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. **The school newspaper needs new writers! We publish online every two weeks in Arabic and English. If you enjoy writing, photography or drawing cartoons, come to our meeting on Wednesday at break time in Room 12.**

Statement	True	False
The newspaper is published every week.	⬭	⬭

27. **Media Club trip: We are visiting the Oman TV studios next month. Only twenty places are available. Priority will be given to members who attended at least three club meetings this term. Permission letters must be signed by parents.**

Statement	True	False
Any club member can definitely join the trip.	⬭	⬭

28. **Podcast Club: Have you ever wanted to make your own radio show? Bring your ideas to the library on Sunday. We will learn how to record and edit a ten-minute podcast. Headphones and microphones are provided.**

Statement	True	False
Students must bring their own microphones.	⬭	⬭

29. **Reminder to all students: the photography competition closes on Friday at 3 pm. The theme this year is 'My Oman'. Photos must be your own work. Winners will be announced at the National Day assembly.**

Statement	True	False
The competition theme is 'My Oman'.	⬭	⬭

30. **Dear parents, our school's new WhatsApp channel will share urgent announcements only - closures, exam dates and safety messages. It will not be used for homework or daily chat. Please join using the QR code sent home today.**

Statement	True	False
The channel will be used for daily homework chat.	⬭	⬭

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

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

Every Friday morning, while his classmates sleep in, seventeen-year-old Qais Al Balushi sits in his small bedroom studio in Sur, adjusts a borrowed microphone, and presses record. His podcast, 'Sawahil' - 'Coasts' - tells the stories of Oman's seaside towns, and last month it reached ten thousand listeners.

The idea started with his grandmother. 'She knows a thousand stories about the sea,' Qais says, 'but nobody was writing them down.' He recorded her talking about the old dhow ships for his own interest, then played the recording to his friends. They loved it - not the history itself, but the way she told it, laughing in the middle of sentences, singing old sailors' songs.

Qais had no equipment and no training, so he watched free online tutorials and borrowed a microphone from the school media room. His first episode was recorded under a blanket to keep the sound clean - a trick he learned from the internet. 'My mother opened the door and thought I was ill,' he laughs. 'I was under a blanket in August, talking to myself.'

The podcast grew slowly. Episode one had forty listeners, most of them his family. Then a popular Omani writer shared episode six - the one about the honey traders of the mountains, recorded with an old beekeeper in Al Jabal Al Akhdar - and overnight, the audience jumped to two thousand. Now listeners send him messages suggesting people to interview: the last traditional boat builder in Sur, a woman who weaves fishing nets in Quriyat, a diver who collects oysters near Masirah.

Qais has rules for his young listeners who want to start their own shows. Keep episodes short - fifteen minutes maximum. Record in a quiet room with soft furniture. And most importantly: ask your elders about their lives before it is too late. 'Phones fill our days with strangers' lives,' he says. 'My podcast does the opposite. It gives our own people back their voices.'

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READING 2 (continued)

31. When does Qais record his podcast?

- ⬭ every evening
- ⬭ every Friday morning
- ⬭ every weekend afternoon

32. Where does Qais live?

- ⬭ in Muscat
- ⬭ in Sur
- ⬭ in Nizwa

33. Whose stories started the podcast idea?

- ⬭ his teacher's
- ⬭ his mother's
- ⬭ his grandmother's

34. Why did Qais record under a blanket?

- ⬭ to keep the sound clean
- ⬭ to hide from his mother
- ⬭ to stay warm

35. How many listeners did episode one have?

- ⬭ forty
- ⬭ two thousand
- ⬭ ten thousand

36. Which episode did the famous writer share?

- ⬭ episode one
- ⬭ episode six
- ⬭ episode ten

37. How long should episodes be, according to Qais?

- ⬭ ten minutes
- ⬭ fifteen minutes maximum
- ⬭ one hour

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

Read the text. Then complete the tasks.

I was fourteen when I told my father I wanted to be a filmmaker. He looked at me over his coffee and said, 'Hilal, in this family we become engineers.' Three years later, my short film won second prize at a student film festival, and my father was the loudest person clapping in the hall.

People imagine filmmaking is cameras and famous actors. For a student filmmaker, it is neither. My camera was my phone. My actors were my cousins - Hamood played the hero, and little Amani played every female role until she got bored and demanded to direct instead. My editing studio was the free computer in the school library, where I stayed after lessons until the cleaners politely asked me to go home.

My first film was terrible, and I will keep it forever. It was four minutes about my grandfather's coffee shop in Muttrah, and everything that could go wrong did: the sound was windy, the light was bad, and in the most emotional moment of the interview, my phone fell over. My grandfather just kept talking to the fallen phone, because he is a professional storyteller. But when I showed the film to him later, he cried. Not because the film was good - because someone had finally asked him to tell his story.

That is when I understood what films really are. They are questions with a camera attached. Every person you film gives you a piece of their life, and your job is to carry it carefully.

The festival film was about the last radio repairman in our town - a man of eighty whose small shop still smells of old electronics. I spent two months visiting him every Thursday. In the final scene, he repairs a radio older than me, and music fills the shop, and he smiles at it like an old friend. The judges said the film was 'simple and honest', which is exactly what he is.

My father now shows the film to everyone who visits our house. He tells them, 'In this family, we become whatever we work hard at.' The engineering conversation has never come up 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 old was the writer when he told his father his dream?

_____

39. What was the writer's camera?

_____

40. How long was his first film?

_____

41. Who was the festival film about?

_____

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

42. What did the writer's father want him to become?

⬭ **a filmmaker** ⬭ **an engineer** ⬭ **an actor**

43. Who were the actors in the writer's films?

⬭ **his cousins** ⬭ **his classmates** ⬭ **professionals**

44. Why did the grandfather cry?

⬭ **the film was beautiful** ⬭ **someone asked for his story** ⬭ **the shop was closing**

45. How did the judges describe the film?

⬭ **modern and fast** ⬭ **simple and honest** ⬭ **sad and long**

READING SCORE	
	20

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