

～3級 長文～

次の英文の内容に関して、(1)から(5)までの質問に対する答えとして最も適切なもの、または文を完成させるのに最も適切なものを1, 2, 3, 4の中から一つ選びなさい。

A Popular Event in Belgium

Ypres is a city in the north-western part of Belgium. In this city, a popular event is held every three years. It is often called "the cat festival" in English and is usually held on the second Sunday of May. A lot of people who love cats come to the event from all over the world.

The event is famous for its big parade. Thousands of people in different costumes walk in the parade. Some people walk in cat costumes, and others wear traditional costumes. You can also see marching bands and dancers. At the end of the parade, A Cat King doll and A Cat Queen doll appear. They are really big!

Long ago, people in this city made wool products*. They had cats to keep the wool products in good condition. Cats were useful because they killed the rats* which would bite* the wool products. However, at that time, there was a custom* of throwing cats from the top of the tower. Nobody knows the clear reason, but some people think that it was necessary to reduce the number of cats because the number of cats increased too fast. Cats were also thought to bring diseases* which were dangerous for people.

After the parade, toy cats are thrown from the top of the tower in memory of the old custom. It is said that the person who gets the toy cat will be lucky. So, many people wait under the tower to try and get it. It looks really exciting!

*wool product : 羊毛製品 *rat : ネズミ

*bite : かじる *custom : 習慣

*disease : 病気

(1) How often is the cat festival in Belgium held?

1. Once a year.
2. Twice a year.
3. Three times a year.
4. Every three years.

(2) What appears at the end of the parade?

1. Marching bands.
2. Dancers.
3. Big cat dolls.
4. Belgium's king and queen.

(3) People in Ypres had cats because

1. cats were useful to keep wool products good.
2. they wanted to throw cats from the top of the tower.
3. they wanted to increase the number of cats.
4. cats protected people from diseases.

(4) Why do people want the toy cats?

1. They think the toy cats will be a good memory of the festival.
2. They think the toy cats will bring them good luck.
3. They think getting the toy cats is really exciting.
4. They don't want to forget the old custom.

(5) What is this story about?

1. A big parade of cats.
2. An old Belgian custom.
3. The cat festival in Belgium.
4. The exciting event under the tower.