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Unit 3 (ワード数 229 words) 制限時間 20 分 速読目標時間 2分17秒

Read the text and answer the questions below.

In 2012, the Japanese government proposed that UNESCO register the country's food culture. The proposal was accepted at a meeting of *the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee in December 2013, and “washoku” — traditional Japanese *cuisine — was added to UNESCO's *Intangible Cultural Heritage list, which also includes kabuki, noh and bunraku. An official said that the *panel valued Japanese people's spiritual tradition of respecting nature associated with washoku.

Japan faces a low *food self-sufficiency rate and the spread of Western eating habits. Social and economic structures are continually changing, and food products from around the world are widely available now. That is why many people are (1) concerned about whether communities can continue to pass down Japanese food traditions. The government hopes (2) the heritage listing will help younger generations recognize the value of such traditions.

It is also expected that washoku will gain global recognition, attract more foreign tourists and increase exports of Japan's agricultural products. The Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 caused concerns over the safety of the country's food products. The government is hoping that registration of washoku by UNESCO will help ease (3) them. (4) A chef expressed hope that more efforts will be made to promote Japanese foods. He is confident that more and more people in other countries will become fond of Japanese food, which tastes good and looks beautiful, to say nothing of its health benefits.

【注】 the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee ユネスコ政府間委員会 cuisine 料理 (法)

Intangible Cultural Heritage 無形文化財 panel 専門家集団, 委員会 food self-sufficiency rate 食料自給率

1 Apart from washoku, name three Japanese things registered in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Answer with the words in the text.

2 Which of the following has the closest meaning to (1)concerned?

- ① interested ② surprised ③ satisfied ④ worried ()

3 Which of the following has the closest meaning to (2)the heritage listing?

- ① the spread of Western eating habits
② changes in Japan's food culture
③ registration of washoku by UNESCO
④ the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee ()

4 What does (3)them mean? Answer in English.

5 Why does (4)A chef expect that washoku will become popular in other countries? Answer in Japanese.

6 Which two of the following are true of the article?

- ① Washoku was added to UNESCO's list in 2012.
② The committee members considered the basic idea behind washoku.
③ The Japanese government wants to buy more food from abroad.
④ Young people in Japan generally have bad manners at the table.
⑤ Some people in other countries doubt if Japanese food products are safe.
⑥ A chef says that people who always eat washoku look beautiful.

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