

長文演習：次の英文を読み、後の問いに答えなさい。

“I have a letter for you,” my friend Christina tells me on the telephone.

It’s 2013. Christina is an airline pilot like me. I met her when I moved from New to old England* in 2001. We were in the same pilot training course at a flight school in Oxford, “I think it’s from your mother,” Christina (A) confused. Christina and my mother never knew each other. And my mother has been dead for seven years.

A few weeks later, Christina and I meet in San Francisco. After dinner at a restaurant, she hands me the envelope that contains the last words that (B) from my mom. The envelope is yellow, cheery, from a summer-themed set of [ア]. The letter is postmarked Springfield, Massachusetts*, Aug. 30, 2002. Around then, I was preparing for my pilot course’s final exam.

In high school and college, I had taken plenty of tests, all (C). A characteristic of exams you take in the sky, I had discovered, is that the date isn’t really fixed. It depends on the availability of aircraft, and on the weather — always a (あ)fickle matter in Britain, even in midsummer. Such uncertainties meant that the students in my course, Christina, myself, and a dozen others, finished our training on different days.

As luck and (い)meteorology would have it*, I was one of the first to depart. The next day, Christina explained to me in San Francisco, my mother’s letter landed at the flight school. Christina picked it up from my mail slot, to keep until she next saw me. But a few days later, when it was her tum to leave, she misplaced the letter among the stacks of papers she hurriedly packed into boxes. The letter remained in one of those boxes for a [イ], in which first my father and then my mother died. In 2013, Christina moved to a new house and got around to sorting through some dusty belongings from her flying school days. She found the letter and picked up the phone.

It’s been two years since Christina gave me the letter, which I still haven’t opened. When I tell some friends this, they shake their heads. They say that they wouldn’t have been able to wait a second. Others [ウ] and say of course, they (1)understand.

For now it’s enough to look at (2)the blue airplane my mom drew on the envelope. To emphasize the word *airmail*, of course. For now it’s enough to look at her handwriting, at my name in her hand, and to remember that until I open it, I know I’ll [エ] from her once more.

Sometimes in travel magazines, I come across detailed interviews with pilots or flight attendants about what’s in their flight bags, personal objects that are carried so casually back and forth across the planet by the most (え)peripatetic citizens of our age. Guidebooks, earplugs, photos of loved ones, and food regularly feature. For two years now, on my flights, I’ve always carried the letter. It flies with me on a Boeing 747, in a plastic folder that also contains some navigation charts and notes. It’s a small thing to carry. Sometimes (3)I wonder if any letter in history has traveled farther than this one.

My mother was born in the hilly coal country of eastern Pennsylvania*. In her high school year book*, friends (お)complimented her cheerfulness and wished her life to be one of sweet harmony. She studied in Boston and spent a year in Paris. She married, became a speech therapist, and spent her working life in the

public schools of western Massachusetts.

When I fly at night over the lights of eastern Pennsylvania or western Massachusetts, over the lights of her places, I think about the [オ] there and her handwriting. And of course I wonder — (4) how could I not? — about her words in the envelope. She wrote at the end of a New England summer, not long after I left, not long before a test in the sky that meant the world to me. Surely, I think, she's written to wish me luck, and to tell me the news from home, and to ask about my friends and the weather where I am now.

(注) New England : 米国北東部 6 州からなる地域

Springfield, Massachusetts : マサチューセッツ州スプリングフィールド (米国の都市)

as luck would have it : 運よく Pennsylvania : ペンシルベニア州 (米国の都市) year book : 卒業アルバム

1. (A) ~ (C) に入る最も適切な語(句)を 1 つずつ選びなさい。

(A) ア looks イ tastes ウ smells エ sounds

(B) ア I had never read イ I have ever read
 ウ I will have ever read エ I will have never read

(C) ア in the air イ in the earth ウ under the sea エ on the ground

2. 文脈から判断して、下線部(あ)~(お)に最も近い意味を表す語(句)を 1 つずつ選びなさい。

(あ) fickle

1 stable 2 subtle 3 important 4 changeable

(い) meteorology

1 weather 2 practice 3 calculation 4 handwriting

(う) got around to

1 fully enjoyed 2 finally started 3 barely escaped 4 already finished

(え) peripatetic

1 improving little by little 2 approaching inch by inch
3 traveling from place to place 4 changing suddenly and quickly

(お) complimented

1 pitied 2 praised 3 blamed 4 ignored

3. 以下の日本語の意味になるよう、[ア]~[オ]に入る語をそれぞれ答えなさい。ただし、語頭の文字が示されている。

[ア] 文房具(s) [イ] 十年(d) [ウ] うなずいて同意を示す(n)

[エ] ~から便りをもらう (h) from ~ [オ] 地理, 地形(g)

4. 下線部(1)の後に省略されている語句を次のように補うとき、空所 3 つに入る語句を、本文中の連続する 3 語をそのまま抜き出して答えなさい。

understand why I ()()() it.

5. 下線部(2)のように母親がしたのは何のためか、句読点を含め 10～18 字の日本語で答えなさい。

6. 下線部(3)を和訳しなさい。

7. 下線部(4)に省略されている語句を次のように補うとき、空所に入る最も適切な語をそれぞれ答えなさい。

how could I not (X) (Y) she wrote in the letter?

8. 本文の内容と一致するものを 2 つ選び、順に記号で答えなさい。

ア My mother was born and raised, and spent her whole life in the United States.

イ Christina and my mother were on completely good terms with each other.

ウ Christina had graduated before the letter arrived at the flight school.

エ I was at my mother's deathbed with my father.

オ Christina handed me the letter seven years after my mother died.

カ The letter has traveled with me on a Boeing 747 across the planet for two years.

9. この文章のタイトルとして最も適切なものを 1 つ選び、記号で答えなさい。

ア Christina's confusion イ My career as a pilot ウ New England and old England

エ The unopened letter オ My mother and her friends