

聊城大学 2011 年硕士研究生入学考试初试试题

考试科目	[616]基础英语	A 卷
适用专业	英语语言文学 外国语言学及应用语言学	

注意事项: 1、本试题共 5 道大题(共 115 个小题), 满分 150 分;
2、本卷为试题, 答题另有答题纸。答案一律写在答题纸上, 写在该试题纸上或草稿纸上无效。
3、答题必须用蓝、黑钢笔或圆珠笔书写, 其它均无效。
4、特殊要求携带的用具请注明, 没有特殊要求填“无” 无

1. There are thirty sentences in this section. Beneath each sentence there are four words or phrases marked A, B, C and D. Choose one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Mark your answers on your answer sheet. (30 points)

1. If you explained the situation to your solicitor, he _____ able to advise you much better than I can.
A. would be B. will have been C. was D. were

2. _____, Mr. Wells is scarcely in sympathy with the working class.
A. Although he is a socialist B. Even if he is a socialist
C. Being a socialist D. Since he is a socialist

3. His remarks were _____ annoy everybody at the meeting.
A. so as to B. such as to C. such to D. as much as to

4. James has just arrived, but I didn't know he _____ until yesterday.
A. will come B. was coming C. had been coming D. came

5. _____ conscious of my moral obligations as a citizen.
A. I was and always will be B. I have to be and always will be
C. I had been and always will be D. I have been and always will be

6. Because fuel supplies are finite and many people are wasteful, we will have to install _____ solar heating device in our home.
A. some type of B. some types of a
C. some type of a D. some types of

7. I went there in 1984, and that was the only occasion when I _____ the journey in exactly two days.
A. must take B. must have made C. was able to make D. could make

8. I know he failed his last test, but really he's _____ stupid.
A. something but B. anything but C. nothing but D. not but

9. Do you know Tim's brother? He is _____ than Tim.
A. much more sportsman B. more of a sportsman
C. more of sportsman D. more a sportsman

10. That was not the first time he _____ us. I think it's high time we _____ strong actions against him.
A. betrayed...take B. had betrayed...took
C. has betrayed...took D. has betrayed...take

11. What's the chance of _____ a general election this year?
A. there being B. there to be C. there be D. there going to be

12. The meeting was put off because we _____ a meeting without John.
A. objected having B. were objected to having
C. objected to have D. objected to having

13. _____ you _____ further problems with your printer, contact your dealer for advice.
A. If, had B. Have, had
C. Should, have D. In case, had

14. He asked me to lend him some money, which I agreed to do. _____ that he paid me back the following week.
A. on occasion B. on purpose C. on condition D. only if

15. Children who stay away from school do _____ for different reasons.
A. them B. / C. it D. theirs

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mould, is one of the most fascinating medieval figures. He has been described as the creature and embodiment of the age of chivalry. In those days the lion was much admired in heraldry, and more than one king sought to link himself with its repute. When Richard's contemporaries called him "Coeur de Lion" (The Lion heart), they paid a lasting compliment to the king of beasts. Little did the English people owe him for his services, and heavily did they pay for his adventures. He was in England only twice for a few short months in his ten years' reign; yet his memory has always English hearts, and seems to present throughout the centuries the pattern of the fighting man. In all deeds of prowess as well as in large schemes of war Richard shone. He was tall and delicately shaped strong in nerve and sinew, and most dexterous in arms. He rejoiced in personal combat, and regarded his opponents without malice as necessary agents in his fame. He loved war, not so much for the sake of glory or political ends, but as other men love science or poetry, for the excitement of the struggle and the glow of victory. By this his whole temperament was toned; and united with the highest qualities of the military commander, love of war called forth all the powers of his mind and body.

In spite of being a man of blood and violence, Richard was too impetuous to be either treacherous or habitually cruel. He was as ready to forgive as he was hasty to offend; he was open-handed and munificent to profusion; in war circumspect in design and skilful in execution; in political a child, lacking in subtlety and experience. His political alliances were formed upon his likes and dislikes; his political schemes had neither unity nor clearness of purpose. The advantages gained for him by military geoids were flung away through diplomatic ineptitude. When, on the journey to the East, Messina in Sicily was won by his arms he was easily persuaded to share with his polished, faithless ally, Philip Augustus, fruits of a victory which more wisely used might have foiled the French King's artful schemes. The rich and tenable acquisition of Cyprus was cast away even more easily than it was won. His life was one magnificent parade, which, when ended, left only an empty plain.

