

2000年研究生入学考试试卷

学科专业 英语语言文学

研究方向 _____

考试科目 基础英语

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- 说明: 1.命题时请按有关说明填写清楚、完整;
2.命题时试题不得超过周围边框;
3.考生答题时一律写在答题册上, 否则造成错批、漏批等后果自负;
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5.
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Examination on Reading and Writing

I. Read the following article and do the test on comprehension:

OVERTIME FOR WIVES

There is a certain quaintness, from a woman's point of view, in the insistent modern demand for a shorter working day. The daily worker in the cities has long luxuriated in a toiling allowance of eight hours, and celebrates the fact yearly by making solemn procession and oblation, in which festal proceedings his wife takes a due and submissive part. Now that the march of the centuries is bringing still further enlightenment, a Labor conference has passed a resolution in favour of reducing the hours of prescribed work to six, while sundry members of the New South Wales

Legislature have expressed with some definiteness the opinion that four hours of work constitute as much as should be expected in any one day from any one man. While admitting that many Labor members can accomplish sufficient in four hours to keep their constituents ruminating for as many months, the question naturally arises as to where woman comes in.

*Man works till set of sun,
But woman's work is never done.*

sang some observant sage in days before man had agitated for a curtailment of his toll of labour. But it is not recorded that at any time has Woman seriously demanded a lessening of the impost laid upon her by nature and custom - task mistresses who insist to the full upon the handicap of sex. The progress of civilization brings no change to her position as bearer of the innumerable small burdens of life. Throughout the ages she has worked overtime, and so will probably continue to work; and not even the most excitable trade union worries about it.

The time table of a woman's daily occupations would probably surprise even her husband if she found leisure to record her operations in the domestic field for a week. Hers may be the life of little things; but it is none the less strenuous, and the demands it makes upon her energy and her organizing powers are often out of all proportion to her physical fitness. A mother of a family who is without household aid performs perpetually the task of Sisyphus - a task of which the constant monotony robs her of that sense of achievement which is the finest reward of labour. Moreover, she works with the knowledge that, toil she ever so strenuously, she will not accomplish more than a proportion of the duties that straitly beset her. There will always be things ahead to do, and many of them will always remain ahead, waiting for the day when the housemother shall have a little more time. The pride of work is some recompense. But its quality may be dulled by the incessant conviction of incomplete accomplishment.

It is not to be denied that the man of the house has troubles of his own. His is the constant responsibility for keeping things going, with the fear that untoward circumstance may rob him of his fitness or of his opportunities. But in the majority of cases the actual cares of his wage earning are limited to his hours of labour. He goes to his work in the morning well fed and cared for; he returns in the evening to comfort, rightfully entitled to his meal, his pipe and slippers, his easy chair and paper. He is apt to consider himself aggrieved should the baby be tactless enough to break across his calm with ill-considered wails. He has definitely put aside work until next day.

To the average housemother a restful evening is almost an unknown luxury. The work of her day culminates towards night, when the Man and the children come home to her, to be fed and

tended. There are a hundred little services to be performed, a hundred things to remember and to watch for. There are babies of all ages, tired like herself, to be put to bed; nor must she neglect necessary preparations for next day, since she probably realizes the advantage of beginning each morning with a cash balance in hand of over-night achievement. If she be prudent, she realizes the importance of meeting the Man with a smiling face, and of lending an intelligent ear to his conversation - even though that ear be distracted by the sound of Tommy and Gertie in deadly conflict, or of the over-boiling of some cherished preparation on the stove. Should the latter calamity happen, she loses part of her dinner. She has the annoyance and disappointment of wasted work, and she has the consequent task of cleaning the stove. The Man merely loses part of his dinner. Yet it is on the Man's account, and not her own, that she grieves.

That a wife should work overtime is so ordinary a matter that so to phrase her habitual custom would probably excite ribald masculine mirth. Not at all unusual is the type of man who expresses more or less mild amazement at his wife's occupations. He is prone to recall with unction the prodigies performed by his grandmother, remarking, 'I can't think what on earth keeps you busy all day in a little house like this.' No more valuable lesson can be given him than the necessity of carrying on the household work himself, should his wife be suddenly disabled. Without managing to accomplish one-half of her daily routine, he will find himself kept extremely busy, and possibly suffering no small amount of fatigue and anxiety. He will learn how completely the comfort and well-being of the home depend upon the exertions of one pair of hands and one watchful mind, and how much contrivance is needed to make the money he earns cover the multitude of household requirements. Beyond these attainments, he will learn how rare and difficult a thing it is to preserve to the very end of the working day the serenity and cheerfulness that make a house into a home. For man takes the big things of life, and lets the little, worrying ones go past him; but woman's very existence is compact of details - none of tremendous import, but each a thing that must be remembered. To comprehend her point of view is a very healthful thing for the average man.

