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

Read the text. Then, complete the tasks.

Faisal had never seen the rings of Saturn, but he had drawn them a hundred times. They covered his school notebooks, his bedroom wall, and even the margins of his maths homework. His uncle Talib, who worked at the port, noticed the drawings during a family dinner. 'Drawings are fine,' he said, 'but a sailor should see the real stars.' The following Friday, he arrived with a large wooden box in the back of his truck.

Inside the box was an old telescope that had belonged to Faisal's grandfather, a fisherman who had used the stars to find his way home across the dark sea. The telescope was heavy, and its brass body was green in places, but the glass was perfect. 'Your grandfather carried this on his boat for forty years,' Uncle Talib said. 'Now it is yours. But remember - a telescope is like a friend. You must learn its ways slowly.'

That night, they carried it to the roof. Faisal pointed it at the moon first, and his heart jumped: the mountains and round holes he knew from books were suddenly real, close enough to touch. Then Uncle Talib helped him find Jupiter, a small bright circle with four tiny moons in a perfect line. 'Galileo saw these same four moons four hundred years ago,' his uncle said, 'with a telescope worse than this one.' Faisal looked again and again, unable to stop.

The next months became a quiet adventure. Faisal kept a notebook of everything he saw: the red colour of Mars, the double stars above the mosque, the slow path of a satellite crossing the sky at midnight. When his science teacher heard about the notebook, she asked him to bring the telescope to school for an astronomy evening. Two hundred students and parents came. For most of them, it was the first time they had ever looked through a telescope, and the line of people waiting behind Faisal's grandfather's brass telescope stretched across the whole playground.

At the end of the evening, a small boy from Grade 3 held Faisal's arm and whispered, 'Is that really Saturn?' Faisal smiled and said the words his uncle had said to him: 'Look slowly. The sky teaches patient people.'

READING 1 (continued)

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

26. Where did Faisal draw the rings of Saturn?

⬭ **on his notebooks and wall** ⬭ **on his hands** ⬭ **on the school gate**

27. Who first noticed the drawings?

⬭ **his teacher** ⬭ **his uncle Talib** ⬭ **his grandfather**

28. What job did Faisal's grandfather have?

⬭ **a sailor** ⬭ **a fisherman** ⬭ **a farmer**

29. What did Faisal look at first that night?

⬭ **the moon** ⬭ **Jupiter** ⬭ **Mars**

30. How many moons of Jupiter did he see?

⬭ **two** ⬭ **four** ⬭ **six**

31. Who came to the school astronomy evening?

⬭ **only students** ⬭ **only teachers** ⬭ **students and parents**

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

32. The telescope's brass body was _____ in places.

33. Faisal's grandfather used the stars to find his way across the dark _____.

34. Galileo saw the same four moons four hundred years _____.

35. The line of people stretched across the whole _____.

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

Read the text. Then, complete the tasks.

Is space exploration worth the money? Every rocket launch restarts this argument. Sending machines and people into space costs billions, and critics ask a fair question: should that money not be spent on hospitals, schools and clean water here on Earth?

The critics have real numbers on their side. One large space mission can cost as much as a hundred new schools. Rockets sometimes fail, and every failure burns money in seconds. They also point out that space science mostly helps rich countries and rich companies, while millions of people on Earth still lack doctors and electricity. And there is a fair worry about safety: every launch risks the lives of astronauts, and broken satellites already circle our planet like dangerous rubbish. In their view, governments should solve the problems of this planet before dreaming about others.

READING 2 (continued)

Supporters of space exploration answer with history. Almost every technology we love came from a difficult, expensive dream. The satellites that space programmes built now guide our ships, predict our weather, warn us about cyclones, and carry the internet to remote villages. Fishermen use satellite maps to find safe water, and rescue teams use satellite phones where no network exists. A farmer in Dhofar checking a storm warning on his phone is using space science. Supporters add that space research gave us solar panels, water cleaning systems and medical scanners. They also speak about something harder to measure: inspiration. A child who watches a rocket launch may become the engineer who solves an Earth problem tomorrow. For a country like Oman, joining space science also means joining the world's top laboratories and sharing their knowledge.

Perhaps the argument should not be either-or. Space spending is actually tiny next to what countries spend on weapons or on advertisements. The real question is whether we do space science wisely: sharing results between countries, building useful satellites before planning tourist trips to the Moon, and remembering that the most important planet in the telescope is the blue one we already live on. The same satellites that map Mars can map our own farms, seas and cities, and help us care for them. Space exploration is worth its price when it serves life on Earth. It becomes a waste only when it forgets where it started.

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

36. How much can one large space mission cost?

_____

37. Name one thing satellites do for us.

_____

38. Name one thing space research gave us besides solar panels.

_____

39. What is space spending tiny next to?

_____

40. Which planet is the most important in the telescope?

_____

41. When does space exploration become a waste?

_____

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

	Statements	True	False
42.	**Critics say space money could build schools and hospitals.**	⬭	⬭
43.	**Supporters say space science only helps poor countries.**	⬭	⬭
44.	**Storm warnings on phones use space science.**	⬭	⬭
45.	**The writer wants tourist trips to the Moon first.**	⬭	⬭

READING SCORE	
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