In 1199, when the difficulties of raising revenue for the endless war were at their height, good news was brought to King Richard. It was said there had been dug up near the castle of Chaluz, on the lands of one of his French vassals, a treasure of wonderful quality: a group of golden images of an emperor, his wife, sons and daughters, seated round a table, also of gold, had been unearthed. The King claimed this treasure as lord paramount. The lord of Chaluz resisted the demand, and the King laid siege to his small, weak castle. On the third day, as he rode daringly, near the wall. Confident in his hard-earned luck, a bolt from a crossbow struck him in the left shoulder by the neck. The wound, already deep, was aggravated by the necessary cutting out of the arrow-head. Gangrene set in, and Coeur de Lion knew that he must pay a soldier's debt. He prepared for death with fortitude and calm, and in accordance with the principles he had followed. He arranged his affairs; he divided his personal belongings among his friends or bequeathed them to charity. He declared John to be his heir, and made all present swear fealty to him. He ordered the archer who had shot the fatal bolt, and who was now a prisoner, to be brought before him. He pardoned him, and made him a gift of money. For seven years he had not confessed for fear of being compelled to be reconciled to Philip, but now he received the offices of the Church with sincere and exemplary piety, and died in the forty-second year of his age on April 6, 1199, worthy, by the consent of all men, to sit with King Arthur and Roland and other heroes of martial romance at some Eternal round Table, which we trust the Creator of the Universe in His comprehension will not have forgotten to provide. The archer was flayed alive.

110. "little did the English people own him for his service" (paragraph one) means that the English

- A. paid few taxes to him. B. gave him little respect.
C. received little protection from him. D. had no real cause to feel grateful to him.

111. To say that his wife was a "magnificent parade" (paragraph Two) implies that it was to some extent,

- A. spent chiefly at war. B. impressive and admirable. C. lived too pompously D. an empty show.

112. Richard's behavior as death approached showed.

- A. bravery and self-control. B. Wisdom and correctness C. Devotion and romance D. Chivalry and charity

113. The point of the last short paragraph is that Richard was

- A. cheated by his own successors B. determined to take revenge on his enemies.
C. more generous to his enemies than his successors. D. unable to influence the behavior of his successors.

114. Which of the following phrase best describes Richard as seen by the author?

- A. An aggressive king, too fond of war. B. A brave king with minor faults.
C. A competent but cunning soldier. D. A kind with great political skills.

115. The relationship between the first and second paragraphs is that

- A. each presents one side of the picture. B. the first generalizes the second gives examples.
C. the second is the logical result of the first. D. both present Richard's virtues and faults.

33. The cork oak tree has a layer of cork several inches thickness that can be stripped every ten years.
A B C D
34. Inflation, interest rates, and overall economic active can be governed by the United States Federal Reserve's decision to adjust the supply of money to the economy.
A B C D
35. Free radicals of oxygen, which common by-products of metabolic processes in the body, are capable of causing tissue damage.
A B C D
36. By 1830 the glass industry in the United States had become too well established that the country no longer needed to depend on imported glass.
A B C D
37. Free land, cheaply transportation, and powerfully persuasive railroad advertising all helped flood the western part of the United States with farmers in the nineteenth century.
A B C D
38. Coral formations have known as fringing reefs are located close to shore, separated from land only by shallow water.
A B C D
39. For a seagoing, cargo-carrying sailing vessels, the clipper ship was remarkably fast.
A B C D
40. Visibly only through large telescopes, Pluto has a yellowish color, which indicates that there is very little atmosphere.
A B C D
41. Diamond is the hardest known substance, so diamonds can be cut only by another diamonds.
A B C D
42. The International Monetary Fund was created in a effort to stabilize exchange rates without interfering with the healthy growth of trade.
A B C D
43. Butterflies and moths undergo complete metamorphosis, them changing from caterpillar to adult via one intermediate stage, the pupa.
A B C D
44. Thousands of meteorite hit Earth each year, but most fall into the sea or in remote areas and are never recovered.
A B C D
45. Alaska became the forty-ninth state in 1959, and Hawaii became the fiftieth state lately that year.
A B C D
46. A sponge feeds itself by drawing water through tiny pores on its surface, filtering out food particles, and then expel the water through larger vents.
A B C D
47. Toward the end of his life, John Singer Sargent returned to the painting of landscapes and the use of watercolors, of which he excelled.
A B C D
48. Pythons differ than most other snakes by having two well-developed lungs rather than a much smaller left lung or no left lung at all.
A B C D

