READING 1 (Items 26-30) (5 marks)

*Read the texts. Are the statements which follow each text **True** or **False**?*
For each item, shade in the bubble ⬭ under the correct option.

26.

Save electricity at home! Switch off your air conditioning when you leave a room, and set it to 24 degrees. LED lights use 80% less electricity than old bulbs. Small changes can help families reduce their bills.

Statement	True	False
LED lights use more electricity than old bulbs.	⬭	⬭

27.

BEACH CLEAN-UP DAY - Saturday, 7 am, Al Hail Beach. Join our club and help keep the coast beautiful. Bags and gloves are provided. Bring water and a hat. The first fifty volunteers receive a free club T-shirt!

Statement	True	False
Volunteers must bring their own bags and gloves.	⬭	⬭

28.

Dear Mr Rashid, Thank you for your email about the school garden. We can supply twenty young trees for free. Our team can also show students how to plant them. Please call to arrange a date. Green Oman Nursery

Statement	True	False
The nursery will charge the school for the trees.	⬭	⬭

29.

Rainwater collecting is an old Omani tradition. In mountain villages, people built channels to guide water into underground tanks. These kept water cool and clean during summer. Some of these old systems are still used by local families today.

Statement	True	False
Some old water systems are still in use.	⬭	⬭

30.

A plastic bottle can take hundreds of years to disappear. In the sea, plastic breaks into tiny pieces that fish eat. Scientists found these pieces inside fish near Oman. Reducing plastic waste can help protect marine animals and their habitats.

Statement	True	False
Scientists found plastic inside fish near Oman.	⬭	⬭

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READING 2 (Items 31-37) (7 marks)

Read the text. Then, for each item, shade in the bubble ⬭ next to the correct option.

The Arabian oryx is one of Oman's greatest conservation success stories. This beautiful white antelope once lived across the Arabian Desert, but by 1972, hunters had killed every wild oryx in Oman. The species was completely gone from the country.

Fortunately, there was hope. A few oryx remained in zoos and private collections around the world. In 1982, the Omani government, with help from international zoos, brought ten oryx back to the desert of Jiddat al-Harasis. The animals were released into a huge protected area, and rangers watched them day and night.

The programme worked wonderfully. The oryx adapted quickly to their old home, eating desert grasses and getting all their water from plants, just as their ancestors had done. The herd grew slowly but surely, and by 2007, there were more than one hundred wild oryx in Oman. The Arabian Oryx Sanctuary became Oman's first UNESCO World Heritage Site.

However, the story nearly ended badly. In the late 1990s, poachers began catching the animals to sell them as exotic pets abroad. Within a few years, the wild population fell sharply, and in 2007 the sanctuary lost its UNESCO status - the first site ever removed from the list.

Oman did not give up. Protection was increased, new young oryx were released, and the local Bedouin communities became partners in the project. Today, rangers from these communities patrol the desert using GPS trackers and camera traps. Every oryx is counted and recorded.

The project also changed how people think. Schoolchildren now visit the reserve to learn about the oryx, and the animal appears on Oman's stamps and even the tail of Oman Air planes. Conservation experts say the Omani oryx programme taught the world an important lesson: saving a species is not a single event but a promise that must be kept forever. As one ranger put it, "The oryx came back because people cared. It will stay only if we keep caring."

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READING 2 (continued)

31. What happened to the wild oryx in Oman by 1972?

⬭ they moved to zoos ⬭ they were all killed ⬭ they became protected

32. When were the first oryx brought back to Oman?

⬭ in 1972 ⬭ in 1982 ⬭ in 2007

33. Where do wild oryx get their water?

⬭ from desert plants ⬭ from rivers ⬭ from water tanks

34. Why did the sanctuary lose its UNESCO status?

⬭ the animals left the area ⬭ the herd grew too fast ⬭ poachers reduced the population

35. Who works as rangers in the project today?

⬭ international zoo staff ⬭ local Bedouin communities ⬭ Omani schoolchildren

36. What technology do the rangers use?

⬭ GPS trackers and camera traps ⬭ drones and helicopters ⬭ radios and maps

37. What lesson does the expert mention at the end?

⬭ saving a species is a permanent promise ⬭ desert animals are easy to protect ⬭ zoos are the best home for oryx

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READING 3 (Items 38-45) (8 marks)

Read the text. Then complete the tasks.

Last winter, I joined my school birdwatching group on a trip to the coast. Our guide introduced the birds before we opened our notebooks.

Every winter, the deserts and coasts of Oman host some very special visitors: millions of migratory birds travelling between Europe, Africa and Asia. Oman sits in the middle of one of the world's great bird highways, the West Asian - East African Flyway, and more than five hundred bird species have been recorded in the country.

One of the most amazing travellers is the Steppe Eagle. These large birds begin their journey in Kazakhstan, flying over five thousand kilometres to reach Oman's warm deserts. They arrive in October and stay until March, resting on electricity poles and hunting small animals in the plains of Dhofar. Satellite tagging has shown that some eagles return to exactly the same field every winter.

The mudflats of Barr Al Hikman are another bird paradise. At low tide, the wet sand is full of tiny crabs and worms - a rich restaurant for half a million wading birds. Bar-tailed Godwits hold the record here: these small birds fly non-stop from Siberia, a journey of seven thousand kilometres without a single rest. How do they do it? Before leaving, they eat so much that almost half their body weight is fat, which fuels the whole flight.

Oman takes its role on the flyway seriously. The government has protected important wetland sites, and Omani birdwatchers join international counting teams every January. Their records help scientists understand how bird populations are changing. Sadly, many migratory species are declining because wetlands along the flyway are disappearing. When one site is lost, birds must fly further without food, and many do not survive.

The Environment Society of Oman believes ecotourism can help. Birdwatching visitors bring money to local communities, giving people a reason to protect the wetlands. Several Omani tour companies now offer birdwatching trips, and a new guidebook to Oman's birds, written by local experts, sold out its first printing in just two months.

"Every winter visitor tells us the same story," says one Omani bird guide. "Protect the stopover sites, and you protect the whole journey."

I returned home with sketches and questions. The coast would never look empty to me again.

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READING 3 (continued)

Task 1: *For each item, write a short answer (**NOT MORE THAN FOUR WORDS OR A NUMBER**).*

38. How many bird species are recorded in Oman?

_____

39. Where do Steppe Eagles start their journey?

_____

40. How far do Bar-tailed Godwits fly non-stop?

_____

41. When do Omani teams count birds?

_____

Task 2: *For each item, shade in the bubble ⬭ next to the correct option.*

42. What showed that eagles return to the same field?

⬭ satellite tagging ⬭ birdwatchers' notes ⬭ camera traps

43. What do wading birds eat at Barr Al Hikman?

⬭ small fish ⬭ tiny crabs and worms ⬭ water plants

44. How do godwits fuel their long flight?

⬭ they catch fish while flying ⬭ they sleep on the water ⬭ they store fat before leaving

45. Why are many migratory birds declining?

⬭ stopover wetlands are disappearing ⬭ Oman's winters are getting colder ⬭ eagles are hunting them

READING SCORE	20

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