさい。

For example, while it is clear that the Antarctic Peninsula —— a thin portion of land that extends outward above the Antarctic Circle —— has been rapidly warming, the vast empty spaces of East Antarctica which hold the greatest ice sheet on earth appear to be (3)doing the opposite.

**4** 下線部(4)で、これらの基本的な問いにはっきり答えが出せない理由は何か。日本語で説明しなさい。

⑤ (4)In fact, the most basic questions — “Is Antarctica as a whole warming or cooling?” and “Is its ice cover thinning or growing?” — cannot yet be answered definitively. For one thing, the continent is too big and measurement points are too few and far between. Also, scientists lack the long-term records needed to put the present in perspective. This situation is changing, however, as researchers begin systematically to probe Antarctica’s ice and rock for (E)clues. Their work is often heroic and dangerous.

**7** 次の各文のうち, 本文の内容に一致するものに○, 一致しないものに×を記入しなさい。

(1) The questions about the Antarctic icebergs did not seem so serious in the 1970s.

第2段落

A quarter-century ago, such questions would not have seemed terribly urgent.

(2) It is generally known that the earth is warming up in most places.

第2段落

But now the earth is undoubtedly heating up

(3) Twenty-five percent of the earth's fresh water from the Ross Ice Shelf would swamp Bombay.

第2段落

Locked away in that ice, after all, is 75% of the earth's freshwater

(4) A giant ice shelf disintegrated in the Antarctic indicates the immediate danger of the earth.

第 4 段落

Yet it is hard to estimate what these dramatic developments indicate, for despite scientists' best efforts, Antarctica

(5) During the past 20 or 30 years most of the mysteries regarding Antarctica have been cleared up.

第 4 段落

“and we can't even agree on what's been going on there for the past few decades.”

(6) The vast empty spaces of East Antarctica are now rapidly warming.

第2段落

For example, while it is clear that the Antarctic Peninsula — a thin portion of land that extends outward above the Antarctic Circle — has been rapidly warming, the vast empty spaces of East Antarctica which hold the greatest ice sheet on earth appear to be doing the opposite.

(7) The big continent makes it impossible for researchers to repair measurement points.

For one thing, the continent is too big and measurement points are too few and far between.