49. Weighing among two to five kilograms in adults, the skin is the largest organ of the human body.

A B

C

D

50. Rodents dwelt in various habitat, some species being aquatic, some terrestrial.

A

B

C

D

3. Decide which of the choices given below would best complete the passage if inserted in the corresponding blanks. Mark the best choice for each blank on your answer sheet. (20 points)

Until I took Dr Offutt's class in DeMatha High school, I was an underachieving student, but I left that class (51) _____ never to underachieve again. He not only taught me to think, he convinced me, (52) _____ by example as words that it was my moral (53) _____ to do so and to serve others. (54) _____ of us could know how our relationship would (55) _____ over the years. When I came back to DeMatha to teach English, I worked for Dr Offutt, the department chair. My discussion with him was like graduate seminars in adolescent (56) _____, classroom management and school leadership. After several years, I was (57) _____ department chair, and our relationship (58) _____ again. I thought that it might be (59) _____ chairing the department, since all of my (60) _____ English teachers were (61) _____ there, but Dr Offutt supported me (62) _____. He knew when to give me advice (63) _____ curriculum, texts and personnel, and when to let me (64) _____ my own course. In 1997, I needed his (65) _____ about leaving DeMatha to become principal at another school. (66) _____ he had asked me to stay at DeMatha, I might have, (67) _____, he encouraged me to seize the opportunity. Five years ago, I became the principal of DeMatha. (68) _____, Dr Offutt was there for me, letting me know that I could (69) _____ him. I have learned from him that great teachers have an inexhaustible (70) _____ of lessons to teach.

51. A. concerned

B. worried

C. determined

D. decided

52. A. as much

B. much as

C. as such

D. such as

53. A. work

B. job

C. duty

D. obligation

54. A. Both

B. Neither

C. Either

D. Each

55. A. evolve

B. stay

C. remain

D. turn

56. A. process

B. procedure

C. development

D. movement

57. A. called

B. named

C. asked

D. invited

58. A. moved

B. altered

C. went

D. shifted

59. A. awkward

B. uneasy

C. unnatural

D. former

60. A. older

B. experienced

C. former

D. /

61. A. /

B. still

C. even

D. already

62. A. through

B. throughout

C. at the beginning

D. all the way

63. A. for

B. at

C. over

D. about

64. A. chart

B. head

C. describe

D. manage

65. A. opinion

B. request

C. permission

D. order

66. A. Even if

B. Although

C. If

D. When

67. A. Naturally

B. Instead

C. consequently

D. Still

68. A. Once again

B. Repeatedly

C. Unusually

D. Unexpectedly

69. A. count in

B. count down

C. count out

D. count on

70. A. stock

B. bank

C. wealth

D. store

4. General knowledge (30 points)

There are twenty questions in this section. Choose the best answer to each question and mark your answers on your answer sheet.

