STEP1級 解答解説資料

（2008年度第3回出題）

Controlling Cyberspace

Ⓣ The **idea** of **censor**ing and **restric**ting freedom of **the Internet** has been around for almost as long as the Internet itself. In reality, **regulation of cyberspace was** (*26*) in the 20th century. Moreover, the **few** restrictions that **did** exist were usually used to tackle criminal offenses, such as the viewing of illegal pornography. Recent reports, however, suggest that we are **now** witnessing a steep rise in government censorship worldwide. A team of academics calling itself the OpenNet Initiative (ONI) has produced some revealing data. While **fewer than 10** of the 41 countries they investigated were, to varying degrees, blocking access to websites in 2002, this number had **risen to 25** by 2007. Ⓢ

Ⓣ **Investigating** the precise **nature of this censorship** (*27*), John Palfrey of Harvard University points out, perhaps not surprisingly, that most states are reluctant to inform the public about Internet controls. Further **probing** by **the team**, however, **did** reveal that some countries, especially those in Asia and the Middle East, were restricting what they considered to be subversive sites, which even included common applications such as Google Maps and Skype. The use of censorship is particularly evident in the political arena. Some governments are known to restrict opposition parties' ability to promote their causes, as well as prosecute owners of private websites that challenge government policies. Another use is to enforce social norms, including the restriction of what are judged to be offensive images, especially in countries with strict religious standards.

Ⓣ The ONI report also indicates that government policy on censorship is rarely limited to one objective. Indeed, the "increase in the scale, scope, and sophistication of Internet filtering" demonstrates a desire to achieve several goals at once. In an attempt to overcome this growing censorship, software developers at the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab created Psiphon, a free downloadable program that allows users to get around government restrictions on forbidden websites. **Those** who (*28*) **consider Psiphon** to be **beneficial**. It remains controversial, however, and its users may face prosecution due to increasingly rigid laws designed to impose further control over the World Wide Web. Ⓢ

SAMPLE

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(26) ① relatively unusual　　2 **standard** practice
3 **completely** absent　　4 **strictly** enforced

(27) 1 was approved by **national governments**
2 demanded a great deal of **funding**
③ was no simple task for ONI
4 caused **disagreement** among team members

(28) 1 **disapprove** of free software　　② **oppose** all forms of **censorship**
3 **discourage** progressive ideas　　4 **support** government intervention