

第1問 次の文章は、互いに面識がなく遠く離れた場所に住む二人の間で、メッセージをリレーして届ける実験について書かれたものです。これを読んで次の問いに答えなさい。

Stanley Milgram masterminded¹⁾ another, much more famous experiment showing that people are all connected to one another by an average of “six degrees of separation” (your friend is one degree from you, your friend's friend is two degrees, and so on). Milgram's experiment, conducted in the 1960s, involved giving a few hundred people who lived in Nebraska a letter addressed to a businessman in Boston, more than a thousand miles away. They were asked to send the letter to somebody they knew personally. The goal was to get it to someone they thought would be more likely than they to²⁾ have a personal relationship with the Boston businessman. And the number of hops from person to person that the letter took to reach the target was tracked. On average, six hops were required.

（中略）

But some academics were skeptical³⁾. For instance, as far apart as Nebraska and Boston might be (both geographically and culturally), they were both inside the United States. So in 2002, physicist-turned-sociologist Duncan Watts and his colleagues Peter Dodds and Roby Muhamad decided to replicate⁴⁾ Milgram's experiment on a global scale using e-mail as the mode by which people communicated. They recruited more than ninety-eight thousand subjects (mostly from the United States) to send a message to "targets" around the world by forwarding the e-mail to someone each subject knew who might in turn know the targeted person. Each subject was randomly assigned one target from a list of eighteen possible targets in thirteen countries. The targets included a professor at an Ivy League university, an archival inspector in Estonia, a technology consultant in India, a policeman in Australia, and a veterinarian⁵⁾ in the Norwegian army—quite a motley crew⁶⁾. Once again—astonishingly—it took roughly six steps (on average) to get the e-mail to each targeted person, replicating Milgram's original estimate of just how small the world is.

（Connected: The Amazing Power of Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives by Nicholas Christakis, James Fowler, Harper Press, 2011. Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd (c) Nicholas Christakis, James Fowler 2011 より作成）

- 1) mastermind : 立案する 2) be likely to : ～する可能性が高い 3) skeptical: 懐疑的
4) replicate : 再現する 5) veterinarian : 獣医 6) motley crew : 寄せ集めの集団

問1 心理学者の Stanley Milgram の実験から何がわかったのか説明しなさい。

問2 下線部の結論に至った根拠を述べなさい。