

次の英文を読んであと問に答えよ。

Did you know that countless brilliant minds, over the course of many centuries, have devoted themselves to the task of approximating the value of π as closely as possible? It is a famous story that Archimedes, using a regular 96-sided polygon, managed to calculate that π lies between 3.1408 and 3.1429. More than two thousand years have passed since his time, and the history of those who have labored to refine this approximation could easily fill an entire book. Every one of these episodes is fascinating in its own right, and I find myself unable to resist the pleasure of reading such accounts. (A) You can find π even in school textbooks, but the more I learn about the history behind π , the more episodes I imagine might be hidden beyond my existing knowledge.

However, once we step outside the world of mathematical enthusiasts, we encounter a strange and telling silence regarding these intellectual achievements. In our society, there exists a peculiar asymmetry in what we consider "common knowledge." We generally agree that a cultivated person ought to possess at least a basic understanding of history, literature, and the arts. If a business leader or a politician were to confess, "I have never heard of Beethoven," or "I have no idea which century the French Revolution occurred in," they would be ridiculed. Their ignorance would be viewed as a mark of unsophistication—a shameful gap in their education.

Yet the moment the conversation turns to mathematics or the natural sciences, the rules change dramatically. (B) It is not at all uncommon to hear intelligent, successful adults will declare with a broad smile, "I was always terrible at math," or "I stopped understanding science somewhere in junior high." And how is such an admission received? Not with shock, but with sympathetic nods—sometimes even with laughter. In many social circles, professing an inability to understand basic logic or numerical reasoning has become almost a way of bonding, a demonstration that one is reassuringly "normal" rather than some nerdy specialist.

Why should this be acceptable? Why is scientific illiteracy tolerated—or even worn as a badge of honor—while cultural illiteracy is despised?

The underlying assumption, I suspect, is that art and history touch the human soul, whereas science and mathematics are merely cold, technical tools, best left to experts. This view is fundamentally mistaken. Mathematics is not simply a means of calculating bills or balancing budgets. It is a language—one might even say the language—that describes the fundamental structure of reality itself. (C) To understand the meaning of π , or to appreciate the elegant necessity of thermodynamic laws, is to catch a glimpse of the architecture upon principles which our universe is built.

(D)To willfully ignore this dimension of human knowledge is to shut one's eyes to half the world. And that is a little to be proud of. We must recognize that saying "I cannot do math" should be as embarrassing as admitting "I cannot read." Both statements reveal the same regrettable limitation: a mind that has drawn its own boundaries and refused to venture beyond them.

If [E]. A truly cultivated mind understands this—and refuses to settle for only half of what the world has to offer.

*pi 円周率 π

*Archimedes アルキメデス (古代ギリシャの数学者・物理学者)

*regular 96-sided polygon 正 96 角形

問 1

下線部(A)を和訳せよ。

問 2

下線部(B)～(D)には、文法上あるいは文脈上、取り除くべき語がそれぞれ 1 語ずつ含まれている。それを答えよ。

問 3

下に与えられた語を正しい順に並び替え、空所 [E] を埋めるのに最も適当な表現を完成させよ。ただし、必要に応じてカンマを補うこと。

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