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**I Read the following passage and answer the questions.**

Food waste isn't only what consumers scrape off their plate or leave to rot in their refrigerator. It begins on the farm and can be driven by a whole host of factors beyond the grower's control. Weather, pests, disease, low market prices or high labor costs all lead to food left in the field. Food that may look perfectly ripe and edible in the field may be too ripe by the time it reaches the consumer, so it's never harvested.

"People see food left in the field after harvest and think farmers are being wasteful," said Ned Spang, an assistant professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California, Davis. "It's an unfair characterization because (1) it really does not make sense to harvest a crop if it's not going to get eaten."

It's not just consumers that are picky about their produce. Market-based quality or grade standards also play an unintentional role in food waste.

"A lot of the criteria are based on the appearance of the product and may not have anything to do with eating quality or utility of the product," said Elizabeth Mitcham, a postharvest extension specialist and director of the Horticulture Innovation Lab at UC Davis.

(2) Those standards mean food is left in the field if it isn't the right size, shape, color or maturity.

In developed countries, an estimated 20 percent of food is wasted on the farm or from improper or inadequate drying, storage, packaging and transportation.

Losses after harvest are most pronounced in less-developed countries, where an estimated 30 percent of food is wasted.

In tropical countries where humidity is an issue, food can rot or mold quickly if not dried properly or cooled. Growers and distributors often can't (3) afford the energy costs of drying,

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adequate storage or refrigerated transportation. Inadequate road infrastructure can also lead to higher levels of spoilage.

One potential solution to on-farm losses is to have groups and organizations collect leftover crops to distribute to food banks, a practice called gleaning. The problem is that the scale of food recovery through gleaning is very small compared to what is lost.

Relaxing cosmetic quality standards for fruits and vegetables could prevent waste on farms on a large scale. Still, (4) it would require consumers to overlook blemishes, bruises or imperfect produce so that there is a market for growers.

Supermarkets, restaurants and consumers are responsible for the majority of food waste in the U.S. and other developed countries. Grocery stores contribute to food waste by encouraging consumers to buy more than they need, overstocking shelves, inaccurately predicting shelf life or damaging products. Restaurants also waste food by mismanaging inventory, poor menu choices or oversized portions.

Retailers that sell only in large quantities are also feeding our food waste problem.

“It’s a lot of food that can easily go to waste,” said Mitcham. “Unfortunately, the costs are so low that sometimes it’s cheaper to buy way more than you need than it is to buy a reasonable quantity, so it tends to drive consumer behavior in that direction.”

Consumers also misinterpret “sell by” or “best if used by” dates on food packaging to mean the food will no longer be safe to consume after those dates. Instead, the dates are the manufacturer’s recommendation for quality, not safety.

Spang said there are also social and cultural factors that need to be considered when looking at consumer food waste.

“You can’t just look at a household’s waste and blame the family,” said Spang. “Food might go

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to waste because people are too busy to cook and misjudge the amount of food they need. They may live in rural areas and have to stock up and buy too much food rather than frequently driving long distances.”

Spang said (5) in many cultures, running out of food is socially unacceptable, so better to have too much food than too little.

Solutions to prevent food waste can be just as complex as the causes. Studies have shown that smaller portions in restaurants and the foodservice industry reduce food waste.

Awareness campaigns for consumers about food waste show results, but the programs need to address how people relate to their food in everyday life.

“The good news is that the issue is receiving increasing attention from government, industry and academia at the global, national and local scales,” said Spang. “Despite its complexity, there are many established and emerging opportunities for targeted solutions to reduce, recover and recycle food waste across the food supply chain.”

[Adapted from “Why is one-third of our food wasted worldwide?” by Amy Quinton, October 1, 2019,

<<https://www.ucdavis.edu/food/news/why-is-one-third-of-food-wasted-worldwide>>]

### 〈Questions〉

- Which of the following is most similar in meaning to the underlined part (1)?
  - it does not happen often
  - it has not been a problem before
  - it is considered unreasonable
  - it is not a common practice
- Translate the underlined sentence (2) into Japanese.

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3. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined word (3)?
- bear
  - levy
  - put
  - rely
4. Which of the following can be inferred from the underlined sentence (4)?
- Consumers are expected to receive produce which does not currently come onto the market to make a profit.
  - Consumers are requested to buy more imperfect produce from farm rather than market to contribute to food loss.
  - Consumers are required to discard produce which has some defects such as blemishes and bruises to help growers.
  - Consumers should be more tolerant of produce which is not perfect in its appearance to prevent food waste.
5. Translate the underlined sentence (5) into Japanese.
6. According to the text, which of the following is true?
- According to Ned Spang, food can be wasted because busy people always buy more food than they consume at home.
  - It is reported that two-fifths of food is not consumed in advanced countries because of improper or inadequate drying, storage, packaging and transportation.
  - The best solution to decrease food loss on the farm is to collect surplus crops and send them to food banks.
  - The government, industry and academic sectors are paying more attention to the issue of food waste both at the international and domestic levels.

