

次の英文を読み、下記の問いに答えなさい。

A few years ago, my wife Sandra and I were struggling with a kind of concern. ①One of our sons was having a very difficult time in school. He was doing poorly academically; he didn't even know how to follow the instructions on the tests, (a)let alone do well on them. Socially he was immature, often embarrassing those closest to him. Athletically, he was small, skinny, and uncoordinated — swinging his baseball bat, for example, almost before the ball was even pitched. Others would laugh at him.

[ あ ] We felt that if “success” were important in any area of life, it was supremely important in our role as parents. So we worked on our attitudes and behavior toward him and we tried to work on his. We ②attempted to psych him up using positive mental attitude techniques. “Come on, son! You can do it! We know you can. Put your hands a little higher on the bat and keep your eye on the ball. Don't swing till it gets close to you.” And if he did a little better, we would go to great lengths to reinforce him. “That's good, son, keep it up.”

[ い ] When others laughed, we reprimanded them. “Leave him alone. Get off his back. He's just learning.” And our son would cry and insist that ③he'd ever be any good and that he didn't like baseball anyway.

④Nothing we did seemed to help, and we were really worried. We could see the effect this was having on his self-esteem. We tried to be encouraging and helpful and positive, but after repeated failure, we finally drew back and tried to look at the situation on a different level.

[ う ] At this time in my professional role I was involved in leadership development work with various clients throughout the country. In that (b)capacity I was preparing bimonthly programs on the subject of communication and perception for IBM's Executive Development Program participants.

[ え ] As I researched and prepared these presentations, I became particularly interested in how perceptions are formed, how they govern the way we see, and how the way we see governs how we behave. This led me to a study of expectancy theory and self-fulfilling prophecies or the “Pygmalion effect,” and to a realization of how deeply imbedded our perceptions are. It taught me that we must look at the lens ( c ) which we see the world, as well as at the world we see, and that the lens itself shapes how we interpret the world.

As Sandra and I talked about the concepts I was teaching at IBM and about our own situation, we began to realize that ⑤what we were doing to help our son was not in harmony with the way we really saw him. When we honestly examined our deepest feelings, we realized that our perception was that he was basically inadequate, somehow “behind.” No matter how much we worked on our attitude and behavior, our efforts were ineffective because, despite our actions and our words, what we really

communicated to him was, “You aren’t capable. You have to be protected.”

[ お ] We began to realize that if we wanted to change the situation, we first had to change ourselves. And to change ourselves effectively, we first had to change our perceptions.

問1 英文中の下線部①～⑤には文法的または内容的に不自然な箇所を含むものが1つある。その番号を答えなさい。

問2 次の英文を本文中の空所〔あ〕～〔お〕のいずれかに入れる場合、最も適切な個所を答えなさい。

Sandra and I were consumed with a desire to help him.

問3 下線部 (a) を同じような意味の2語の表現に置き換える場合、最も適切なものを答えなさい。

問4 下線部 (b) の単語と同じ意味のものを下の選択肢から1つ選びなさい。

- ① ability                      ② faculty                      ③ office                      ④ position

問5 空所 (c) に入る最も適切な語を答えなさい。

問6 文の内容に一致しているものを下の選択肢の中から1つ選びなさい。

- ① The author and his wife were struggling with some concern about one of their children who didn’t do well academically and was immature socially.
- ② When people laughed at one of their sons, the author asked them to leave him alone and let him keep learning.
- ③ The author studied the “Pygmalion effect”, which taught him that we had to change ourselves first in order to change the way we perceive.
- ④ At that time the author was involved in leadership development work with various clients throughout the world.
- ⑤ The author and his wife talked about what they were doing for one of their sons and realized that their efforts communicated to him positively.