

第4問 次の問い(A・B)に答えよ。(配点 36)

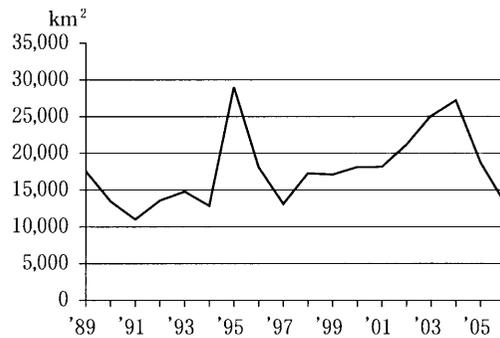
- A 次の文章とグラフを読み、下の問い(問1～3)の ～ に入れるのに最も適当なものを、それぞれ下の①～④のうちから一つずつ選べ。

Scientists estimate that eight thousand years ago rainforests covered approximately 60 million square kilometers of the Earth's surface. Due to human destruction only about 35 million square kilometers now remain. Even this relatively small area contains more than half of the world's estimated 10 million species of plants, animals and insects. The diversity is so great that scientists have, until now, succeeded in studying less than one percent of the species living there.

Native people who live in rainforests depend on them for food and shelter. Because trees have been cut down and burned, native people, unable to find enough food, have starved. Additionally, they have been killed or forced out of the rainforests by outsiders who have seized land for profit. The population of native people in the Brazilian rainforest, for example, has decreased over the past 500 years from approximately 6 million to 200,000.

Rainforests are destroyed to make money from selling not only trees but also cattle and crops that are raised on the cleared land. However, experts say that rainforests will have more economic value if we leave them as they are and harvest their medicinal plants, oil-producing plants and fruits. This knowledge, plus the fact that native life is becoming extinct, led Brazil to introduce stronger rainforest protection laws at the beginning of this century. These laws aim to protect native tribes, prevent illegal cutting of trees and expand the protected rainforest area. All countries that are contributing to the destruction of rainforests should begin their own efforts to protect them. Rainforests are essential to human survival. Therefore, we are all responsible for protecting this biological treasure.

**Annual Loss of the Brazilian Rainforest
1989-2006**



問 1 According to the text, 35 of the species in today's rainforests have been investigated by researchers.

- ① at least half
- ② at least one percent
- ③ more than half
- ④ not even one percent

問 2 The information in the text and the graph suggests that 36.

- ① in the early 1990s people became more aware of the value of rainforests
- ② stronger environmental laws in Brazil reduced deforestation after 2004
- ③ there is no hope that the rate of rainforest loss will go down in the future
- ④ there were almost no trees left in the Brazilian rainforest after 1995

問 3 According to the text, rainforests are 37.

- ① home to almost a quarter of non-human life forms
- ② likely to make more money if they are not destroyed
- ③ places where native people can exist easily and safely
- ④ protected carefully to raise cattle and plant crops