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## 第 1 講

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次の英文を読んで、設問に答えよ。

Can you imagine what the following figures imply? First: English — 53.7, second: Japanese — 7.1, third: Spanish — 6.2. These figures show the percentages of the Internet language population <sup>(1)</sup>divide into linguistic groups. Other figures show that the percentage of information presented in English is increasing  
5 compared ( a ) that of other languages.

There is no doubt that English is an important common world language, and many people may think that Japan must consider making English its second official language. This idea was made public in the final report on “Japan’s 21st Century Goals” by \*the prime minister’s private advisory council in January, 2000. <sup>(3)</sup>The  
10 idea is based on a belief that Japan is falling behind in terms ( b ) globalization because of the rapid spread of the Internet. <sup>(4)</sup>It insists that the destiny of the nation will depend [the people / with / whether / are / on / equipped] global literacy or not. In order to achieve this goal, Japanese people must master English before they go out into the world.

15 Nobody would deny the importance of learning English as an international second language, but the idea of making English an official language is an entirely different matter. Official languages are languages recognized officially by the country ( 5 ) more than one language is used. Think about such countries as Singapore, the Philippines, and Canada. The reason for the adoption of an official  
20 language or languages comes mainly from the existence of large groups of native speakers of different languages in the respective countries, as a result of war, colonization or immigration.

Japan, ( c ) the other hand, has never been colonized in its history, and there exists no large group of English speakers. ( 6 ), there is no necessity or  
25 persuasive argument for making English a second official language in Japan. The effort and cost to carry this out would be too high. This official language idea, incidentally, coincides with the idea of some Japanese intellectuals who have belittled the Japanese language several times since the Meiji era. <sup>(7)</sup>There is no