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.

NEW SCHOOL APP - Download 'MySchool Oman' today! Check your timetable, homework and exam dates. Parents can follow attendance and marks. The app works in Arabic and English and is free for all government school students.

Statement	True	False
The school app is free for government students.	⬭	⬭

27.

Dear parents, Please note that the school's computer lab will be closed next week for upgrades. Twenty new computers and a faster internet connection are being installed. The lab will reopen on 15 October, with longer opening hours until 5 pm.

Statement	True	False
The lab will close at 5 pm from October.	⬭	⬭

28.

Password safety tip: never use your name or birthday as a password. A strong password mixes letters, numbers and symbols, and every account should have a different one. Change your passwords twice a year and never share them - even with your best friend!

Statement	True	False
You should use the same password for all accounts.	⬭	⬭

29.

Coding Club starts again this Thursday! This term we will build a simple mobile game using block coding. No experience needed - just bring your ideas. Room 14, after school, every Thursday. Open to Grades 9-12. Sign up with Mr Fahad by Wednesday.

Statement	True	False
Beginners may join the coding club.	⬭	⬭

30.

Our school survey found that students spend 4.5 hours daily on phones, but only 40 minutes on homework. Teachers suggest keeping phones in another room while studying. Students who tried this for a week reported better sleep and higher marks.

Statement	True	False
Students who kept phones away slept better.	⬭	⬭

Prepared by:
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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.

In a small workshop in Muscat, a group of young Omanis is building something extraordinary: satellites. They are members of Oman's growing space sector, and their story shows how far the country has come in a very short time.

Oman's space journey began in 2019, when the government announced a national space policy. Just three years later, in 2022, the first Omani satellite, Aman, was launched into orbit. Built by a private Omani company with international partners, Aman photographs the Earth from space. Its images help farmers check their crops, help cities plan new roads, and help scientists watch the coastline change.

The satellite is small - about the size of a shoebox - but building it was a huge challenge. The team had to make sure every part could survive the shaking of the rocket launch and the extreme temperatures of space, where it can be freezing cold in the shade and boiling hot in the sun. After two years of design and testing, the satellite worked perfectly on its first day in orbit.

For young engineers like 24-year-old Aisha Al Harthi, the project changed everything. "When I was at school, I never imagined I could build satellites in Oman," she says. "Now I test real space equipment every day." Aisha studied electrical engineering at Sultan Qaboos University and joined the company straight after graduation. She is one of thirty young Omanis working in the space sector, sixty percent of whom are women.

The future looks busy. A second Omani satellite is already being built, and there are plans for a space research centre in Duqm. The centre will train Omani students and may one day control deep-space missions. International companies have noticed too: two European firms signed agreements last year to work with Omani engineers.

"The sky is not the limit anymore," Aisha laughs. "For our generation, it's just the beginning."

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READING 2 (continued)

31. When did Oman announce its national space policy?

⬭ in 2019 ⬭ in 2022 ⬭ in 2024

32. What does the satellite Aman do?

⬭ studies the weather ⬭ photographs the Earth ⬭ carries messages

33. How big is the satellite?

⬭ the size of a car ⬭ the size of a fridge ⬭ the size of a shoebox

34. What was difficult about building Aman?

⬭ finding international partners ⬭ surviving launch and space temperatures ⬭ getting government permission

35. What is special about the Omani space workforce?

⬭ most workers are women ⬭ all workers are young ⬭ most are foreign experts

36. Where will the new space research centre be?

⬭ in Muscat ⬭ in Duqm ⬭ in Salalah

37. What happened last year with European firms?

⬭ they bought the satellite ⬭ they visited the university ⬭ they signed agreements with Omanis

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

Read the text. Then complete the tasks.

When 17-year-old Alia from Ibri first told her family she wanted to become a game developer, they laughed. "Play games all day? That's not a job!" her uncle said. Two years later, Alia's first mobile game has been downloaded eighty thousand times, and her uncle has stopped laughing.

Alia's journey started with a free online course during the summer holiday. She spent two hours every evening learning to code, following lessons in English and Arabic. Her first games were simple puzzles, but each one taught her something new. After six months, she joined an online community where young developers from forty countries share advice and test each other's games.

Her successful game, Desert Runner, came from a school trip. "We visited Wahiba Sands, and I thought - why has nobody made a game about our beautiful desert?" In the game, players guide a young explorer across the dunes, collecting water bottles and answering questions about Omani wildlife. Teachers loved the educational part, and parents loved that it had no advertisements and no purchases inside.

But the road was not easy. The first version crashed on older phones, and Alia spent three weeks fixing the problem, sometimes working until midnight after finishing her homework. She also received unkind comments from strangers online, which hurt at first. "My teacher told me something wise," Alia remembers. "She said: read the useful criticism, delete the rest, and keep building."

Alia's success comes at a good moment for Oman. The government now supports young programmers through coding competitions and a new technology fund. Last year, Omani-made apps were downloaded over two million times worldwide. At the National Youth Innovation Fair, thirty student teams presented their own apps and games.

What is next for Alia? She is saving money from her game to study computer science at university, and she has already started Desert Runner 2 - this time, with her 12-year-old brother doing the drawings. "He draws better than me," she admits with a smile. "Games, like everything good, are made together."

At school the next morning, Alia showed her brother's first drawings to her friends. They offered ideas for new characters, and she wrote every suggestion in a notebook. For the first time, she felt that her small personal project had become something the whole school could share.

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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 times was Alia's game downloaded?

_____

39. How long was her daily coding practice?

_____

40. What do players collect in the game?

_____

41. Who draws for Desert Runner 2?

_____

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

42. Why did teachers like Desert Runner?

⬭ it was free ⬭ it was educational ⬭ it was about history

43. What problem did the first version have?

⬭ it crashed on older phones ⬭ it had too many adverts ⬭ it was too expensive

44. How did Alia deal with unkind comments?

⬭ she stopped coding ⬭ she kept the useful criticism only ⬭ she replied to all of them

45. What happened at the Innovation Fair?

⬭ thirty student teams showed apps ⬭ a new fund was opened ⬭ two million apps were sold

READING SCORE	20

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