71. St. Lawrence and River Columbia are shared by both _____

A. America and Mexico

B. America and Canada

C. America and Cuba

D. America and Brazil

72. European settlement of Australia began in the late part of _____ when a British penal colony was established on the east coast of the continent.
A. the 16th century B. the 17th century C. the 18th century D. the 19th century
73. Which sport is supposed to be America's national sport and used to be call "American's favorable pastime"?
A. baseball B. basketball C. rugby D. cricket
74. The largest city in New Zealand is _____.
A. Auckland B. Wellington C. Christchurch D. Dunedin
75. After Adam Bede, _____ wrote The Mill on the Floss and Silas Marner in which moral problems are discussed and psychological analyses of characters are emphasized.
A. George Eliot B. Jane Austin C. George Dickens D. Charlotte Bronte
76. All of the following odes are written by John Keats EXCEPT _____.
A. Ode to Autumn B. Ode to a Nightingale C. Ode to a Skylark D. Ode on Melancholy
77. Of _____'s four famous comedies, the best known is Lady Windermere's Fan.
A. Oscar Wilde B. Richard Sheridan C. Bernard Shaw D. Somerset Maugham
78. If the air stream meets with no obstruction when a sound is pronounced, it is a(n) _____.
A. voiced consonant B. voiceless consonant C. vowel D. explosive
79. The internationally accepted system of phonetic transcription is _____.
A. I.P.A B. I.A.P.S C. I.S.S D. S.S.I.P
80. With the _____, Latin words were added into the vocabulary of the language spoken in Britain.
A. invasion of the Romans B. Christianization of Britain C. Scandinavian invasion D. Norman Conquest
81. _____ is the world's largest exporter of lamb and mutton.
A. New Zealand B. Australia C. Canada D. America
82. _____ is popularly known in the West as the Land Down Under.
A. Britain B. Canada C. Australia D. New Zealand
83. Shakespeare wrote all the following works EXCEPT _____.
A. Hamlet B. King Lear C. Othello D. Wuthering Heights
84. Mark Twain is most famous for _____.
A. poems B. Novels C. Dramas D. science fiction
85. _____ was NOT written by Charles Dickens.
A. David Copperfield B. Oliver Twist C. Sons and Lovers D. A Tale of Two Cities
86. British prime minister normally serves a _____ term.
A. two-year B. five-year C. four-year D. six-year
87. _____ is sometimes called the birthplace of America.
A. New England B. the South C. the West D. the Midwest
88. Semantics is the study of _____.
A. linguistic competence B. language functions C. meanings D. social behavior
89. Which of the following is not generally believed to be area of linguistics?
A. syntax B. semantics C. phonology D. etiology
90. TG grammar was advanced by _____.
A. Searle B. Whorf C. Halliday D. Noam Chomsky

5. In this section there are 5 passages followed by questions or unfinished statements, each with four suggested answers marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that you think is the best answer. Mark your answers on your answer sheet. (50 points)

TEXT A

I am afraid to sleep. I have been afraid to sleep for the last few weeks. I am so tired that, finally, I do sleep, but only for a few minutes. It is not a bad dream that wakes me; it is the reality I took with me into sleep. I try to

think of something else.

Immediately the woman in the marketplace comes into my mind. I was on my way to dinner last night when I saw her. She was selling skirts. She moved with the same ease and loveliness I often saw in the women of Laos. Her long black hair was as shiny as the black silk of the skirts she was selling. In her hair, she wore three silk ribbons, blue, green, and white. They reminded me of my childhood and how my girlfriends and I used to spend hours braiding ribbons into our hair.

I don't know the word for "ribbons", so I put my hand to my own hair and, with three fingers against my head, I looked at her ribbons and said "Beautiful." She lowered her eyes and said nothing. I wasn't sure if she understood me (I don't speak Laotian very well).

I looked back down at the skirts. They had designs in them: squares and triangles and circles of pink and green silk. They were very pretty. I decided to buy one of those skirts, and I began to bargain with her over the price. It is the custom to bargain in Asia. In Laos bargaining is done in soft voices and easy moves with the sort of quiet peacefulness.

She smiled, more with her eyes than with her lips. She was pleased by the few words I was able to say in her language, although they were mostly numbers, and she saw that I understood something about the soft playfulness of bargaining. We shook our heads in disagreement over the price; then, immediately, we made another offer and then another shake of the head. She was so pleased that unexpectedly, she accepted the last offer I made. But it was too soon. The price was too low. She was being too generous and wouldn't make enough money. I moved quickly and picked up two more skirts and paid for all three at the price set; that way I was able to pay her three times as much before she had a chance to lower the price for the larger purchase. She smiled openly then, and, for the first time in months, my spirit lifted. I almost felt happy. The feeling stayed with me while she wrapped the skirts in a newspaper and handed them to me. When I left, though, the feeling left, too. It was as though it stayed behind in marketplace. I left tears in my throat. I wanted to cry. I didn't, of course.

