Princess Aiko’s coming-of-age ceremonies

１　Princess Aiko, the only child of Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, turned 20 on December 1st. (20 is the age of becoming an adult in Japan.)

２　“I thank all the people who supported me until today. I’d like to do my duty sincerely as a member of the adult imperial family, and support ①the imperial couple as much as possible,” she said.

３　On December 5th, she took part in the official coming-of-age ceremonies. She was awarded *the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Precious Crown\** at the Imperial Palace. \*勲一等宝冠章

４　Later in the day, Princess Aiko greeted her parents wearing a tiara which she borrowed from her aunt Sayako Kuroda, the Emperor's sister.　Princess Aiko decided not to make a new tiara in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

５　Princess Aiko is a student at Gakushuin University.　She majors in Japanese language and literature.

Her coming-of-age press conference has been postponed to March when the university is on spring break.

６　By the way, under the Japan’s law, only a man can be an emperor, but the present Emperor has only a daughter.  More than 80% of the public have no objections to a female monarch. “The LDP is a very conservative party. The politicians have no interest in changing the law to let a woman become empress,” said Hiromi Murakami, a political-science professor at Temple University.

coming-of-age成人 age年齢　　 adult大人　　　duty義務 　　sincerely真摯に 　　imperial family皇室

imperial皇室の(emperor形容詞) as～as ( )可能な限り　　Cordon綬章・飾りリボン　　the Order聖職

precious貴重な　 crown王冠　　　imperial palace皇居 （　　　　　　　　　　　　　）　to ～：～すると決める　　　in light of～：～を考慮して　　major in～：～を専攻する　　　literature文学 press conference記者会見　　　　postpone延期する

( )法律　　present現在の　　　the public一般市民 objection反対意見　　female女性　　monarch君主

LDP(Liberal Democratic Party)自民党　　conservative保守的な politician政治家　　　political-science政治学

Q1 When is Princess Aiko’s birthday?

Q2 Does she have any brothers or sisters?

Q3 下線①は、具体的には誰を指していますか。

Q4　　愛子さまは成人した日、どのような決意表明をされましたか。２段落の内容を参考にまとめましょう。

Q5 What was she awarded on December 5th?

Q6 Why didn’t she wear a new tiara?

Q7 What does she major in at Gakushuin University?

Q8 When will her coming-of-age press conference be held?

Q9 Is it possible for a woman to be a monarch under the Japan’s law?

Q10 What do Japanese people think about a female monarch?

Q11 According to the professor Hiromi Murakami, is the LDP interested in changing the law?

Q12 What do you think about changing a law and having a female monarch in Japan?

◆次の文を暗唱しましょう。

１）“I’d like to do my duty sincerely.”

２）Princess Aiko decided not to make a new tiara.

３）Under the Japan’s law, only a man can be an emperor.

１）「私は、お務めに真摯に向き合いたいと思います。」

　　　★I’d like to ～： “I want to ～”の丁寧な言い方

　　　★do one’s duty：義務を果たす

　　　★sincerely：誠意を込めて・真摯に

２）愛子さまは、新しいティアラを作らないことを決意しました。

　　　★decide to ～：～することを決意する・決める

　　　★decide not to ～：～しないと決意する・決める

３）日本の法律では、男性だけが天皇になることができます。

【今日の文法：関係代名詞】次の語句を並び替えて、日本語を表す英文にしましょう。

１）「私は、今日まで私を支えてくれた全ての人達に感謝しています。」（愛子さまの言葉）

all / I / me / supported / thank / the people / today / who / until / .

２）愛子さまは、叔母の黒田清子さんから借りたティアラをつけました。

　　her aunt / a tiara / Princess Aiko / from / wore / she / Sayako Kuroda / borrowed / which / .

3) 学習院大学は、1949年に創設された私立大学です。

　　　founded / which / private / Gakushuin University / in / was / university / is / 1949 / a / .

4) 「自民党は、法律を変更することに興味を持たない、保守的な（conservative）党です」

 conservative / interested / the LDP / is / the law / is / in / party / changing / not / which / a / .

5) 推古天皇は、女性天皇として即位した初の女性でした。　　　 ※即位する＝be動詞＋enthroned

as / the first / Emperor Suiko / an empress / was enthroned / was / woman / that / .

6) 皇居は、私が訪れてみたい場所です。

 the place / I / visit / the imperial palace / to / that / want / is / .

Which countries have royal families? 皇室・王室のある国は？（５つ以上書きましょう）