

RIPPLE ENGLISH

ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

Workbook for:
“Collapse: Twilight of Easter”

問題は解きっぱなしにしないで！

英語資格試験の学習は、**解いた後の復習をしなければほとんど効果はありません。**

答え合わせをしておしまいせず、**テキストの音読練習やリスニング、多読学習などのインプット学習を何度も反復して記憶に定着させましょう。**ホームページからダウンロードできる音読練習用のテキストをぜひご活用ください。

また、数日置いてから再度解き直すのも効果的です。答えを記憶してしまっているかもしれませんが、**回答の根拠をなぞりながら繰り返し解くことで有効な復習になります！**



Collapse: Twilight of Easter

1. No other place that I have ever visited on earth gave me such a mysterious feeling as Easter Island. It lies in the Pacific about 2,300 miles west of the South American coast and 2,000 miles away from the nearest inhabited island. I was amazed to see hundreds of stone statues across the island. Many of them have been left unfinished or abandoned, as if the inhabitants had suddenly disappeared from the island. Even more surprisingly, the rise and fall of Easter society is never an **exceptional** case. Many of the most advanced societies in the past ended up in ruin. Are we going to make the same sort of mistakes as these ancient people did? **Well, they did, and we could.** Many experts agree our modern industrialized civilization could fall apart, just like Easter Island, Maya civilization and Roman Empire. Looking at these beautiful ruins, the question we have to ask ourselves is, “what can we learn from these past failed societies?”
2. Many archeologists believe that the island was settled by Polynesians in the 5th century. They made their livings mainly by raising chickens and growing root crops like sweet potatoes and taro. Though the environment was harsh, a series of archeological evidence shows that they had successfully established intensive agriculture to feed a population of about 15,000. Researchers estimated that they began carving the statues in around the 12th century. Building and erecting statues required feeding lots of people who work on this project. This was made possible by the food surpluses produced by their agricultural success. Most of the statues were carved at a quarry at Rano Raraku, and then transported to stone platforms along the coastline. How did they carry these heavy statues across the island? It seems that they used log rollers to move the statues. They placed trees along the ground and then slid the statues across the logs. There had to be a massive consumption of wood for this project. By the time Europeans first arrived on Easter Island in the 18th century, there was no single tree left on the island.

- (1) The word “exceptional” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. epoch-making
 - B. unusual
 - C. edgy
 - D. wonderful

- (2) Which of the following text best express the essential information in the highlighted sentence?

Well, they did, and we could.

- A. Just as we praise their beautiful ruins of the past, people in the future would praise our modern architecture.
 - B. Thanks to ancient people, we can enjoy visiting their beautiful ruins.
 - C. Just like ancient civilization failed, our modern world may possibly collapse.
 - D. Since we can learn from the past failures, we are less likely to make the same mistakes.
- (3) According to paragraph 2, building and erecting huge stone statues was possible due to
 - A. Abundance in mineral resources for statues
 - B. Nutritious food supplies like chicken and taro
 - C. Increased agricultural productivity to support larger population efficiently
 - D. Technological advances in carving statues

3. When the first Europeans arrived on the island in 1722, there was no tree left standing. Scientific studies have shown that this was the result of one of the most extreme examples of deforestation in history. Before humans migrated, Easter Island was covered in forests. But the settlers cut down trees for multiple purposes, such as cultivating farmlands and getting timber and firewood. But the largest consumption of trees was for carrying statues across the island. Easter society consisted of a dozen of clans, each of which wanted to show their power and status by building bigger and more statues. The increase in statue size with time suggests competition between rival chiefs became fierce year by year.
4. The loss of trees brought about drastic changes in their lifestyle. They lost raw materials for fishing canoes and houses. Crop **yields** also decreased due to soil erosion by rain and wind. People on the island had nowhere to **go** or ask for help. They started fighting over limited resources and destroying each other's statues. What was once a remarkable civilization now began to collapse.
5. If their life is dependent on a forest, why did the Easter Islanders cut all the trees down? They could have changed their course of action and went sustainably, instead of completely destroying the environment. When we look back at the past from our own perspective, we often assume that these changes were intense, acute and drastic: one year, the island still covered with a forest; the next year, half of the forest gone. It wasn't like this. The process of deforestation took hundreds of years. The changes in forest cover from year to year were too gradual and subtle to recognize. Each individual could experience only a few percent loss of their forest in their lifetime. And, more importantly, we forget. We hardly remember what it looked like 20 years ago. How could they manage to tell the difference between the forest today and the forest a couple of decades ago?

