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. **Desert Night Camp, Wahiba Sands. Sleep under the stars in a traditional Bedouin tent. The price includes dinner, breakfast and a short camel ride. Warm clothes are recommended - desert nights are cold in December.**

Statement	True	False
The camp price includes a camel ride.	⬭	⬭

27. **NOTICE TO HIKERS: Wadi Shab trail. The walk to the pools takes about forty minutes. You must take a short boat ride (one rial) at the start. Do not enter the wadi if rain is expected, because of the danger of flash floods.**

Statement	True	False
Hikers should not enter the wadi when rain is expected.	⬭	⬭

28. **Royal Opera House Muscat - Student Evening. Students with a valid school card can buy tickets for the Thursday concert at half price. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Late visitors will only be admitted during the interval.**

Statement	True	False
Students pay half price with a school card.	⬭	⬭

29. **Dear travellers, please note that the ferry to Masirah Island leaves Shannah Port at 9 am sharp. The journey takes ninety minutes. Cars can be carried, but you must book a place for your vehicle at least two days before travel.**

Statement	True	False
You can book a place for your car on the day of travel.	⬭	⬭

30. **The Frankincense Land Museum in Salalah is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm. Entrance is free for children under six. Guided tours in English are available at 10 am and 4 pm. The museum shop sells local frankincense and souvenirs.**

Statement	True	False
English tours are offered twice a day.	⬭	⬭

Prepared by:

Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy

Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate

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

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

The airport in Salalah was busy, but nineteen-year-old Maryam hardly noticed the crowds. She held one small suitcase and one large dream: she was about to become the first person in her family to work in the tourism industry.

Maryam's journey started at school, when her English teacher asked the class to give a short presentation about their town. Maryam spoke about the frankincense trees near her grandfather's farm in Wadi Dawkah. A tourist guide who was visiting the school heard her and said, 'You explain things beautifully. Have you ever thought about guiding?'

She had not. But the idea stayed with her. After school, she joined a free training course run by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism. For six months, she studied history, first aid, customer care and two foreign languages. 'German was the hardest thing I have ever done,' she laughs. 'Harder than climbing Jabal Samhan!'

Now Maryam leads groups of visitors through the Land of Frankincense. She shows them the ancient trees, explains how the resin is collected, and tells stories about the caravans that once carried frankincense from Dhofar to Rome. Her favourite moment comes at the end of each tour, when visitors taste frankincense water for the first time. 'Their faces!' she says. 'They expect it to taste like perfume, and then they smile with surprise.'

The job has changed her. She used to be shy about speaking English; now she speaks it all day. She used to know little about her own region's past; now she reads history books in the evening so she can answer every question. 'Tourists ask about everything,' she says. 'Why is the tree's bark cut? When did the Queen of Sheba live? If I don't know the answer, I find it before the next tour.'

Maryam's advice to young Omanis is simple. 'Don't wait for the perfect job to come to you. Look at what your own town has - its stories, its places, its food - and learn to share it. Tourism is not just visitors taking photos. It is us telling the world who we are.'

Prepared by:

Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy

Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate

READING 2 (continued)

31. Why was Maryam's journey to work special for her family?

- ⬭ she was the youngest worker
- ⬭ she was the first to work in tourism
- ⬭ she moved to another country

32. What was Maryam's school presentation about?

- ⬭ frankincense trees
- ⬭ her grandfather's animals
- ⬭ the history of Salalah airport

33. Who first suggested guiding to Maryam?

- ⬭ her English teacher
- ⬭ a visiting tourist guide
- ⬭ a Ministry official

34. How long was Maryam's training course?

- ⬭ six weeks
- ⬭ six months
- ⬭ a year

35. What does Maryam say was very difficult?

- ⬭ climbing Jabal Samhan
- ⬭ learning German
- ⬭ speaking to crowds

36. What happens at the end of each tour?

- ⬭ visitors buy frankincense
- ⬭ visitors plant a tree
- ⬭ visitors taste frankincense water

37. What does Maryam do in the evenings?

- ⬭ reads history books
- ⬭ leads night tours
- ⬭ teaches English

Prepared by:

Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy

Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate

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

Read the text. Then complete the tasks.

Last October, my family did something we had talked about for years: we drove from Muscat to Salalah. One thousand kilometres, two parents, three children, and one very full car.

My father had the whole trip planned like a military operation. We left home at five in the morning, while the sky was still dark. My little sister slept against the window, my brother watched videos on his phone, and I watched Oman change outside the glass.

The first hours were familiar - the coastal road past Quriyat, the white beaches, the blue water. But after Duqm, the land emptied. For hundreds of kilometres, there was only flat, golden desert and a straight grey road. We stopped at a small petrol station where an old man sold us cold water and told my father, 'Drive slowly. The camels own this road.' We laughed, but an hour later we understood: three camels were standing in the middle of the road, completely relaxed, and they watched our car as if we were the strange ones.

We slept that night in a small hotel in Haima, where the owner cooked us fresh fish and asked a hundred questions about life in Muscat. My father says you can measure a country by its roadside kindness, and by that measure, Oman is a rich nation.

The next afternoon, the air began to change. It grew softer, wetter. Then we saw the first green hill, and my mother actually clapped her hands. After two days of golden desert, the green mountains of Dhofar looked impossible, like a photograph from another country. My sister woke up and shouted, 'Who painted everything green?'

We spent five days in Salalah - the banana farms, the blowholes at Mughsail, the frankincense souq, and a football match on the beach with some boys who became our friends in ten minutes. My father was right about roadside kindness, everywhere we stopped. But when people ask me about the trip, I don't talk about the famous places first. I tell them about the camels on the empty road, the old man's cold water, and the moment the desert turned green. A journey, I learned, is not made of destinations. It is made of the small surprises between them.

Prepared by:

Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy

Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate

READING 3 (continued)

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

38. How far is the drive from Muscat to Salalah?

_____

39. What time did the family leave home?

_____

40. What animals stood in the road?

_____

41. Where did the family sleep that night?

_____

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

42. Who planned the trip carefully?

⬭ **the writer's father** ⬭ **the writer's mother** ⬭ **the writer**

43. What did the writer watch during the drive?

⬭ **videos on a phone** ⬭ **Oman changing outside** ⬭ **her sleeping sister**

44. What did the hotel owner in Haima cook?

⬭ **rice and meat** ⬭ **fresh fish** ⬭ **camel stew**

45. What does the writer say a journey is made of?

⬭ **famous destinations** ⬭ **small surprises between places** ⬭ **good hotels and food**

READING SCORE	
	20

Prepared by:

Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy

Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate