

1 Read the following passage and answer the questions.

著作権の関係で問題文は掲載できません。

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[出典]

“Much of the world participated in elections in 2024 that ousted incumbents”, Megan Duzor, December 30, 2024, Voice of America, <https://www.voanews.com/a/7918989.html>, ※一部略

注)

*ballot: 投票用紙, 投票総数

*cast: (票) を投じる

*status quo: 現状

*incumbent: 現職の

*affiliated with ~: ~と提携して

*catalogue: ~を目録に載せる, 分類する

*conservative: 保守主義の人

*surge: 急進する, 急増する

*chamber: 議会

*sentiment: 感情

*outright: 完全な, 全面的な

*ally: 味方

- *slide: 崩れること, 下落
- *oust: ~を追い出す
- *popular uprising: 民衆の蜂起
- *have the final say: 最終決定権を持っている
- *moderate: 節度のある
- *hardliner: 強硬路線の人
- *predecessor: 前任者
- *fallout: 悪い結果
- *disruption: 混乱, 分裂
- *poll: ~の世論調査をする
- *respondent: アンケート回答者
- *representative democracy: 代表民主制, 間接民主主義
- *median: 中央値 (あるデータを並べたときの中央の値)
- *pollster: 世論調査員
- *further: ~をさらに進める
- *alienation: 疎外

- (1) The author mentions countries like India and the United States in paragraph [2] in order to ...
- a. illustrate that the vast majority of countries that held elections in 2024 were those with relatively large populations.
 - b. demonstrate similarities in the electoral processes of developing countries as compared to developed countries.
 - c. differentiate between electoral issues that were faced by certain countries and those that were faced by the European Union.
 - d. provide examples that highlight the size and influence of some of the democratic countries that held elections in 2024.
- (2) According to paragraph [6], which of the following is true of the 2024 election trend?
- a. The last time that all parties in power facing elections lost their majorities was over 120 years ago.
 - b. For the first time in over a century, all incumbent parties saw vote losses in developed countries holding elections.
 - c. The incumbent losses could have been predicted by analyzing trends in the past 120 years of elections.
 - d. The gains made by opposition parties were due to the failures of incumbent parties over the last 120 years.

- (3) According to paragraph [10], which of the following is **NOT** true of the 2024 conservative victories?
- a. In the United States, Donald Trump achieved victories in every key contested state during the election held in November.
 - b. The conservative victories in European countries such as Portugal were a reaction to the election of Donald Trump in the United States.
 - c. A center-right political party gained sudden momentum in Portugal's spring election, signaling a shift in public support.
 - d. The European Parliament saw record-breaking gains by right-wing parties, who secured nearly 25% of all available seats.
- (4) Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence in paragraph [13]?
- a. The losses suffered by incumbent parties demonstrated weaknesses in democratic electoral processes.
 - b. Despite the trend, incumbents in nations with limited political freedom continued to win overwhelmingly.
 - c. Even in countries that lack strong democratic institutions, incumbent parties suffered significant losses.
 - d. The 2024 election results demonstrated a movement toward fairer elections in less democratic countries.
- (5) All of the following statements are true of the elections in Bangladesh referred to in paragraph [14], EXCEPT ...
- a. Months after her reelection in January, pressure from popular protests resulted in the removal of Sheikh Hasina from power.
 - b. The opposition refused to participate in the January election, which was won by incumbent Sheikh Hasina.
 - c. Compared to previous contests, Sheikh Hasina won by a narrower lead, indicating growing discontent with her leadership.
 - d. Sheikh Hasina's victory in January highlighted rising popular satisfaction with the existing leadership of Bangladesh.

- (6) The author refers to the pandemic era in paragraph [18] in order to ...
- argue that COVID-19 was the primary factor behind incumbent losses, as opposed to other factors such as rising costs.
 - show how disruptions to everyday life added to voter frustration, which was already high due to economic issues.
 - suggest that voter turnout increased due to satisfaction with how incumbents dealt with issues related to healthcare.
 - explain how economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic allowed incumbents in Mexico to maintain power.
- (7) According to paragraph [21], many voters felt that no party represented their views well because ...
- political representatives were viewed as indifferent to the needs and opinions of the common people.
 - elected officials were moving too far to the left or right of the political spectrum, alienating centrists.
 - the vast majority of people no longer valued democracy, resulting in disconnect with elected officials.
 - political parties were no longer seen as a favorable way to structure a representative democracy.
- (8) An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage.

In 2024, voters around the world rejected parties that were in power at the time, demonstrating a desire for change in leadership.

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- From Portugal to the United States, countries of all sizes experienced a decline in voter turnout, leading to a decrease in support for incumbent parties.
- Conservatives gained in countries like the U.S., where the incumbents were liberal, while liberals gained in countries like the U.K., where the incumbents were conservative.
- There were some notable exceptions, such as Russia, where Putin won reelection with an overwhelming majority of votes in a transparent election.
- Even in less democratic countries, there were indications of growing opposition, such as in Bangladesh, where the reelected leader was ousted months later.
- The incumbent losses in 2024 are thought to be indicative not only of discontent with the economy, but also of growing discontent with democracy.
- Surveys have shown that in every country where elections were held, incumbent losses were likely caused by surges in migration, which motivated voters to support opposition parties.

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[出典]

“Methane emissions are rising faster than ever”, Josie Garthwaite, September 9, 2024, Stanford Report, <https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2024/09/methane-emissions-are-rising-faster-than-ever>, ※一部略

注)

*pledge: (pledge to *do* で) ～することを誓約する

*slash: ～を削減する

*initiative: 戦略, 取り組み

*chair: ～の議長を務める

*atmospheric: 大気中の

*trajectory: 軌道

*mirage: 蜃気楼

*potent: 強力な, 有力な

*anthropogenic: 人間が原因の

*accumulate: ～を蓄積する

- *nitrogen oxides (NOx): 窒素酸化物
- *entanglement: もつれ
- *quantify: ～を数量化する
- *reservoir: 貯水池
- *submerge: ～を水中に入れる
- *decompose: 分解する
- *runoff: 流出, 排出
- *glimpse: ちらっと見えること
- *threshold: しきい値 (ある影響が生じ始める境界の値)

- (1) According to paragraph [1], which of the following is true of methane emissions?
- a. In line with targets, over 150 countries have succeeded in reducing methane emissions in recent years.
 - b. Scientists have not yet determined the extent to which methane emissions exacerbate global warming.
 - c. According to researchers, methane emissions are estimated to have fallen by 30% in the past five years.
 - d. In spite of the environmental consequences, society's efforts to curb methane emissions have been insufficient.
- (2) Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence in paragraph [4]?
- a. Governments around the world are unwilling to commit to the methane reduction targets required to curb global warming.
 - b. Jackson and other researchers have identified areas in the world where the effects of methane emissions are less pronounced.
 - c. The increase in global temperatures due to excessive methane emissions is likely to result in the desertification of arable land.
 - d. Given the current trajectory, reduction targets for worldwide methane emissions appear increasingly difficult to achieve.
- (3) According to paragraph [5], scientists are targeting methane because ...
- a. it remains in the atmosphere for at least 20 years, resulting in a warming effect that lasts much longer than that of carbon dioxide.
 - b. its impact during the first 20 years after release is far greater than that of carbon dioxide, making it critical for short-term climate goals.
 - c. it is released into the atmosphere at nearly 90 times the volume of carbon dioxide, making it a major contributor to global emissions.
 - d. it is mainly produced as a result of farming, combustion, waste treatment, and other human activity, rather than natural phenomena.

- (4) The author discusses NOx emissions in paragraph [10] in order to ...
- illustrate the complexity of interactions between various substances that are released into the atmosphere through human activity.
 - demonstrate how increased traffic during the pandemic lockdown reversed some of the methane-related effects of climate change.
 - explain how the harmful effects of methane in the atmosphere are multiplied by the presence of other pollutants.
 - provide an example of a type of pollutant that is not as harmful to local air quality as methane emissions.
- (5) According to paragraph [14], which of the following is **NOT** true of methane from reservoirs?
- Most of the approximately 30 million tons of methane produced by reservoirs is actually a byproduct of agricultural activity.
 - Methane released from dams and man-made reservoirs is now treated as a human-caused emission source in climate research.
 - The decomposition of organic matter submerged beneath man-made reservoirs leads to the release of large amounts of methane each year.
 - Researchers are just as concerned about emissions from reservoirs as they are about those from livestock and oil and gas production.
- (6) The author mentions severe weather and heat waves in paragraph [16] in order to...
- indicate that methane emissions cannot be reduced without first addressing other causes of climate change.
 - demonstrate that the rise in global average surface temperature is primarily due to methane emissions.
 - highlight how extreme weather events occur regardless of methane emissions or other human factors.
 - suggest that weather patterns will only worsen unless methane emissions and climate change are curbed.

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英 語 $\frac{10}{12}$

- (7) Three of the answer choices below are mentioned as direct sources of methane emissions, and two are used as factors that increase atmospheric methane indirectly. Complete the table by matching the appropriate answer choices.

(A) Direct sources of methane emissions	(B) Factors that increase atmospheric methane indirectly
▶ ▶ ▶	▶ ▶

- a. oil and gas fields
- b. carbon dioxide
- c. pandemic lockdowns
- d. rising temperatures
- e. forests and soils
- f. waste
- g. cows

3 次の英文の要旨を、句読点も含め 80 字以内の日本語でまとめ、解答欄に書きなさい。

Most people are familiar with the Venus flytrap*. Small and ominous-looking*, the plants are commonly sold as novelties, and many a curious child (or adult) has triggered its sinister* traps with a pencil to see its amazingly rapid response. However, carnivory* in plants is not limited to the famous Venus flytrap. In fact, there are more than 600 carnivorous* plant species, and the ability to catch and digest prey has evolved independently at least six times among flowering plants! Carnivory in plants is a useful trait that allows them to survive in poor soil conditions, meaning that they can exploit habitats such as bogs* that are challenging to other plants. Carnivorous plants are photosynthetic* and do not “eat” insects and other prey as a source of energy. Rather, their victims are used to supplement* nitrogen and other nutrients that their roots do not frequently encounter in their harsh environments. These specialized plants employ* a variety of mechanisms to capture prey, ranging from the passive pitfall* traps of pitcher plants* to the adhesive* leaves of sundews* and butterworts* to the “snap traps” of Venus flytraps and aquatic* bladderworts*. Most carnivorous plants attract and digest insects and other invertebrates*, but some large pitcher plants have been known to digest frogs, rodents*, and other vertebrates*. Given that most of these incredible plants are limited to narrow geographic areas, many are threatened by habitat loss and/or overcollection and are considered endangered species.

[出典]

“Beyond Venus Flytraps: The Plants that Eat Meat”, Melissa Petruzzello, April 19, 2019, Encyclopædia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/story/the-curious-case-of-carnivorous-plants>, Reprinted with permission from the Encyclopædia Britannica, © 2025 by Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

注)

- *Venus flytrap: ハエジゴク (植物)
- *ominous-looking: 見た目が不気味な
- *sinister: 不気味な
- *carnivory: 肉食性
- *carnivorous: 食虫性の, 肉食性の
- *bog: 沼地, 湿地
- *photosynthetic: 光合成の
- *supplement: ~を補う
- *employ: ~を用いる
- *pitfall: 落とし穴
- *pitcher plant: 囊状葉植物^{のう}, ウツボカズラ
- *adhesive: 粘着性の
- *sundew: モウセンゴケ (植物)
- *butterwort: ムシトリスミレ (植物)
- *aquatic: 水生の
- *bladderwort: タヌキモ (植物)
- *invertebrate: 無脊椎動物^{せきつい}

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英 語 $\frac{12}{12}$

*rodent: げっ歯動物

*vertebrate: 脊椎動物