- (4) According to paragraph 3, building statues was accelerated by
- A. Competition between leaders
 - B. Inexhaustible forest resources
 - C. Their religious belief
 - D. Their fear for deforestation
- (5) The word “yields” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. harvest
 - B. success
 - C. food
 - D. farmland
- (6) The word “go” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. visit
 - B. evacuate
 - C. trade
 - D. hang out
- (7) According to paragraph 5, Easter Islanders couldn't stop deforestation because
- A. They were reluctant to investigate what was happening
 - B. The changes were not obvious enough to realize
 - C. Deforestation was too drastic
 - D. Chiefs were blind with their lust for power and status

6. Similarly, we had a lot of trouble detecting the climate change. We now realize that temperatures around the world have been slowly rising in the last several decades. However, the changes have been so subtle, about 0.01 degree warmer on average each year. That's why it was only within the last decade or so that most climate researchers reached a consensus on this issue. Unlike us, Easter Islanders didn't have science to investigate what was happening and written language to leave information for their descendants. To begin with, they failed to recognize the problem, let alone solve the problem.
7. To summarize, Easter Island's downfall was most likely caused by their own action. What are the lessons we can draw from their failure? Their collapse can be seen as a metaphor, a worst case scenario, for what may lie ahead of us in our own future. The parallels between Easter Island and our modern world are obvious. Thanks to globalization, international trade, advanced transportation and information technology, all countries on Earth today share resources and affect each other, just as Easter's dozen clans. Polynesian Easter Island was as isolated in the Pacific Ocean as the Earth is today in the universe. What's different today is a combination of far more population, far higher consumption rates and far higher destructive power. If they had managed to destroy their environment with just stone tools and their muscle power, we could easily destroy our planet with advanced science and technology. But it's possible to imagine a different outcome. We now know that the global temperature is increasing, whereas the Easter Islanders did not realize deforestation. They could not learn that Maya civilization fell apart for similar reasons, while we can learn how these past collapsed societies failed. Today, 8 billion people are collaborating as a collective problem-solving machine to work on our existential issues. Our education, technology and globalization cut both ways. If we dare to think more deeply about the fate of humanity, they can be powerful forces for bringing a brighter future, rather than an accelerant to our collapse.

- (8) According to paragraph 6, we struggled to detect climate change because
- A. There had been a heated argument among climate researchers
 - B. We didn't have means to investigate
 - C. Research institutions were not well-funded
 - D. The changes had been very subtle

- (9) According to paragraph 7, Easter society and modern civilization are similar in
- A. their access to science and technology
 - B. their scarcity in natural resources
 - C. their interdependence of communities
 - D. their reluctance to deal with their existential issues

- (10) An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting **THREE** answer choice that express the most important ideas in the passage.

Past failed civilizations like Easter society give us an important lesson for our survival.

-
-
-

Answer Choices

- A. Any human society is destined to fall apart
- B. Our technology can work both positively and negatively for our survival
- C. Easter society collapsed due mainly to destruction of their living environment
- D. Nations should work collaboratively after the example of Easter's clans.
- E. One of our advantages over Easter Islanders is we have realized our problems
- F. Solving the issue of climate change should be more prioritized

Answers

- (1) B
- (2) C
- (3) C
- (4) A
- (5) A
- (6) B
- (7) B
- (8) D
- (9) C
- (10) B, C, E

【解説】

(1) 文中の“exceptional”と最も意味が近いのは

- A. epoch-making (画期的な)
- B. unusual (異常な、まれな)**
- C. edgy (激しい、最先端の)
- D. wonderful (素晴らしい)

イースター島社会の興亡は珍しい例外ではなく、高度な文明が崩壊した例は他にもたくさんある、という意味の文章なのでBが正解。

(2) 下線部が意味していることを最も的確に表現しているのは？

Well, they did, and we could.

