

(1) Learning Other Languages (多言語を学ぶということ)

放送を聞き、空所に当てはまる語や語句を書き入れましょう。

The College Board says its ① _____ will add four new languages for American high school ② _____. Mandarin Chinese along with Italian will be added ③ _____. Japanese and Russian will be offered later. This means the best high school students will be able to take college-level courses in these four new languages.

The Chinese government and the Italian government ④ _____ part of the cost of developing the Advanced Placement programs. ⑤ _____ they will also ⑥ _____ in Chinese language and culture.

College Board officials say the study of a world language, such as Chinese, is an important ⑦ _____ high school education. More than one million students at more than fourteen thousand American high schools took at least one Advanced Placement test this year ⑧ _____.

The AP program is increasingly important among high school classes for the best students. Colleges often give high school students credit for an AP class if the students do well ⑨ _____. Colleges require a set number of credits before a student may graduate. Credit for AP classes may help some students graduate from college earlier.

The Advanced Placement program ⑩ _____ over the years. There are now thirty-four classes and tests in nineteen subject areas. They include history, mathematics and English. But, until now, ⑪ _____ Spanish, French and German. These are the most popular languages in American high schools.

The American ⑫ _____ Spanish is ⑬ _____ in American high schools. About four million high school students study Spanish. It is followed by French, German, Italian, Russian and Japanese.

The College Board notes that most high school students in China study English. However, only about fifty thousand American high school students study Chinese. This may change ⑭ _____ new AP language program. The Chinese ambassador to the United States ⑮ _____. Yang Jiechi said: “ ⑯ _____ and friendship cannot be built without language.”

(2) Homework (宿題)

放送を聞き、空所に当てはまる語や語句を書き入れましょう。

Students often say their teachers give them too much homework. Now, reports by two research organizations show that ① _____ this argument is generally ② _____.

The Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., wrote ③ _____.
④ _____ the average student does less than one hour of schoolwork
⑤ _____. The Rand Corporation in California did the other study. The research shows that only one in ten ⑥ _____ more than two hours a night on homework.

The findings are based on information from the United States ⑦ _____ and international studies. ⑧ _____ research by the University of Michigan, the University of California at Los Angeles and others.

⑨ _____ international math and ⑩ _____ from nineteen ninety-five. The United States was near last among twenty countries in homework. Students in France, Italy, Russia, and South Africa reported they spent ⑪ _____ on homework.

The Rand report examined American homework levels during the second half of the twentieth century. Brian Gill ⑫ _____. He says there was only one time when homework sharply increased. That happened during ⑬ _____. Americans were not happy when the Soviet Union became the first country to reach space. There was great concern about improving education.

Politicians, educators and parents called for more intensive study — ⑭ _____ in mathematics and science. Still, ⑮ _____, only about twenty-five percent of high school students completed more than ⑯ _____ daily.

Not just children ⑰ _____. Some busy parents say their jobs leave them little time to help. ⑱ _____ to have time for sports, music lessons and other activities after school. ⑲ _____, some educators say schools need to give more meaningful homework.

Harris Cooper is ⑳ _____. He is a professor at Duke University in North Carolina. Professor Cooper suggests ten minutes per grade level. ㉑ _____ by the last year of high school.