

RIPPLE ENGLISH

ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

Workbook for:

“The Root of the World’s Inequality”

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！

The Root of the World's Inequality

1. November 16th, 1532 was a crucial moment in world history. A Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro and his 168 soldiers successfully captured Inca Emperor Atahualpa guarded by 80,000 warriors. Pizarro's army, equipped with steel swords and armors, dominated the Incan soldiers with primitive weapons. Records show that more than 7,000 Inca soldiers were killed in this battle. This event was **decisive** in the European conquest of South America. From the 16th to the 19th Century, similar events occurred in Africa, Australia, and other areas across the globe. Local inhabitants were decimated, enslaved, and expelled from their land by Europeans with advanced tools and powerful weapons, while the Western societies achieved further development by exploiting labor and resources from these regions. Why did Europeans conquer other continents, rather than the other way around?
2. The immediate explanations are already clear. Europeans developed advanced technologies before the other parts of the world did, so they could enjoy military and economic supremacy. However, this doesn't fully answer the question. The point is how they gained these advantages in the first place. Why was it Europe that first developed complex societies and advanced technologies? Why did the world ever become so unequal?

- (1) The word “decisive” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. decorative
 - B. uncertain
 - C. crucial
 - D. delayed
- (2) According to paragraph 1, what is the author's main observation about events from the 16th to the 19th Century?
 - A. European colonization was mostly peaceful and beneficial to local people.
 - B. Europeans repeatedly conquered, enslaved, and exploited other peoples, while local populations could not resist similarly.
 - C. Local inhabitants of Africa and Australia first invaded Europe.
 - D. The Inca Empire was the only society defeated by Europeans.
- (3) According to paragraph 2, why does the author find the technological explanation insufficient?
 - A. Because Europeans actually had inferior technology overall.
 - B. Because military supremacy is unrelated to economic supremacy.
 - C. Because it leaves the deeper question of how Europeans gained those advantages in the first place.
 - D. Because technology was equally distributed around the world.

3. In the centuries after 1500 AD, European explorers became aware of the wide gaps among the world's peoples in technology and political organization, and they often attributed these disparities to innate biological differences between races. They thought they were genetically superior to the native population. To them, it was natural that European societies were culturally and technologically more advanced simply because they were more intelligent. However, this answer is not just **arrogant**, but also wrong. There is no firm evidence of genetic differences in intellectual ability among peoples of different races or cultures. It's quite unlikely that Europeans are inherently smarter than people in other regions.
4. If there is no genetic difference in our ability between races, why did some cultures develop faster than others? In a word, the answer lies in geography. The Earth is extremely diverse in terms of climate, geography, and the distribution of plants and animals, and some parts of the world have had more ideal conditions for prosperity. Particularly, European societies have been blessed with suitable environments for agriculture. Their environmental advantages at the beginning have been accumulated, amplified, and thereby translated into a huge technological gap in the 16th Century. If the native Americans or Aborigines had enjoyed the same geographic advantages as Europeans, they would have been the ones to invent steel weapons and steam engines, and would have conquered and colonized the rest of the world. It is geography that determines the fate of human societies, not humans themselves.

- (4) The word "arrogant" in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. humble
 - B. conceited
 - C. cautious
 - D. uncertain

- (5) According to paragraph 3, what is the author's evaluation of the 16th-19th Century European view that they were genetically superior?
- A. It was supported by clear genetic evidence at the time.
 - B. It was both arrogant and lacking firm evidence; Europeans are not inherently smarter than people elsewhere.
 - C. It was partly correct but oversimplified.
 - D. It was rejected immediately by European scholars themselves.
- (6) According to paragraph 4, what is the author's main explanation for differences in cultural and technological development?
- A. Differences in religious beliefs across societies.
 - B. Differences in genetic intelligence between populations.
 - C. Differences in geography — climate, landscape, and the distribution of useful plants and animals.
 - D. Random historical coincidences that cannot be explained.