- A. Just as we praise their beautiful ruins of the past, people in the future would praise our modern architecture.
 - B. Thanks to ancient people, we can enjoy visiting their beautiful ruins.
 - C. Just like ancient civilization failed, our modern world may possibly collapse.**
 - D. Since we can learn from the past failures, we are less likely to make the same mistakes.
- They did=彼ら（過去の文明）も崩壊したのだから、we could=我々の文明も滅びる可能性がある、という意味なのでCが正解。

(3) 2段落によると、石像の建造は次によって可能になった

- A. Abundance in mineral resources for statues
- B. Nutritious food supplies like chicken and taro
- C. Increased agricultural productivity to support larger population efficiently**
- D. Technological advances in carving statues

集約的農業の成功による食料余剰によって石像のプロジェクトに関わる人々たちを食わせることができたことが要因なのでCが正解。Bが紛らわしいが、nutritious=栄養価の話は本文中では触れられていない。

(4) 3段落によると、像の建設は以下によって加速された

- A. Competition between leaders**
- B. Inexhaustible forest resources
- C. Their religious belief
- D. Their fear for deforestation

段落最後の2行で、イースター島社会を構成する12の氏族が力を顕示し合うためにより多くの大きな石像を造るようになったことが示唆されているためAが正解。

(5) 文中の“yield”と最も意味が近いのは

- A. harvest (収穫、収穫高)**
- B. success (成功)
- C. food (食料)
- D. farmland (農地)

yieldが生産高という意味なので、収穫高という意味になりえるAが正解。

(6) 文中の“go”と最も意味が近いのは

- A. visit (訪れる)
- B. evacuate (避難、疎開する)**
- C. trade (交易する)
- D. hang out (絡む、仲良くする、ぶらつく)

ここでのgoは島から逃げるという意味で使われているためBが正解。

(7) 5段落によると、イースター島民たちは以下の理由で森林破壊を食い止められなかった

- A. They were reluctant to investigate what was happening
- B. The changes were not obvious enough to realize**
- C. Deforestation was too drastic
- D. Chiefs were blind with their lust for power and status

真ん中少し下に“The changes in forest cover from year to year were too gradual and subtle to recognize.”（年ごとの森林被覆の変化はきわめて緩やかで微妙であったため気づけなかった）とあるため、「変化が気付けるほど明確ではなかった」という意味のBが正解。

(8) 6段落によると、我々は以下の理由で気候変動の検知に苦労した

According to paragraph 6, we struggled to detect climate change because

- A. There had been a heated argument among climate researchers
- B. We didn't have means to investigate
- C. Research institutions were not well-funded
- D. The changes had been very subtle**

“the changes have been so subtle, about 0.01 degree warmer on average each year. That's why it was only within the last decade or so that most climate researchers reached a consensus on this issue.”とあり、同じ内容を述べているDが正解。

(9) 7段落によると、イースター島社会と現代社会は次の点で類似している。

- A. their access to science and technology
- B. their scarcity in natural resources
- C. their interdependence of communities**
- D. their reluctance to deal with their existential issues

“Thanks to globalization, international trade, advanced transportation and information technology, all countries on Earth today share resources and affect each other, just as Easter's dozen clans.”

とあり、相互につながっていること、資源を共有していることを“interdependence=相互に依存している”と言い換えているCが正解。

(10) An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting THREE answer choice that express the most important ideas in the passage.

- A. Any human society is destined to fall apart
- B. Our technology can work both positively and negatively for our survival**
- C. Easter society collapsed due mainly to destruction of their living environment**
- D. Nations should work collaboratively after the example of Easter's clans.
- E. One of our advantages over Easter Islanders is we have realized our problems**
- F. Solving the issue of climate change should be more prioritized

A. すべての社会が崩壊する運命にある、とまでは言っていない

B. 最後の段落の後半の内容に合致

C. 3, 4段落の内容に合致

D. 「after the example of Easter's clans=イースター島の氏族を見習って」が誤り。氏族どうしは協力ではなく競争関係にあった。

E. 6段落の内容に合致。

F. 本文では述べられていない