It is ~~the~~ lack of comprehension that is apt to make the wife's overtime a labour of weariness. Work itself is largely a matter of course to the house-mother, and she would be more than faintly surprised if some beneficent fairy accomplished for her the multitude of daily chores that make up her existence. She knows that in no case can she finish her day early. No branch of labour entails heavier and longer hours than dairy farming, and the men who make a living with the aid of the cow are loud in their self-pity. It is 'a dog's life', say the men; and, without doubt, it leaves no time for any of the softness of existence. But, despite the fact that it is now almost impossible to obtain men for dairying, the burden

of it lies heaviest upon the women - since the men must be fed before they begin work in the dawn, the day is never long enough for its tasks, upon a farm, and long after the men come in at night, and have settled peacefully to their pipes, the women are still at work washing up after the evening meal and preparing for the morning. It is overtime, of course, but a woman's overtime is not a thing that really matters in the scheme of existence in farming, or, indeed, in many walks of life. It is only when definite payment is made for a thing that it assumes importance.

Not that women grumble at male misunderstanding. The amount of their work and its value are not quantities that they themselves are wont to estimate in words. They merely continue to work; for home and children mean to them something that no man can quite estimate, and sacrifices for home and children do not count as loss. Nevertheless, the strain is not a little thing; nor does it ever slacken. It is more wearing than man's work for its keynote is monotony. Overtime is necessary - there are branches of work that never begin until the husband has finished his own day's work; much that cannot be attempted until the children are out of the way, safely tucked into bed. Physical fitness or unfitness are details that must to a great extent be disregarded. Yet, being part of a woman's life contract, work and overtime are ordinary matters, to be dealt with in a spirit of decent cheerfulness. The ability to maintain this depends largely upon her wages - and more particularly upon the overtime wages.

The fact that wives are not paid in cash by no means infers that as labourers they are not worthy of their hire: The payment that really counts with them is not cash, but kindness; the guerdon of unfailing appreciation of their efforts. Rewards more tangible - the little unexpected gift, the thoughtfully planned outing - may be out of the question in cases where income has all that it can do to keep pace with expenditure. But even poverty is no bar to the one thing that makes work worth while and takes the sting out of fatigue or failure. Recognition of what the daily struggle means to a woman, coming from the man for whose sake the struggle is undertaken, makes the hardest task easy; while the wife who works in the knowledge that her husband fails to notice the unselfish service that makes her life, toils under a handicap compared with which all others seem as nothing. The one is a partner - the other a servant; and only in partnership are work and overtime undertaken in the spirit that makes them mere details in the big scheme of existence.

- (1) Interpret or explain the underlined part of each of the following sentences and clauses : (30 %)
1. ∴∴ sang some observant sage in days before man had agitated for a curtailment of his toll of labour.
 2. ... and the demands it makes upon her energy and her organizing powers are often out of all proportion to her physical fitness.
 3. ... ~~not must~~ she neglect necessary preparations for next day, since she probably realizes the advantage of beginning each morning with a cash balance in hand of over-night achievement.
 4. —even though that ear be distracted by the sound of Tommy and Gertie in deadly conflict, or of the over-boiling of some cherished preparation on the stove.
 5. For man takes the big things of life, and lets the little, worrying ones go past him.
 6. No branch of labour entails heavier and longer hours than dairy farming.
 7. It is only when definite payment is made for a thing that it assumes importance.
 8. It is more wearing than man's work for its keynote is monotony.
 9. Rewards more tangible... may be out of the question in case where income has all that it can do to keep pace with expenditure.
 10. But even poverty is no bar to the one thing that makes work worth while and takes the sting out of fatigue or failure.

(2) Answer the following questions: (20 %)

1. Who are the task mistresses who insist to the full upon the handicap of sex according to the author?
2. Can a mother of a family who is without household aid get some recompense for her work? Why not?
3. What lesson will the man learn if he is forced to do all the house-work himself?
4. What really counts with wives as the payment?

II Write a composition of about 300 words on the topic
" On Reform of English Teaching in Universities" (50%)