

## STEP 2 級 読解問題演習

●次の英文を読み、その文章にそって(1) から (4) までの ( ) に入れ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。

### *Feeling The Heat*

Have you ever noticed that during the summer it often seems hotter in big cities than in the countryside? Research has shown that on warm days, the air in some cities can be 3° to 4°C hotter than in the surrounding areas. Scientists call this phenomenon the "heat-island effect." This extra heat can be a ( 1 ) because it traps air pollution within the city. Moreover, people tend to use air conditioning more, which both wastes energy and further heats the air.

Trees and plants lower temperatures by providing shade and cooling the air. However, in cities where there is little vegetation, this happens ( 2 ). Instead, the buildings, sidewalks, and roads absorb most of the sun's heat. This heat continues to warm the air even at night.

Los Angeles is one example of how a city has been transformed into an urban heat island over time. In the summer of 1934, when Los Angeles still had many fruit farms, the highest recorded temperature was 36°C. As the city grew and vegetation was ( 3 ) by buildings and roads, temperatures rose, often reaching more than 40°C by the 1990s. The level of smog grew with these higher temperatures. Today the increased use of air conditioning in Los Angeles costs about \$100 million per year.

( 4 ) cities can take steps to reduce the temperature.

Researchers recommend covering roads and the outsides of buildings with materials that absorb less heat. Planting more trees would also be helpful. Using computer models, researchers have predicted that cooling Los Angeles by about 3°C would greatly improve air quality by reducing smog levels. In addition, the ( 5 ) in the use of air conditioning would lead to large savings in energy.

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|-----|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| (1) | 1 choice       | 2 purpose     | 3 problem    | 4 relief   |
| (2) | 1 still        | 2 less        | 3 often      | 4 again    |
| (3) | 1 restored     | 2 delayed     | 3 denied     | 4 replaced |
| (4) | 1 Additionally | 2 Fortunately | 3 Personally | 4 Exactly  |
| (5) | 1 necessity    | 2 difficulty  | 3 cost       | 4 decrease |