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## II Read the following passage and answer the questions.

“It’s not just the wall-to-wall blue and pink in toy shops that annoys me but the assumptions made,” says Sam Larkin, a mother of two boys — Arthur and Austin, aged seven and three. “If I’m buying in a shop, if I want advice, the first thing I’m asked is whether it’s for a boy or girl.

(1) Should that even matter in this day and age?”

As the UK’s festive shopping frenzy gets into full swing this year, toys categorised by gender are still as much in evidence as tinsel and twinkly tropes in store and online.

But a national campaign to encourage toy manufacturers and retailers to drop their “lazy stereotyping” and the segregation of toys according to gender is about to step up a gear, with the publication of a major report urging the industry to do more to raise its game.

Last year, the equality campaigning organisation the Fawcett Society set up an 18-month commission into the effects of gender stereotyping in early childhood — (2) the first of its kind in the UK — to examine the harm it causes and explore how it interacts with race and class.

Armed with evidence from hundreds of parents and teachers, and with input from the UK’s top toy and clothing brands, the commission will publish its findings later this month in a hard-hitting 90-page report. Recommendations for urgent action and collaboration will be set out for three main sectors — parents, education and commerce — and will cover toys, clothing and books, online shopping and beauty.

Sam Smethers, chief executive of the Fawcett Society, said: “When we do our Christmas shopping this year we have a choice; we don’t have to buy into tired old stereotypes of girls as princesses and boys as adventure-seeking. Sometimes it can be hard to find something a bit different for kids, but there are great gifts out there which challenge lazy stereotypes.”

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“Gender stereotypes lie at the root of problems such as limiting career choices for girls, or boys who have difficulty expressing their emotions, so what we give our children this Christmas really does matter.”

Her message is bolstered by research in the report which reveals that 41% of parents (45% of mothers and 36% of fathers) prefer to buy toys which are advertised as being gender-neutral and suitable for any child. That significantly outnumbers the 26% who say they prefer toys which are labelled for boys or for girls.

To help parents make more gender-neutral choices this year, the society has teamed up with the national campaign group Let Toys Be Toys to curate a list of 10 inexpensive toys and games.

The group launched towards the end of 2012 as the result of a thread on parenting website Mumsnet about the explicit gendering of toys and has since successfully persuaded several UK toy retailers and children’s book publishers to drop “boy” and “girl” labelling.

“Children need a wide range of play for their development but gender stereotyped toy marketing limits their play opportunities by signposting that certain toys are only for girls, or only for boys,” said Tessa Trabue of Let Toys Be Toys.

Natasha Crookes, spokeswoman for the British Toy and Hobby Association said the industry had responded to a growing (3) demand for diverse products. “We have seen brands like Mattel’s Barbie inspiring girls’ attainment with role-model toys including pilots, astronauts and sports stars, as well as its Creatable World with short and long hair sets and dresses and trousers to make dolls that are appealing to a broad spectrum of children.”

“The way toys are retailed has also seen changes, with many stores classifying toys under their function and moving away from gender stereotyping.”

Frédérique Tutt, a toy industry analyst for the NPD Group, said: “Manufacturers have been working on making their packaging more gender-neutral. It is quite common nowadays to see a

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scientific kit with both a boy and a girl on the photo, and likewise a roleplay kitchen.”

(4) “However, 86% of dolls sales go to girls and 90% of toy vehicles to boys.”

[Adapted from *The Guardian*, December 6, 2020,

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/dec/06/pink-and-blue-toys-colour-future-of-our-children-study-warns>]

### 〈Questions〉

- Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined sentence (1)?
  - Is it necessary to get advice when buying toys for children?
  - Is the gender of a child important when selecting toys?
  - Should we consider the age of the child when choosing a toy?
  - What is the best time of day to go shopping for toys?
- Which of the following is (2) “the first of its kind in the U.K.”?
  - the commission
  - the equality campaign
  - the Fawcett Society
  - the organisation
- Which of the following is closest in meaning to the underlined word (3)?
  - contract
  - factory
  - market
  - supply

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4. Which of the following can be inferred from the underlined sentence (4)?
- Dolls and vehicles are selling well compared to other toys.
  - Female adults prefer dolls rather than vehicles as a gift for girls.
  - Gender bias is reflected in children's choice of their toys.
  - People tend to consider gender when purchasing toys for children.
5. What did the commission established by the Fawcett Society clarify in its report?
- More fathers tend to prefer gender-neutral toys than mothers.
  - More than 40% of parents purchase gender-neutral toys for their children.
  - Playing with gender-specific toys is harmful to children's ability to study.
  - 26% of parents think gender-specific toys are preferable for their children.
6. Which of the following most fully states the main idea of the reading passage?
- Certain toys can be harmful to children's physical development.
  - Girls and boys like to play with various kinds of toys.
  - Parents are completely responsible for choosing children's toys.
  - Stores should offer all of their toys to both girls and boys.

**III Write a response to the following question in a paragraph of approximately 100 words:**

*When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up, and why?*



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