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. **Muscat Marathon - registration now open. The full marathon is 42 km, but there are also 10 km and 5 km races for beginners. All runners receive a medal and a T-shirt. The race starts at 5:30 am to avoid the heat.**

Statement	True	False
Only experienced runners can enter the event.	⬭	⬭

27. **School Sports Day has been moved from Tuesday to Thursday because of the weather forecast. Races begin at 8 am. Students should wear their house colours and bring a hat and water. Parents are welcome from 9 am.**

Statement	True	False
Sports Day will now be held on Thursday.	⬭	⬭

28. **The swimming pool will be closed next week for its annual deep clean. Swimming lessons will restart on the 15th. The gym remains open as usual from 7 am to 9 pm.**

Statement	True	False
The gym will also be closed next week.	⬭	⬭

29. **FREE TRIAL CLASS: Al-Safa Karate Club invites students aged 10-16 to a free trial lesson this Saturday at 5 pm. No uniform is needed for the first class. Call 9212 3344 to book a place, as numbers are limited.**

Statement	True	False
Students need a uniform for the trial class.	⬭	⬭

30. **Oman Sail offers summer courses for teenagers at the Marina in Al Mouj. Beginners learn in small boats with an instructor. Courses run for five days, from 8 am to noon. All safety equipment is included in the price.**

Statement	True	False
Beginners sail alone in small boats.	⬭	⬭

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

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

The whistle blew for the last time, and eleven girls in green shirts fell onto the grass, laughing and crying at the same moment. Al Zahra School had just won the regional girls' football cup - the first sports trophy in the school's history.

Two years earlier, there was no girls' football team at Al Zahra at all. The idea came from a Grade 10 student, Hoor Al Riyami, who loved playing football with her brothers but had nowhere to play at school. She wrote a polite letter to the headmistress, Mrs Khawla, asking for a girls' team. 'I expected a meeting,' Hoor says. 'Instead, Mrs Khawla called me to her office and said: find me twenty girls and a coach, and you have my full support.'

Finding the girls was easier than finding the coach. Twenty-three students signed up in the first week. The coach arrived a month later: Ms Latifa, a young PE graduate who had played university football in Muscat. Training started on the school field twice a week, in the late afternoon when the sun was kind.

The first season was difficult. The team lost four matches and won only one. Some parents worried that football would hurt their daughters' studies, and some girls nearly left. But Ms Latifa kept a simple rule: school marks come first, football second - and surprisingly, the team's marks improved. 'Training taught us time management,' explains the team captain, Rawan. 'When you have only two free hours, you don't waste them.'

The second season changed everything. The team won six matches in a row and reached the cup final against a school that had won the trophy three times before. The match ended 1-1, and Al Zahra won on penalties. Hoor scored the final kick.

'Now everyone wants to join,' says Hoor, smiling. 'Thirty girls came to the first training session this year. But the best thing isn't the trophy. It's that nobody asks anymore why girls play football. They ask how.'

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READING 2 (continued)

31. What was special about the cup win?

- ⬭ it was won at night
- ⬭ it was the school's first trophy
- ⬭ it was the final match

32. Who first asked for a girls' team?

- ⬭ Mrs Khawla
- ⬭ Ms Latifa
- ⬭ Hoor Al Riyami

33. What did the headmistress ask Hoor to find?

- ⬭ twenty girls and a coach
- ⬭ new football shirts
- ⬭ a bigger field

34. How many students signed up in the first week?

- ⬭ twenty
- ⬭ twenty-three
- ⬭ thirty

35. What happened in the first season?

- ⬭ the team won the cup
- ⬭ the team won only one match
- ⬭ the team never lost

36. How did Al Zahra win the final?

- ⬭ on penalties
- ⬭ with a golden goal
- ⬭ by two goals

37. What do people ask now, according to Hoor?

- ⬭ why girls play football
- ⬭ how girls play football
- ⬭ where the team trains

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

Read the text. Then complete the tasks.

I have run six marathons, but the one I remember best is the one I did not finish.

I started running at thirty-five, the year my doctor looked at my test results and told me, gently, that my lifestyle had to change. I was overweight, I slept badly, and I got tired climbing the stairs to my office. So one evening I put on an old pair of trainers and ran - well, walked mostly - around my neighbourhood. Twenty minutes. I came home exhausted but strangely happy.

Running became my daily appointment with myself. Six kilometres before work, ten on Friday mornings. Within a year I had lost fifteen kilos, and within two I had entered my first race: the Muscat 10 km. I finished in the middle of the crowd and celebrated like a champion.

Then came the marathon dream. I trained for six months for the Muscat Marathon, following a strict plan. On race day, I felt strong. At 30 kilometres, I was on schedule for my best-ever time. And then, at 33 kilometres, I saw an old man sitting on the pavement, holding his leg, his face white with pain. Other runners were passing him - the race clock was ticking, and I had trained for six months for this day. I stopped anyway.

The man, a fellow runner in his seventies, had terrible cramp. I helped him stretch, gave him my water and my salt tablets, and walked with him for a kilometre until the medical team arrived. Then I ran on, but my legs were cold and stiff by then, and my time was ruined. At 38 kilometres, my own body gave up, and I sat down by the road, done.

A week later, a letter arrived at my house. The old man had found my race number and written to thank me. He finished that race, by the way - slowly, on my salt tablets and pure stubbornness. He ended his letter with this line: 'You lost a race but won the day.' I have six finisher medals in a drawer now. That letter hangs on my wall.

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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. When did the writer start running?

_____

39. How much weight did the writer lose in a year?

_____

40. Where was the old man sitting?

_____

41. What did the writer give the old man?

_____

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

42. Why did the writer start running?

⬭ **his doctor warned him** ⬭ **he wanted to win races** ⬭ **his friends invited him**

43. What was the writer's first race?

⬭ **a marathon** ⬭ **a 10 km race** ⬭ **a 5 km race**

44. What happened to the writer at 38 kilometres?

⬭ **he gave up** ⬭ **he fell over** ⬭ **he got his best time**

45. What hangs on the writer's wall?

⬭ **his six medals** ⬭ **the old man's letter** ⬭ **his race number**

READING SCORE	
	20

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