

淡江大學九十三年學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：美國研究所

科目：英文寫作

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Part A: Reading Comprehension Skills (50 pts total)

Instructions: READ THE ARTICLE ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE. BELOW ARE FIVE QUESTIONS BASED ON THAT ARTICLE. USING GOOD ENGLISH, ANSWER ALL FIVE QUESTIONS FULLY & COMPLETELY. ALTHOUGH THIS PART EXAMINES YOUR COMPREHENSION ABILITY, MAKE SURE YOU WRITE INTELLIGIBLY ALONG WITH PROPER SPELLING (FAILURE TO DO SO WILL AFFECT YOUR SCORE).

1. Who does the author cite when he mentions that nations have no permanent allies, only permanent interests? (5 pts)
2. What does the author mean when he says that the "grand alliances are dead"? Explain. (15 pts)
3. What is the author's point, or purpose, in mentioning Nazism & Communism in the article? Explain. (10 pts)
4. What specifically does the author mean by his statement, "While America spends blood and treasure in faraway places ... the rest of the world goes about its business"? Explain, in detail. (15 pts)
5. How many specific countries does the author mention in this article? Please list the names of all of those countries. (5 pts)

Part B: Composition and Writing Skills (50 pts total)

Instructions: THIS PART EXAMINES YOUR ABILITY TO PUT YOUR THOUGHTS & IDEAS INTO WRITING AND TO WRITE AND DEVELOP SENTENCES AND PARAGRAPHS IN PROPER ENGLISH. IT IS AN EVALUATION OF YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE WITH MEANING AND PURPOSE AS WELL AS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES AND STRUCTURE OF THE LANGUAGE. IN THIS PART, THE FOLLOWING FIVE AREAS WILL DETERMINE YOUR SCORE: 1) VOCABULARY AND THE USAGE OF WORDS; 2) SPELLING; 3) GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX; 4) LOGIC AND THE SEQUENCING OF YOUR IDEAS; AND 5) CONTENT AND SUBSTANCE.

Write a lengthy, well-developed essay in good English explaining the **Importance & Value of Freedom of Speech**. Before you begin to write, think broadly & clearly about the full benefits of freedom of speech. (50 pts)

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ESSAY

Charles Krauthammer

WITHIN DAYS AFTER SADDAM'S CAPTURE, FRANCE, Germany and Russia announced their willingness to consider relieving Iraq's crushing debt burden. This was no burst of conscience about unrepayable billions lent Saddam to squander on grotesque palaces and grotesque weapons. This was the wind shifting America's way in Iraq—and the neutrals adjusting course accordingly.

But this is not the beginning of a great reconciliation. These countries were no help before the war, during the war or after the war. France tried to rally the world to stop the U.S. from deposing Saddam. Russia was sending night-vision goggles to Saddam. Not one lifted a finger to help the postwar reconstruction.

Some Americans are bitter about this, others merely confused. Democrats think it's the fault of the U.S. They charge Bush with mishandling relations with America's allies. Theirs is an etymological problem. Events have overtaken vocabulary. These countries are not U.S. allies. It is sheer laziness now that counts France and Germany as old allies, sheer naïveté that counts Russia as a new one.

It should not surprise the U.S. Countries have different interests. For a half-century, anticommunism papered over those differences, but communism is gone. Europe lives by Lord Palmerston's axiom: nations have no permanent allies, only permanent interests. Alliance with America is no longer a permanent interest. The postwar alliance that once structured and indeed defined the world is dead. It died in 2003.

To be sure, there are some countries that see their ultimate security as dependent upon the international order maintained by the U.S. These are not insignificant countries, and over time they may become the kernel of an entirely new alliance system. They include Anglo-Saxons (Britain, Australia) and a few Europeans (Italy, Spain, Poland, other newly liberated East European countries). They understand that the sinews of stability—free commerce, open sea lanes, regional balances of power, nonproliferation, deterrence—are provided overwhelmingly by the American colossus. They understand that without it, the world collapses into chaos and worse. They believe in the American umbrella and are committed to helping the umbrella holder.

As for the rest, they are content to leave the U.S. out there twisting in the wind. They do not wish America destroyed—they are not crazy—but they are not unhappy to see the U.S. distracted, diminished and occasionally defeated.

When the Iraq war began, the French Foreign Minister refused a reporter's question as to which side he wanted to win. This was not a mere expression of pique. When the existential enemy was Nazism or communism, the world rallied to the American protector. But Arab-Islamic radicalism is different. Its hatreds are wide, but its strategic focus is America. Its monument is ground zero. Ground zero is not in Paris.

The neutrals know that perhaps in the long run they too will be threatened. For now, however, they are quite content to see the U.S. carry the fight against the new barbarians. The U.S. was attacked; it will carry the fight regardless.

For much of the world, the war on terrorism offers not just a free ride but a strategic bonus: American diminishment. France has unabashedly declared that American dominance is intolerable and the world should by right be not unipolar but multipolar. Much of the rest of the world believes it but does not have France's nerve to say it.

The hard fact is that war on many fronts is consuming and containing American power. While America spends blood and treasure in faraway places like Baghdad, China builds the economic and military super-

power of the future. Europe knits itself into another continental colossus. And the rest of the world goes about its business. Meanwhile, the Americans take on the axis of evil one by one.

In the 1990s, containment of America took a different form. With the acquiescence of a Democratic Administration uncomfortable with American power, silk ropes were fashioned to tie down Gulliver: a myriad of treaties, protocols and prohibitions on everything from carbon emissions to land mines to nuclear testing. With the advent of the Bush Administration, contemptuous of these restraints, that would no longer work. Enter al-Qaeda.

The neutrals may wax poetic about America's sins, but they do not hate the U.S. The problem is not emotion, but calculation. At root, it is a matter of interests. Interests diverge. No use walling about it. The grand alliances are dead. With a few trusted friends, America must carry on alone.