I have learned to defend myself against what is hard: without knowing it, I have also learned to defend myself against what is soft and what should be easy. I get up, light a candle and want to look at the skirts. They are still in the newspaper that the woman wrapped them in. I remove the paper, and raise the skirts up to look at them again before I pack them. Something falls to floor. I reach down and feel something cool in my hand. I move close to the candlelight to see what I have. There are five long silk ribbons in my hand, all different colors. The woman in the marketplace! She has given these ribbons to me!

There is no defense against a generous spirit, and this time I cry, and very hard, as if I could make up for all the months that I didn't cry.

91. The writer assumed that the woman accepted the last offer mainly because woman

- A. thought that the last offer was reasonable. B. thought she could still make much money.
C. was glad that the writer knew their way of bargaining. D. was tired of bargaining with the writer any more.

92. Why did the writer finally decide to buy three skirts?

- A. The skirts were cheap and pretty. B. She liked the patterns on the skirts.
C. She wanted to do something as compensation. D. She was fed up with further bargaining with the woman.

93. When did the writer left the marketplace, she wanted to cry, but did not because

- A. she had learned to stay cool and unfeeling. B. she was afraid of crying in public.
C. she had learned to face difficulties bravely. D. she had to show in public that she was strong.

94. Why did the writer cry eventually when she looked at the skirts again?

- A. she suddenly felt very sad. B. she liked the ribbons so much.
C. she was overcome by emotion. D. she felt sorry for the woman.

TEXT B

The kids are hanging out. I pass small bands of students; in my way to work these mornings. They have become a familiar part of the summer landscape.

These kids are not old enough for jobs. Nor are they rich enough for camp. They are school children without school. The calendar called the school year ran out on them a few weeks ago. Once supervised by teachers and principals, they now appear to be "self care".

Passing them is like passing through a time zone. For much of our history, after all, Americans arranged the school year around the needs of work and family. In 19th-century cities, schools were open seven or eight hours a day, 11 months a year. In rural America, the year was arranged around the growing season. Now, only 3 percent of families follow the agricultural model, but nearly all schools are scheduled as if our children went home early to milk the cows and took months off to work the crops. Now, three-quarters of the mothers of school-age children work, but the calendar is written as if they were home waiting for the school bus.

The six-hour day, the 180-day school year is regarded as something holy. But when parents work an eight-hour day and a 240-day year, it means something different. It means that many kids go home to empty houses. It means that, in the summer, they hang out. "We have a huge mismatch between the school calendar and realities of family life," says Dr. Ernest Boyer, head of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Boyer is one of many who believe that a radical revision of the school calendar is inevitable. "School, whether we like it or not, is educational. It always has been."

His is not a popular idea. School is routinely burdened with the job of solving all our social problems. Can they be asked to meet the needs of our work and family lives? It may be easier to promote a longer school year on its educational merits and, indeed, the educational case is compelling. Despite the complaints and studies about our kids' lack of learning, the United State still has a shorter school year than any industrial nation. In most of Europe, the school year is 220 days. In Japan, it is 240 days long. While classroom time alone doesn't produce a well-educated child, learning takes time and more learning takes more time. The long summers of forgetting take a toll. The opposition to a longer school year comes from families that want to and can provide other experiences for their children. It comes from teachers. It comes from tradition and surely from kids. But the most important part of the conflict has been over the money.

95. Which of the following is an opinion of the author's?

- A. "The kids are hanging out." B. "They are school children without school."
- C. "These kids are not old enough for jobs."
- D. "The calendar called the school year ran out on them a few weeks ago."

96. The current American school calendar was developed in the 19th century according to

- A. the growing season on nation's form. B. the labor demands of the industrial age.
- C. teachers' demands for more vacation time. D. parents' demands for other experiences for their kids.

97. The author thinks that the current school calendar

- A. is still valid. B. is out of date. C. cannot be revised. D. cannot be defended.

98. Why was Dr. Boy's idea unpopular?

- A. He argues for the role of school in solving social problems. B. He supports the current school calendar.
- C. He thinks that school year and family life should be considered separately.
- D. He strongly believes in the educational role of school.

99. "The long summers of forgetting take a toll" in the last paragraph but one means that

- A. long summer vacation slows down the progress of learning.
- B. long summer vacation has been abandoned in Europe.
- C. long summers result in less learning time. D. long summers are a result of tradition.

