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. **School Library - new opening hours. From Sunday, the library will open at 7:30 am, one hour earlier than before. Students can borrow up to three books for two weeks. Please return magazines before the weekend.**

Statement	True	False
From Sunday, students can enter the library earlier than before.	⬭	⬭

27. **The Science Club needs four students to help at the Open Day next month. You will explain simple experiments to visiting parents. Training will be given. Names to Ms Huda by Wednesday, please.**

Statement	True	False
Students must already know how to do the experiments.	⬭	⬭

28. **Basketball practice has moved from the outdoor court to the main hall because of the hot weather. Practice is now on Mondays and Thursdays at 4 pm. Bring a water bottle and sports shoes.**

Statement	True	False
Basketball practice moved because of the weather.	⬭	⬭

29. **The school canteen now serves fresh fruit juice every morning. Prices start from two hundred baisas. Please note that fizzy drinks are no longer sold, as part of our healthy schools programme.**

Statement	True	False
The canteen has stopped selling fizzy drinks.	⬭	⬭

30. **Year 11 exams will be held in the sports hall this year, not in classrooms. Students must arrive twenty minutes early and bring only pens, pencils and a clear water bottle. Mobile phones are not allowed in the hall.**

Statement	True	False
Students may use their phones during the exams.	⬭	⬭

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

Read the text. Then, for each item, shade in the bubble

When Rashid Al Amri walks into his classroom in Al Hamra every morning, he carries more than his books. He carries a small notebook full of questions, and at the top of the first page he has written one word: 'Why?'

Rashid's love of questions started two years ago, when his school took part in the National Young Inventors Competition. His science teacher, Mrs Salma, asked the class to think of a problem in their town and invent a solution. Rashid noticed that his grandfather, who keeps goats in the mountains, climbed a long, dangerous path every day just to check the water level in the family's tank.

'It was such a simple problem,' Rashid says. 'But nobody had solved it for him.' Rashid decided to build a water-level sensor that sends a message to his grandfather's phone when the tank is low. He had never written a computer program before, so he watched free online lessons every evening for two months. The first sensor broke in the rain. The second sent a hundred messages in one hour and made his grandfather laugh. The third one worked.

Rashid's invention won second place in the national competition, and a technology company in Muscat offered to help him improve the design. But he says the best prize was his grandfather's smile. 'Now he checks his phone instead of climbing the mountain,' Rashid says. 'He calls it his magic tank.'

His teacher Mrs Salma believes Rashid's story carries a lesson for every school. 'We sometimes teach science as a list of facts to remember,' she says. 'Rashid learned more from one real problem than from a whole term of exercises. He learned physics, programming, and - most importantly - how to keep going when something fails.'

This year, Rashid is teaching a weekly invention club at his school. Twelve younger students are building their own projects, including a solar phone charger and a smart rubbish bin. His message to them is simple: start with a person you love, find their problem, and ask 'why' until you can fix it.

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READING 2 (continued)

31. What does Rashid carry to class every day?

- ⬭ a laptop computer
- ⬭ a notebook of questions
- ⬭ a model of his invention

32. Who keeps goats in the mountains?

- ⬭ Rashid's uncle
- ⬭ Rashid's teacher
- ⬭ Rashid's grandfather

33. What problem did Rashid want to solve?

- ⬭ checking the water tank was hard
- ⬭ the mountain path was too dark
- ⬭ the goats drank too much water

34. How did Rashid learn programming?

- ⬭ at evening classes in Muscat
- ⬭ from free online lessons
- ⬭ from his science teacher

35. What happened to the second sensor?

- ⬭ it broke in the rain
- ⬭ it sent too many messages
- ⬭ it won a national prize

36. What place did Rashid win in the competition?

- ⬭ first
- ⬭ second
- ⬭ third

37. Who joins Rashid's weekly club?

- ⬭ older students
- ⬭ his teachers
- ⬭ younger students

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

Read the text. Then complete the tasks.

I will never forget my first day as a school librarian's helper. I was fifteen, and I thought libraries were just quiet rooms full of old books. Mrs Badriya, our librarian, changed my mind in a single afternoon.

My first job was to help a small Grade 3 boy find a book about sharks. He knew exactly what he wanted: 'big pictures, not too many words, and it must have a great white shark.' We searched three shelves together, and when we finally found it, he held the book as if it were treasure. Mrs Badriya smiled at me and said, 'That is why we are here.'

Over the next few months, I learned that a school library is really three places in one. It is a quiet study room where older students prepare for exams. It is a classroom where teachers bring their classes to learn research skills. And it is a safe, friendly space for students who do not like the noisy playground.

The work was not always easy. Some days I spent hours putting returned books back in the correct order. I also had to learn the library computer system, which seemed ancient even then. But slowly I discovered the secret pleasure of the job: matching a reader with the right book. A shy girl who hated reading became a regular visitor after I gave her a book of short funny stories. Now she asks me for a new one every week.

Mrs Badriya taught me rules that I still use today. Never say 'I don't know' without adding 'but I can find out.' Treat every question as important, even the small ones. And remember that the library belongs to the students, not to the books.

When I finished school, I chose to study information science at college. My friends were surprised - they imagined me becoming an engineer or a doctor. But I had already found my place among the shelves. My mother understood first, as mothers do. 'You were always the one who found things,' she said. 'Now you will help other people find them.' Next year, inshallah, I will be the one standing behind the library desk, helping a nervous fifteen-year-old find their first perfect book.

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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 old was the writer on her first day?

_____

39. What did the Grade 3 boy want a book about?

_____

40. What kind of stories did the shy girl enjoy?

_____

41. What will the writer study at college?

_____

Task 2: ⬭ *For each item, shade in the bubble*

42. What did the writer first think of libraries?

⬭ **they were exciting places** ⬭ **they were quiet rooms with old books** ⬭ **they were only for teachers**

43. How many 'places in one' is a school library, in the writer's view?

⬭ **two** ⬭ **three** ⬭ **four**

44. Which job took hours on some days?

⬭ **teaching research skills** ⬭ **cleaning the shelves** ⬭ **returning books to their places**

45. What made the shy girl visit the library regularly?

⬭ **a book of short funny stories** ⬭ **a book about sharks** ⬭ **a library competition**

READING SCORE	
	20

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