富山大　2013年

１

次の英文を読んで，設問に答えなさい。＊印がついた語句には大まかな意味を表す注があるので，必要に応じて参照しなさい。

No one suspected that shy, young Albert Einstein\* would grow up to change the world. He was so slow in learning to speak that he was considered a bit dull-witted\*.

Albert was never very happy in school. He did not like to memorize facts and rules. He answered slowly because he was very thoughtful. And (A)he asked difficult questions, which made his teachers think that he was trying to make trouble. The strict discipline of a German school made him very unhappy.

However, young Einstein did learn what interested him. And (B)he was interested in what lay below the surface of things. When he was 5, for instance, his father gave him a compass\* with a magnetic needle. This made Albert curious about the unseen forces that could keep a compass needle always pointing north. He was always good at mathematics and literature. In his teens he read deeply in science. He had already started to wonder about the mysteries of the universe.

When he was 17, Einstein entered the Polytechnic Institute\* in Zurich, Switzerland, where he studied mathematics and physics. He stayed away from many lectures and so did not impress his professors, but he was actually studying very hard all the time. When he graduated in 1900, (C)he asked to be appointed as an assistant in the physics department but was refused.

After unsuccessful efforts at teaching, Einstein went to work in the Swiss patent\* office in Bern. He married a girl he had known in his student days in Zurich and settled down in an apartment in Bern. Einstein’s job was to check the technical descriptions in the applications for patents, and he found great interest in looking over the inventors’ models. Because he worked so quickly, he found he had free time to follow his own thoughts.

Einstein looked forward to the evenings and weekends. Then he could read and discuss scientific matters with a few friends. (D)He was determined to discover some of the basic laws that would help him understand the universe. During the next few years he thought and figured and wrote.

Then, in 1905, he published a series of articles setting forth some of his theories. One was a theory of relativity\*, probably the best known of Einstein’s work. It was to be many years before these theories could be proved and applied. Until they were, few people believed them. But eventually they had important effects on modern science, and Einstein was recognized as one of the truly great thinkers in all history.

The ideas in these articles were so revolutionary that many scientists disagreed with them. But they all asked: Who is this man Einstein? And what is he doing in a patent office? By 1908 Einstein had received so much notice from other scientists that the University of Bern offered him a position. Soon other European universities were asking him to lecture. By 1913 he was invited to Berlin, then the leading center of scientific research.

(Extracted from Mae B. Freeman, “Einstein, Albert”)

注

Albert Einstein：物理学者で相対性理論の提唱者

dull-witted：slow to understand

compass：(方位を知るための)コンパス

the Polytechnic Institute：工科大学

patent：特許権

relativity：相対性

1．下線部(A)を日本語にしなさい。

2．下線部(B)を日本語にしなさい。

3．下線部(C)を含む段落の内容から，下線部(C)の事態に至ったのはどのような理由からであると考えられますか。日本語で答えなさい。

4．下線部(D)を日本語にしなさい。

5．次の(ア)から(オ)について，本文の記述と合致するものには○を，合致しないものには×を解答欄に記入しなさい。

(ア) Einstein hardly found any time to follow his own thoughts while working in the Swiss patent office in Bern.

(イ) Many people believed Einstein’s theories even before they could be proved and applied.

(ウ) The ideas in Einstein’s articles seemed so conventional that many scientists disagreed with them.

(エ) In the end, people recognized that Einstein was one of the truly great thinkers in all history.

(オ) Einstein did not receive much notice from other scientists until 1913.