5. Human history spans millions of years, and most of the time, our ancestors had lived as hunter-gatherers. They made their living by running across the savanna to hunt wild animals and walking through the woods to gather wild food plants. Around 13,000 years ago, the last Ice Age ended and some people began domesticating plants and animals. There were only a few parts of the ancient world that developed farming independently, but in most places where farming began, a large advanced civilization emerged.
6. Farming seems crucial for the arrival of civilization for several reasons. First, agriculture made it possible to feed far more people with far less land. It certainly depends on various factors, including the climate and the fertility of the land, but, in general, agriculture can sustain a population 100 times larger than that of a hunter-gatherer lifestyle per unit area. Therefore, the human population became larger and denser. A large and dense population is necessary for a centralized government, military power, and an effective network of cooperation. Also, farming produces extra food surplus, with which some people don't have to work to get food. They can spend their time specializing in developing advanced technologies, such as metallurgy and manufacturing. By contrast, in hunter-gatherer society, basically all members have to engage in collecting food, so they are too busy feeding themselves to develop new technologies. The transition to farming was clearly a decisive turning point in human history. The next question is why did only a few parts of the world begin farming?

(7) According to paragraph 5, what happened around 13,000 years ago in human history?

- A. All cultures simultaneously stopped hunting and gathering.
- B. The last Ice Age ended, and some people began domesticating plants and animals; in most places where farming began, a large advanced civilization emerged.
- C. The first contact between Eurasian and American peoples took place.
- D. Most existing civilizations collapsed.

(8) According to paragraph 6, why does the rise of farming enable advanced technological development?

- A. Because farmers are naturally more curious than hunter-gatherers.
- B. Because farming directly transmits metalworking knowledge.
- C. Because farming feeds far more people per unit area and produces food surplus, freeing some members to specialize in technologies like metallurgy and manufacturing.
- D. Because farming requires daily contact with foreign traders.

7. The transition from hunting and gathering to farming is crucial for the arrival of advanced civilization. But why did only a few parts of the world build civilizations? For agriculture to be the basis for technological development, it has to be an efficient way of producing food, and for agriculture to be efficient, there have to be productive plants and animals for domestication. There were only a few species of wild plants and animals suitable for domestication, and they were unequally distributed around the world. Some of the most productive crop species were only growing wild in the Eurasian Continent; wheat and barley were growing wild in the Fertile Crescent in the Middle East, and rice originated from a southwest part of China.
8. Eurasia also had the best animals for farming. There are nearly 2 million known species of wild animals, but the vast majority have never been farmed because they don't meet the requirements for domestication. For example, carnivores such as lions don't make economic sense to domesticate because you have to raise other animals just to feed them. They also have to be social animals and get along with humans so that humans can easily control them. For example, zebras **resemble** horses and thereby seem to make a good candidate for domestication. However, they are not suited because they have become nervous creatures as they have survived amidst Africa's great predators. Throughout history, only 14 large mammal species have ever been successfully farmed. Out of these 14, none was from Australia, North America or sub-Saharan Africa. South America only had llama. The other 13 were all from the Eurasian Continent, including the most productive livestock animals; cows, pigs, sheep and goats.

- (9) According to paragraph 7, what was the global distribution of productive wild crop species like?
- A. Productive species were evenly distributed across all continents.
 - B. Only a few species of wild plants and animals were suitable for domestication, and they were unequally distributed; some of the most productive crops were only growing wild in Eurasia.
 - C. Most productive species were originally found in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - D. Productive species existed only in the Americas before being transferred to Eurasia.
- (10) The word "resemble" in the passage is closest in meaning to
- A. look like
 - B. compete with
 - C. depend on
 - D. outperform
- (11) According to paragraph 8, why are zebras NOT suitable for domestication despite resembling horses?
- A. Because they cannot tolerate cold climates.
 - B. Because they are too small to carry humans.
 - C. Because they have become nervous animals from surviving among Africa's great predators.
 - D. Because they require a specialized diet found only in Africa.
- (12) Based on paragraphs 7 and 8, which statement best summarizes the agricultural advantage of Eurasia?
- A. Eurasian peoples discovered domestication earlier through pure trial and error.
 - B. Eurasia had a near-monopoly on the most productive wild crops and on 13 of the 14 large mammal species ever successfully farmed.
 - C. Eurasia's warm climate let crops grow throughout the year.
 - D. Eurasian religion required citizens to engage in farming.