100. The main purpose of the passage is

- A. to describe how American children spend their summer.
- B. to explain the needs of the modern working families.
- C. to discuss the problems of the current school calendar.
- D. to persuade parents to stay at home to look after their kids.

TEXT C

The Welsh language has always been the ultimate marker of Welsh identity, but a generation ago it looked as if Welsh would go the way of Manx, once widely spoken on the isle of Man but now extinct. However, government financing and central planning have helped reverse the decline of Welsh. Road signs and official public documents are written in both Welsh and English, and schoolchildren are required to learn both languages. Welsh is now one of the most successful of Europe's regional languages, spoken by more than a half-million of the country's three million people. The revival of the language, particularly among young people, is part of a resurgence of national identity sweeping through this small, proud nation. Last month Wales marked the second anniversary of the opening of the National Assembly, the first parliament to be convened here since 1404. The idea behind devolution was to restore the balance within the union of nations making up the United Kingdom. With most of the people and wealth, England has always had bragging rights. The partial transfer of legislative powers from Westminster, implemented by Tony Blair, was designed to give the other members of the club-Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales-a bigger say and to counter centrifugal forces that seemed to threaten the very idea of the union.

The Welsh showed little enthusiasm for devolution. Whereas the Scots voted overwhelmingly for a parliament, the vote for a Welsh assembly scraped through by less than one percent on a turnout of less than 25 percent. Its powers were proportionately limited. The Assembly can decide how money from Westminster or the European Union is spent. It cannot, unlike its counterpart in Edinburgh, enact laws. But now that it is here, the Welsh are growing to like their Assembly. Many people would like it to have more powers. Its importance as figurehead will grow with the opening in 2003, of a new debating chamber, one of many new buildings that are transforming Cardiff from a decaying seaport into a Baltimore-style waterfront city. Meanwhile a grant of nearly two million dollars from the European Union will tackle poverty. Wales is one of the poorest regions in Western Europe- only Spain, Portugal, and Greece have a lower standard of living.

Newspapers and magazines are filled with stories about great Welsh men and women, boosting self-esteem. To familiar faces such as Dylan Thomas and Richard Burton have been added new icons such as Catherine Zeta-Jones, the movie star, and Bryn Terfel, the opera singer. Indigenous foods like salt marsh lamb are in vogue. And Wales now boasts a national airline. Awyr Cymru, Cymru, which means "land of compatriots," is the Welsh name for Wales. The red dragon, the nation's symbol since the time of King Arthur, is everywhere- on T-shirts, rugby jerseys and even cell phone covers.

"Until very recent times most Welsh people had this feeling of being second-class citizens," said Dyfan Jones, an 18-year-old student. It was a warm summer night, and I was sitting on the grass with a group of youngpeople in Llanelli, an industrial town in the south, outside the rock music venue of the National Eisteddfod, Wales's annual cultural festival. The disused factory in front of us echoed to the sounds of new Welsh bands.

"There was almost a genetic tendency for lack of confidence," Dyfan continued. Equally comfortable in his Welshness as in his membership in the English-speaking, global youth culture and the new federal Europe, Dyfan, like the rest of his generation, is growing up with a sense of possibility unimaginable ten years ago. "We used to think, We can't do anything, we're only Welsh. Now I think that's changing."

101. According to the passage, devolution was mainly meant to

- A. maintain the present status among the nations. B. reduce legislative powers of England.
C. create a better state of equality among the nations. D. grant more say to all the nations in the union.

102. The word "centrifugal" in the second paragraph means

- A. separatist. B. conventional. C. feudal. D. political

103. Wales is different from Scotland in all the following aspects EXCEPT

- A. people's desire for devolution. B. locals' turnout for the voting.
C. powers of the legislative body. D. status of the national language.

104. Which of the following is NOT cited as an example of the resurgence of Welsh national identity

- A. Welsh has witnessed a revival as a national language.
- B. Poverty-relief funds have come from the European Union.
- C. A Welsh national airline is currently in operation.
- D. The national symbol has become a familiar sight.

