READING 1 (Items 26-35) **(10 marks)**

Read the text. Then, complete the tasks.

Badriya grew up in a small village on the side of Jabal Akhdar, where the houses are made of stone and the air smells of roses in spring. As a child, she followed her grandfather everywhere: up the mountain paths to the farms, down to the old water channels, and across to the neighbouring villages. Her grandfather knew every path and every tree, and he taught her their names and stories. 'The mountain is a book,' he used to say, 'and I am teaching you to read it.' When Badriya was fifteen, tourists began to visit her village. They came with cameras and big bags, and they often got lost on the paths. Badriya started showing them the way, first to help, then because she loved it. She told them about the rose gardens, the old houses, and how her people had farmed the mountain for hundreds of years. The tourists listened with open mouths, took hundreds of photos, and left with full hearts. One visitor from Germany told her, 'You should do this as a real job. You are a born guide.' Badriya had never thought of that. Was there even such a job for a woman from her village? She asked her family. Her grandfather smiled and said, 'Why not? The mountain taught you. Now you can teach others.' So Badriya began the long road to becoming a professional guide.

READING 1 (continued)

She took courses in first aid, rock climbing and map reading. The certificate took two years of hard work. She also improved her English every evening and learned some German words to welcome her visitors. At first, some people in the village were surprised to see a young woman leading groups of foreign tourists. But when the visitors started buying honey, roses and crafts from the village shops, everyone understood that Badriya was bringing good things to her community. Today, she guides groups almost every week from October to April. Her tours are famous because they feel like visiting a friend, not following a guide. Visitors drink coffee with local families, learn how rose water is made, and hear the old stories of the mountain. Two of Badriya's cousins are now training to be guides too. 'My grandfather was right,' she says. 'The mountain is a book. Now I help others read it, and every time I read it again myself, I find something new.'

Task One: *for each item, shade in the bubble ⬭ next to the correct option.*

26. What did Badriya's grandfather compare the mountain to?

⬭ **a school** ⬭ **a book** ⬭ **a garden**

27. When did tourists start visiting her village?

⬭ **when she was ten** ⬭ **when she was fifteen** ⬭ **when she was twenty**

28. Which country was the visitor who advised her from?

⬭ Germany ⬭ Britain ⬭ France

29. How long did her certificate take?

⬭ one year ⬭ two years ⬭ six months

30. What did visitors buy from the village?

⬭ honey and crafts ⬭ books and maps ⬭ food and cars

31. When does Badriya guide groups?

⬭ all year ⬭ in summer ⬭ October to April

READING 1 (continued)

Task Two: *For each item, complete the missing words* ***(not more than TWO WORDS).***

32. The village houses are made of _____.

33. Her grandfather taught her the names and _____ of the paths.

34. Badriya learned some _____ words for her visitors.

35. Visitors learn how rose _____ is made on her tours.

READING 2 (Items 36-45) **(10 marks)**

Read the text. Then, complete the tasks.

Is tourism good for a country like Oman? Most people would answer yes immediately, without thinking. But the real picture is more interesting, more complex, and more balanced than a simple yes or no. There is no doubt that tourism brings great benefits to any country that welcomes visitors. The most obvious is money: visitors spend on hotels, food, transport and gifts, and much of this money reaches small villages and local families. Tourism also creates jobs. In Oman, the sector already provides work for more than one hundred thousand people, from hotel managers to mountain guides, and these are often jobs in regions where work is hard to find. A third benefit is cultural: when visitors come from far away to see traditional crafts, music and food, young local people become interested in their own heritage again. Old skills like making rose water or weaving sadu become valuable instead of forgotten. However, tourism also carries real risks that honest and careful people must discuss openly. The first is damage to nature. Too many visitors can harm the very places they come to see: turtle beaches become noisy, desert camps leave rubbish, and mountain paths become crowded. The second risk is to culture itself.

READING 2 (continued)

When everything in a place is done for tourists, real traditions can slowly change into shows, and villages can lose their normal, everyday life. Some countries have become so dependent on tourism that when visitors stop coming, as happened during the pandemic, thousands of families lose their income at once. There is also the question of water and energy: hotels and pools need a lot of both in a dry country. So what is the answer to this difficult question? Many experts believe the solution is what they call sustainable tourism: fewer, better-managed visitors rather than unlimited, uncontrolled numbers. This means protecting natural areas with clear rules, training local people for the best jobs, and making sure that money stays in the communities. Oman's approach, focusing on quality rather than quantity, follows exactly this idea. The country's mountains, deserts and beaches are a real treasure, and all treasures need careful hands. If tourism is managed wisely, it can pay for the protection of the places it celebrates. The goal is simple to say and difficult to do: welcome the world with open arms and a warm smile, but never lose the country's soul in the process.

Task One*: *For each item, write a short answer (**not more than FOUR WORDS**).

36. How many people work in Oman's tourism sector?

_____

37. Name one traditional skill mentioned in the text.

_____

38. What can become noisy with too many visitors?

_____

39. When did thousands of tourism families lose income?

_____

40. What do hotels need a lot of, besides water?

_____

41. What kind of tourism do experts suggest?

_____

READING 2 (continued)

Task Two: *For each item, shade in the bubble ⬭ to indicate whether the statement is* ***True/False****.*

	Statements	True	False
42.	**Tourism jobs in Oman are often in regions where work is hard to find.**	⬭	⬭
43.	**The writer says tourism has no risks at all.**	⬭	⬭
44.	**Some countries lost income when visitors stopped in the pandemic.**	⬭	⬭
45.	**Oman wants unlimited numbers of tourists.**	⬭	⬭

READING SCORE	**20**