9. In short, the rise of productive agriculture is not a matter of human effort or ingenuity, but rather a matter of environmental luck in having access to the suitable species. Eurasian societies advanced faster largely because they were blessed with these geographic advantages, and never because they were more intelligent or diligent. Although historical coincidences and efforts of remarkable individuals certainly play a role, the broad trajectory of human history is largely shaped by geographical factors.
10. After all, the roots of inequality around the globe will eventually come down to environmental luck. Eurasian societies advanced earlier because the continent was geographically blessed in various aspects. Firstly, they had access to the best crops and animals for domestication. Particularly, the Fertile Crescent was blessed with the most productive species, including wheat and sheep, which gave the Middle East a head start in ancient times.

(13) According to paragraph 9, what is the author's central claim about Eurasian success?

- A. Eurasian peoples were biologically more capable than others.
- B. Eurasian success is mostly a matter of environmental luck — not greater effort, intelligence, or diligence.
- C. Eurasian success has no clear cause.
- D. The achievements of individual geniuses are the main driver.

(14) According to paragraph 9, which of the following is NOT part of the author's view of how human history is shaped?

- A. Geographical factors largely shape the broad trajectory of human history.
- B. Historical coincidences play some role.
- C. Efforts of remarkable individuals play some role.
- D. Geography plays only a minor role compared with human effort and ingenuity.

(15) According to paragraph 10, what gave the Middle East a head start in ancient times?

- A. The early development of trade routes with India.
- B. The Fertile Crescent's access to the most productive species, including wheat and sheep.
- C. A monopoly on metallurgy in the ancient world.
- D. Its central location for global trade.

11. Another advantage for Eurasian societies is the shape of the continent. Eurasia is long from east to west and narrow from north to south, while the American Continents and African Continent are long from north to south. Therefore, Europe, the Middle East, India and China are all at the same line of latitude. Any places that share the same latitude automatically share similar climate and vegetation, so crops and animals in the Middle East can also **thrive** in many other parts of the continent. On the other hand, the journey from one end of America to the other is a journey from north to south; a journey through different climate zones and vegetation. These differences prevented the spread of crops and animals, as well as people, ideas, and technologies.
12. It is extremely difficult to come up with a new idea from scratch, so it is much faster to learn and imitate an innovation from others than inventing it ourselves. For example, the idea of phonetic alphabet apparently arose only once in human history, and it was in the Middle East around 3000 to 4000 years ago. European cultures have inherited this invention and developed their own. With fewer geographical barriers, Eurasian cultures were able to share inventions and mutually accelerate their development. To explain why it was Europe, rather than the Middle East or China, requires considering a far more complex interplay of geographical necessity and historical contingency, so it is too extensive to cover here. Nevertheless, it is clear that, from the onset of agriculture, the most advanced civilizations have always been found on the Eurasian continent, and European societies could benefit from all the inventions and discoveries that emerged across Eurasia. Geography has shaped the course of human history. After all, Homo sapiens have been largely shaped by the environments in which they find themselves.

(16) The word "thrive" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. wither
- B. compete
- C. flourish
- D. originate

(17) According to paragraph 11, why did the east-west shape of Eurasia accelerate its development compared to the north-south shape of the Americas?

- A. Because the east-west axis had more rainfall.
- B. Because places at the same latitude share similar climate and vegetation, so crops and animals could spread across Eurasia, whereas America's north-south journey crosses different climate zones and blocks such spread.
- C. Because east-west travel is physically easier than north-south travel.
- D. Because Eurasia is geographically smaller than the Americas.

(18) According to paragraph 12, why is it significant that the phonetic alphabet apparently arose only once in human history?

