

STEP準1級 模擬演習

Read each passage and choose the best word or phrase from among the four choices for each blank.

Environmental Hormones

One troublesome theme of global environmental problems is the existence of a series of chemical materials called environmental hormones, endocrine disrupters, which enter the body through food, water etc., and disturb sexual activities and reproduction, just like dioxin.

Talking of the toxicity of chemical substances which have been produced by human beings and have (1) the environment, carcinogenesis has always been the main issue. This damage is only on the individual level.

(2), endocrine disrupters don't directly take individuals' lives. However, once entering the body, they behave like hormones and get in the way of sexual maturing and reproduction, which are maintained by precise hormone balance. They even cause (3) of sexual organs, as well as sex reversal.

Activities which are necessary for reproduction, such as love rituals in which males and females meet and building nests, become confused. In consequence, instead of the death of individuals, the (4) of species will be brought about.

In the southern U.S. the nestles of alligators, which live downstream from chemical factories, are reduced in size and remain immature. On the seashore of Europe most of a certain kind of male sea shell turned into females. As for human beings, the number of adult male sperm has been declining.

The European Union started a workshop in the middle of the 90s, and also the U.S. in a conference sponsored by the White House, compiled a (5) action plan for regulation. As for Japan, a special law to impose legal control on dioxin was started in 2000. It not only set up the new environmental standard for the atmosphere, soil and water but also aims to reduce the concentration of dioxin in extracted smoke and drainage from factories of the steel industry, paper manufacturing, and other industries, by 90% to the level of 1997 by 2002.

- (1) 1 got around 2 spread into 3 laid on 4 sent out
(2) 1 On the other hand 2 Still more
 3 It is said 4 From my point of view
(3) 1 precocity 2 prevention 3 immunity 4 immaturity
(4) 1 selection 2 extinction 3 reduction 4 diffusion
(5) 1 gaudy 2 superficial 3 concrete 4 libelous