

### What clothes do you like to wear?

Kurar House, or Beit Al Kurar, is a peaceful place where we find the women who are working to keep the embroidery craft *kurar* alive.

The women use *zari*, a fine thread which comes in gold and silver, to create a long embroidered strip along the edges of garments and fabric. **Centuries** ago, women did *kurar* in their homes, creating the decoration for a *thob*, a woman's traditional dress. In the past, women used to **wear** the *thob* for **formal** occasions like weddings and religious ceremonies. Over time, **casual** clothes replaced formal clothes. For example, young ladies today often prefer to wear more **practical** clothes like denim **jeans** and a **sweatshirt**, and they wear a *thob* mainly when they want to **dress up** during special traditional celebrations.

Like clothes, shoes have also changed over time. You may prefer to wear trainers, but in the past, both men and women wore shoes with high **heels**. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, many European men wore tights with high-heeled shoes, and this was the **fashion** for nearly a century.

Fashion changes, but the craft of *kurar* stays the same. You can find *kurar* only in Bahrain. Although there are products with similar designs in other countries, they are usually made using machines. At Kurar House, the embroidery is made by hand, and it is now used on a number of creations like *sheilas*, headscarves worn by women, as well as cushions, bracelets and, of course, the *thob*. Will we see *kurar* on other products like **suits**, **ties** and **uniforms** one day? Maybe, because *kurar* **looks** great on everything!





**Answer the questions.**

1. Why do women work in Kurar House?  
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2. What do women use to create long embroidered strips on different pieces of clothing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. For which occasions women used to wear the thob in the past?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In which century was wearing high- heeled shoes a fashion?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Are the statements True or False?**

1. Nowadays, ladies prefer to wear practical clothes.	T	F
2. European men used to wear tights and high heels in the early 18th century.	T	F
3. A fashion changes, the craft of Kurar also changes.	T	F
4. The craft of Kurar can be found in all Arab countries.	T	F
5. Kurar is a handmade type of embroidery.	T	F
6. In the past, Kurar was used on ties and uniforms.	T	F