- A. It shows that inventing ideas from scratch is rare, so it's much faster to inherit and adapt innovations from others; Eurasian cultures, with fewer geographical barriers, could share and accelerate such inventions.
- B. It shows that the alphabet is unnecessary for advanced civilizations.
- C. It shows that the Middle East dominated all later cultural developments.
- D. It shows that all major inventions independently arose multiple times.

Answers

(1) C (2) B (3) C (4) B (5) B (6) C
(7) B (8) C (9) B (10) A (11) C (12) B
(13) B (14) D (15) B (16) C (17) B (18) A

(1) 文中の "decisive (決定的な)" と意味が最も近いのは？

- A. decorative (装飾的な)
- B. uncertain (不確かな)
- C. crucial (決定的な、重大な)**
- D. delayed (遅れた)

(2) 1段落によると、16～19世紀の出来事について著者の中心的観察は？

A. European colonization was mostly peaceful and beneficial to local people. (ヨーロッパの植民地化はおおむね平和的で現地にもたらした。)

B. Europeans repeatedly conquered, enslaved, and exploited other peoples, while local populations could not resist similarly. (ヨーロッパ人は他民族を繰り返し征服・奴隷化・搾取したが、現地側は同様の反撃ができなかった。)

C. Local inhabitants of Africa and Australia first invaded Europe. (アフリカやオーストラリアの先住民が先にヨーロッパに侵攻した。)

D. The Inca Empire was the only society defeated by Europeans. (ヨーロッパ人に敗れた社会はインカ帝国のみだった。)

「Local inhabitants were decimated, enslaved, and expelled...by Europeans」 「Why did Europeans conquer other continents, rather than the other way around?」 と一致。

(3) 2段落によると、なぜ著者は「技術的優位による説明」では不十分とするのか？

A. Because Europeans actually had inferior technology overall. (ヨーロッパは実際には全体的に技術が劣っていたから。)

B. Because military supremacy is unrelated to economic supremacy. (軍事的優位と経済的優位は無関係だから。)

C. Because it leaves the deeper question of how Europeans gained those advantages in the first place. (「そもそもなぜヨーロッパが先に優位を獲得したのか」というより深い問いが残るから。)

D. Because technology was equally distributed around the world. (技術は世界に均等に分布していたから。)

「The point is how they gained these advantages in the first place」 と一致。

(4) 文中の "arrogant (傲慢な)" と意味が最も近いのは？

- A. humble (謙虚な)
- B. conceited (うぬぼれた、傲慢な)**
- C. cautious (慎重な)
- D. uncertain (不確かな)

(5) 3段落によると、「ヨーロッパ人は遺伝的に優れている」という当時のヨーロッパ人の見方を著者はどう評価しているか？

A. It was supported by clear genetic evidence at the time. (当時の遺伝学の証拠に裏付けられていた。)

B. It was both arrogant and lacking firm evidence; Europeans are not inherently smarter than people elsewhere. (傲慢である上に確かな証拠もなく、ヨーロッパ人が他より生まれつき賢いとは言えない。)

C. It was partly correct but oversimplified. (部分的には正しいが単純化されすぎていた。)

D. It was rejected immediately by European scholars themselves. (ヨーロッパの学者自身によってただちに否定された。)

「not just arrogant, but also wrong」 「no firm evidence」 「quite unlikely that Europeans are inherently smarter」 と一致。

(6) 4段落によると、文化的・技術的発展の差を著者は主にどう説明しているか？

A. Differences in religious beliefs across societies. (社会ごとの宗教的信念の違い。)

B. Differences in genetic intelligence between populations. (集団間の遺伝的知能の違い。)

C. Differences in geography — climate, landscape, and the distribution of useful plants and animals. (地理——気候・地形・有用な動植物の分布の違い。)

D. Random historical coincidences that cannot be explained. (説明不可能な歴史的偶然。)

「the answer lies in geography」 「Earth is extremely diverse in terms of climate, geography, and the distribution of plants and animals」 と一致。

(7) 5段落によると、約1万3千年前の人類史で何が起きたか？

A. All cultures simultaneously stopped hunting and gathering. (あらゆる文化が一斉に狩猟採集をやめた。)

B. The last Ice Age ended, and some people began domesticating plants and animals; in most places where farming began, a large advanced civilization emerged. (最後の氷河期が終わり、一部の人々が動植物の家畜化・栽培化を始め、農耕が始まった多くの場所で大きな高度文明が興った。)

C. The first contact between Eurasian and American peoples took place. (ユーラシアとアメリカの人々が初めて接触した。)

D. Most existing civilizations collapsed. (既存の多くの文明が崩壊した。)

「Around 13,000 years ago, the last Ice Age ended...where farming began, a large advanced civilization emerged」と一致。

(8) 6段落によると、なぜ農耕の登場は高度技術の発展を可能にするのか？

A. Because farmers are naturally more curious than hunter-gatherers. (農民は狩猟採集民より好奇心が強いから。)

B. Because farming directly transmits metalworking knowledge. (農耕は冶金の知識を直接伝えるから。)

C. Because farming feeds far more people per unit area and produces food surplus, freeing some members to specialize in technologies like metallurgy and manufacturing. (農耕は単位面積あたりはるかに多い人口を養い、余剰食料を生み出すため、一部の人が冶金や製造などの技術に専念できるから。)

D. Because farming requires daily contact with foreign traders. (農耕には外国商人との日常的接触が必要だから。)

「sustain a population 100 times larger」「extra food surplus」「specializing in developing advanced technologies」と一致。

(9) 7段落によると、生産性の高い野生作物種の世界的分布はどうだったか？

A. Productive species were evenly distributed across all continents. (生産性の高い種は全大陸に均等に分布していた。)

B. Only a few species of wild plants and animals were suitable for domestication, and they were unequally distributed; some of the most productive crops were only growing wild in Eurasia. (家畜化・栽培化に適した動植物はごく一部の種に限られ、その分布は不均等で、最も生産性の高い作物の一部はユーラシア大陸でしか野生していなかった。)

C. Most productive species were originally found in sub-Saharan Africa. (最も生産性の高い種はもとサハラ以南アフリカに集中していた。)

D. Productive species existed only in the Americas before being transferred to Eurasia. (生産性の高い種は元々アメリカ大陸のみにあった。)

「unequally distributed around the world」「Some of the most productive crop species were only growing wild in the Eurasian Continent」と一致。

(10) 文中の "resemble (~に似ている)" と意味が最も近いのは？

A. look like (~に似ている、見た目が近い)

B. compete with (~と競争する)

C. depend on (~に依存する)

D. outperform (~より優れている)

(11) 8段落によると、馬に似ているのに、なぜシマウマは家畜化に適さないのか？

A. Because they cannot tolerate cold climates. (寒冷地に耐えられないから。)

B. Because they are too small to carry humans. (ヒトを乗せるには小さすぎるから。)

C. Because they have become nervous animals from surviving among Africa's great predators. (アフリカの捕食者の中で生き延びてきた結果、神経質な動物になっているから。)

D. Because they require a specialized diet found only in Africa. (アフリカでしか得られない特別な餌が必要だから。)

「nervous creatures as they have survived amidst Africa's great predators」と一致。

(12) 7・8段落から判断して、ユーラシアの農業上の優位を最もよく要約するのは？

A. Eurasian peoples discovered domestication earlier through pure trial and error. (純粋な試行錯誤によりユーラシア人が早期に家畜化を発見した。)

B. Eurasia had a near-monopoly on the most productive wild crops and on 13 of the 14 large mammal species ever successfully farmed. (最も生産性の高い野生作物と、これまでに家畜化された14種の大型哺乳類のうち13種をほぼ独占していた。)

