Woman, 95, to be oldest college graduate

By Carl Manning, Associated Press

Sitting on the front row in her college classes carefully (1) notes, Nola Ochs is just as likely to answer questions (2) to ask them. That's not the only thing distinguishing her (3) fellow students at Fort Hays State University. She's 95, and when she (4) May 12, she'll be what is (5) to be the world's oldest person to be awarded a college degree. The record Ochs will break, according to Guinness World Records, belongs to Mozzarella Richardson, who at age 90 in 2004 (6) a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Ochs started (7) classes at Dodge City Community College after her husband of 39 years, Vernon, died in 1972. A class here and there (8) the years, and she was close (9) having enough hours for an undergraduate degree. Last fall, Ochs moved the 100 miles from her farm southwest of Jetmore to an apartment on campus to complete the final 30 hours to get a general studies degree with an emphasis (10) history.

Todd Leahy, history department chairman, wondered at first if Ochs could keep up (11) the other students. After her second week, all doubts were (12), as he (13) she could provide tidbits of history.

An added (14) for Ochs is that her 21-year-old granddaughter, Alexandra Ochs, will graduate with her. "How many people my age have a chance to hang (15) with their grandmothers? She's really accepted by the other students," Alexandra said. "They enjoy her, but probably not as much as I do."

I. Structure and usage: Choose the best word to complete the article above. 45%

1. (a. takes  b. putting  c. taking  d. puts)  
2. (a. with  b. and  c. but  d. as)  
3. (a. of  b. from  c. to  d. with)  
4. (a. graduates  b. will graduate  c. graduated  d. was graduated)  
5. (a. believe  b. believed  c. believing  d. believes)  
6. (a. receives  b. receiving  c. received  d. will receive)  
7. (a. taking  b. has  c. have  d. by)  
8. (a. by  b. to  c. on  d. over)  
9. (a. with  b. from  c. to  d. by)  
10. (a. on  b. in  c. of  d. around)  
11. (a. from  b. with  c. to  d. next to)  
12. (a. going  b. here  c. gone  d. there)  
13. (a. discovered  b. recovered  c. uncovered  d. under-covered)  
14. (a. sorrow  b. mystery  c. fortune  d. joy)  
15. (a. on  b. out  c. in  d. over)
II. Vocabulary. Choose the best definition for each word. 18%

16. To distinguish in line 2 means to
   (a. tear apart    b. blend in    c. belong to    d. tell the difference).

17. The word “awarded” in line 4 can be replaced with
   (a. gotten    b. given    c. received    d. rewarded)

18. In paragraph 2, line 4, the final 30 “hours” means her
   (a. credits    b. experience    c. time spent in class    d. working time)

19. To complete means to (a. start    b. finish    c. serve    d. comply)

20. In paragraph 3, line 2, the word “tidbits” probably means
   (a. huge chunks    b. small parts    c. unnecessary things    d. important questions)

21. You can get an undergraduate degree after you graduate from
   (a. high school    b. 30 hours    c. 100 miles    d. college)

III. Reading comprehension. 27%

22. Nola Ochs now studies at (a. Guinness World Records    b. the University of Oklahoma
   c. Dodge City Community College    d. Fort Hays State University)

23. Who holds the record of the oldest person who received a college degree for now?

24. What is Nola Ochs’ major subject?
   (a. history    b. journalism    c. World Records    d. department chairman)

25. In class, Ochs likes to
   (a. take notes    b. answer questions    c. ask questions    d. all of the above)

26. Todd Leany is Nola Ochs’ (a. classmate    b. teacher    c. boss    d. husband)


28. Before last fall, Ochs lived
   (a. on campus    b. on a farm    c. in a State University    d. in a Community College)

29. Which of the following about Nola Ochs is NOT true?
   (a. She is popular at school    b. Her granddaughter likes to be with her
   c. She can hardly keep up at school    d. She loves history)

30. Nola Ochs used to be Vernon’s (a. teacher    b. student    c. husband    d. wife).

IV. Short writing: In 5-7 sentences. Briefly explain why you want to pursue a graduate degree.

Why do you choose Tajen(大仁)? What is your plan for the future? 10%