105. According to Dyfan Jones what has changed is

- A. people's mentality.
- B. pop culture.
- C. town's appearance.
- D. possibilities for the people.

TEXT D

Getting to the heart of Kuwaiti democracy seems hilariously easy. Armed only with a dog-eared NEWSWEEK ID, I ambled through the gates of the National Assembly last week. Unscanned, unsearched, my satchel could easily have held the odd grenade or an anthrax-stuffed lunchbox. The only person who stopped me was a guard who grinned and invited me to take a swig of orange juice from his plastic bottle.

Were I a Kuwaiti woman wielding a ballot, I would have been a clearer and more present danger. That very day Parliament blocked a bill giving women the vote: 29 M.P.s voted in favor and 29 against, with two abstentions. Unable to decide whether the bill had passed or not, the government scheduled another vote in two weeks- too late for women to register for June's municipal elections. The next such elections aren't until 2009. Inside the elegant, marbled Parliament itself, a sea of mustachioed men in white robes sat in green seats, debating furiously. The ruling emir has pushed for women's political rights for years. Ironically, the democratically elected legislature has thwarted him. Traditionalists and tribal leaders are opposed. Liberals fret, too, that Islamists will let their multiple wives vote, swelling conservative ranks. "When I came to Parliament today, people who voted yes didn't even shake hands with me," said one Shia cleric. "Why can't we respect each other and work together?"

Why not indeed? By Gulf standards, Kuwait is a democratic superstar. Its citizens enjoy free speech (as long as they don't insult their emir, naturally) and boast a Parliament that can actually pass laws. Unlike their Saudi sisters, Kuwaiti women drive, work and travel freely. They run multibillion-dollar businesses and serve as ambassadors. Their academic success is such that colleges have actually lowered the grades required for make students to get into medical and engineering courses. Even then, 70 percent of university students are females.

In Kuwait, the Western obsession with the higab finds its equivalent. At a fancy party for NEWSWEEK's Arabic edition, some Kuwaiti women wore them. Others opted for tight, spangled, sheer little numbers in peacock blue or parrot orange. For the party's entertainment, Nancy Ajram, the Arab world's answer to Britney Spears, sang passionate songs of love in a white mini-dress. She couldn't dance for us, alas, since shaking one's body onstage is illegal in Kuwait. That didn't stop whole tables of men from raising their camera-enabled mobile phones and clicking her picture. You'd think not being able to vote or dance in public would anger Kuwait's younger generation of women. To find out, I headed to the malls-Kuwait's archipelago of civic freedom. Eager to duck strict parents and the social taboos of dating in public young Kuwaitis have taken to cafes, beaming flirtatious infrared e-mails to one another on their cell photos. At Starbucks in the glittering Al Sharq Mall, I found only tables of men, puffing cigarettes and grumbling about the service. At Pizza Hut, I thought I'd got an answer after encountering a young woman who looked every inch the modern suffragette—drainpipe jeans, strappy sliver high-heeled sandals and a higab studded with purple rhinestones. But, no, Miriam Al-Enizi, 20, studying business administration at Kuwait University, doesn't think women need the vote. "Men are better at politics than women," she explained, adding that women in Kuwait already have everything they need. Welcome to democracy, Kuwait style.

106. According to the passage, which of the following groups of people might be viewed as being dangerous by the guards?

- A. Foreign tourists.
- B. Women protestors.
- C. Foreign journalists.
- D. Members of the National Assembly.

107. The bill giving women the vote did not manage to pass because

- A. Different interest groups held different concerns.
- B. Liberals did not reach consensus among themselves.
- C. Parliament was controlled by traditionalists.
- D. Parliament members were all conservatives.

108. What is the role of the 4th and 5th paragraphs in the development of the topic?

- A. To show how Kuwaiti women enjoy themselves.
- B. To describe how women work and study in Kuwait.
- C. To provide a contrast to the preceding paragraphs.
- D. To provide a contrast to the preceding paragraphs.

109. Which of the following is NOT true about young Kuwaiti women?

- A. They seem to be quite contented.
- B. They go in for Western fashions.
- C. They desire more than modern necessities.
- D. They favor the use of hi-tech products.

TEXT E

Richard, King of England from 1189 to 1199, with all his characteristic virtues and faults cast in a heroic