C. Eurasia's warm climate let crops grow throughout the year. (温暖な気候により作物が1年中育った。)

D. Eurasian religion required citizens to engage in farming. (宗教が農耕を市民に義務付けていた。)

段落7(作物)と段落8(家畜)の両方からユーラシアが両面で恵まれていたことを統合する。

(13) 9段落によると、ユーラシアの成功についての著者の中心的主張は？

A. Eurasian peoples were biologically more capable than others. (ユーラシアの人々は他より生物的に優れていた。)

B. Eurasian success is mostly a matter of environmental luck — not greater effort, intelligence, or diligence. (ユーラシアの成功は主に環境的幸運であり、努力・知能・勤勉さによるものではない。)

C. Eurasian success has no clear cause. (ユーラシアの成功には明確な原因はない。)

D. The achievements of individual geniuses are the main driver. (個々の天才の業績が主因である。)

「a matter of environmental luck」「never because they were more intelligent or diligent」と一致。

(14) 9段落の著者の見解に含まれないものは？

A. Geographical factors largely shape the broad trajectory of human history. (地理的要因が人類史の大きな流れを大きく形作る。)

B. Historical coincidences play some role. (歴史的偶然もある程度の役割を果たす。)

C. Efforts of remarkable individuals play some role. (目覚ましい個人の努力もある程度の役割を果たす。)

D. Geography plays only a minor role compared with human effort and ingenuity. (人間の努力や創意工夫に比べれば、地理は軽微な役割しか果たさない。)

本文は地理が「主たる形成要因」であると述べており、Dは逆の主張になる。

(15) 10段落によると、古代において中東がリードした理由は？

A. The early development of trade routes with India. (インドとの交易路の早期発達。)

B. The Fertile Crescent's access to the most productive species, including wheat and sheep. (肥沃な三日月地帯が、小麦や羊といった最も生産性の高い種にアクセスできたこと。)

C. A monopoly on metallurgy in the ancient world. (古代世界における冶金の独占。)

D. Its central location for global trade. (世界貿易における中央の立地。)

「Fertile Crescent was blessed with the most productive species, including wheat and sheep, which gave the Middle East a head start」と一致。

(16) 文中の "thrive (繁栄する、よく育つ)" と意味が最も近いのは？

A. wither (枯れる)

B. compete (競争する)

C. flourish (栄える、繁茂する)

D. originate (起源を持つ)

(17) 11段落によると、ユーラシアの東西軸はアメリカの南北軸に比べてなぜ発展を加速させたのか？

A. Because the east-west axis had more rainfall. (東西軸の方が降水量が多かったから。)

B. Because places at the same latitude share similar climate and vegetation, so crops and animals could spread across Eurasia, whereas America's north-south journey crosses different climate zones and blocks such spread. (同じ緯度の地域は気候と植生が似ており、ユーラシアでは作物・家畜が広がりやすかった一方、アメリカ縦断は異なる気候帯をまたぐため広がりが阻害されたから。)

C. Because east-west travel is physically easier than north-south travel. (東西の移動は南北より物理的に容易だから。)

D. Because Eurasia is geographically smaller than the Americas. (ユーラシアはアメリカ大陸より地理的に小さいから。)

「same latitude automatically share similar climate and vegetation」「journey from north to south...different climate zones and vegetation」「prevented the spread」と一致。

(18) 12段落によると、表音文字(アルファベット)が人類史上一度しか生まれていないことの意義は？

A. It shows that inventing ideas from scratch is rare, so it's much faster to inherit and adapt innovations from others; Eurasian cultures, with fewer geographical barriers, could share and accelerate such inventions. (ゼロから発明することは稀で、他者の発明を継承・改良するほうがはるかに速い。地理的障壁の少ないユーラシア諸文化はそうした発明を共有し相互に加速できた。)

B. It shows that the alphabet is unnecessary for advanced civilizations. (アルファベットは高度文明にとって不可欠ではない。)

C. It shows that the Middle East dominated all later cultural developments. (中東がその後のあらゆる文化的発展を支配した。)

D. It shows that all major inventions independently arose multiple times. (主要な発明は独立に複数回生まれることを示す。)

「extremely difficult to come up with a new idea from scratch」「fewer geographical barriers, Eurasian cultures were able to share inventions and mutually accelerate」と一致。