READING 1 (Items 26-32) (7 marks)

Read each text, then shade True or False for the statement.

Media Club Notice: The first meeting of the new School Podcast Club will be held on Monday after lessons in Room 12. Bring your ideas for show topics. No experience is needed - training will be provided.

26. Only experienced students can join the Podcast Club.

○ True ○ False

Hi Yousuf! I saw your photo in the newspaper this morning - you look great! Congratulations on winning the photography prize. Let's celebrate after school. - Ahmed

27. Ahmed saw Yousuf's photo in a magazine.

○ True ○ False

JOB VACANCY: Al-Watan Weekly seeks a part-time reporter to cover school sports events every Friday. Must be over 16 with excellent writing skills. Send two examples of your work to jobs@alwatan.om by 1 December.

28. The reporter will write about sports events.

○ True ○ False

Dear Parents, This week, your child's class will appear in a short film about our school that will be shown on the education channel. If you do NOT want your child to appear, please inform the office before Wednesday.

29. All parents must inform the office before Wednesday.

○ True ○ False

READING 1 (continued)

NEWS CLUB TRIP: Our visit to the National Broadcasting Centre has been moved from Tuesday to Thursday because the centre is hosting an important event on Tuesday. The bus time is unchanged.

30. The trip was moved because of an event at the centre.

○ True ○ False

Warning for social media users: A false message is spreading about school closures tomorrow. All schools will open as normal. Always check news with the official ministry accounts before sharing.

31. The message about school closures is true.

○ True ○ False

The school library has subscribed to three new magazines: Science World, History Today and Sports Monthly. Students may read them in the library or borrow them for one week.

32. The new magazines can be taken home.

○ True ○ False

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READING 2 (Items 33-40) (8 marks)

Read the email, then answer the questions on the next page.

Dear Shaikha,
Thank you for your letter! You asked about my new hobby, so here is the whole story.
In October, our English teacher started a class newspaper, and she chose me as one of the writers. At first, I was nervous because I thought my writing was not good enough. My first article was about the school's charity week, and it came back covered in red corrections!
But my teacher was kind. She showed me how journalists write: start with the most important fact, keep sentences short, and check every name twice. My second article, about the football team's victory, needed only three corrections. My third had none at all.
Last month, something exciting happened. A reporter from a real newspaper visited our school, read our class newspaper, and liked my article about the new library. He asked if he could publish it in the newspaper's youth page! My father bought six copies, and my grandmother framed one for her wall.
Writing has changed how I see the world. I notice details now: what people say, how places look, what questions to ask. I have decided that I want to study media at university.
How is your drawing course going? You must send me a picture for our next issue!
Your friend,
Hilal

READING 2 (continued)

33. The class newspaper started in _____.

○ September ○ October ○ December

34. Hilal's first article was about _____.

○ the football team ○ the new library ○ the charity week

35. His teacher advised him to begin with _____.

○ the most important fact ○ a question ○ a funny story

36. The visiting reporter liked the article about _____.

○ the football victory ○ the charity week ○ the new library

37. Hilal's father _____ six copies of the newspaper.

○ bought ○ read ○ sold

38. Who framed a copy of the article?

○ his teacher ○ his grandmother ○ his father

39. Hilal now wants to study _____ at university.

○ English ○ media ○ journalism history

40. Hilal asks Shaikha about _____.

○ her drawing course ○ her school magazine ○ her new camera

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READING 3 (Items 41-50) (10 marks)

Read the text, then complete the tasks on the next page.

THE STORY OF OMANI NEWSPAPERS

The history of newspapers in Oman is younger than many people think. Although Omanis have exchanged news through poetry, letters and storytellers for centuries, the country's first real newspaper, called 'Al-Watan', did not appear until 1971. It began as a small weekly paper, printed in simple black and white, and it carried news of the young nation to readers in every region.

Before 1970, most Omanis received news by listening to the radio or to travellers arriving from abroad. The new newspaper changed this quickly. For the first time, people could read about their own country in their own language: new schools being opened, roads being built, and the visits of the Sultan to the regions.

Other newspapers followed. In 1980, the 'Oman Daily Observer' began publishing in English, giving foreign residents and visitors a window into the country. Today, several daily newspapers appear in both Arabic and English, and their websites bring news to readers around the world within seconds.

Technology has changed the industry completely. The first newspapers were printed letter by letter, with workers placing each metal letter by hand. Later came faster printing machines, colour photographs, and finally the internet. Today's journalists write for the paper and the website at the same time, and many stories now include videos.

Through all these changes, one thing has stayed the same: the newspaper's role as the nation's memory. Old copies of 'Al-Watan' from the 1970s are kept carefully in the national library, where historians use them to understand how modern Oman was built, day by day, page by page.

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READING 3 (continued)

Task One: Write not more than FOUR WORDS OR A NUMBER.

41. What was Oman's first newspaper called?

_____

42. When did 'Al-Watan' first appear?

_____

43. How often was it published at first?

_____

44. When did the 'Oman Daily Observer' begin?

_____

45. How were the first newspapers printed?

_____

46. Where are the old copies kept today?

_____

Task Two: Shade the correct option.

47. 'Al-Watan' was first printed in _____.

○ colour ○ black and white ○ English

48. Before 1970, most Omanis received news from _____.

○ newspapers ○ the radio and travellers ○ television

49. The 'Oman Daily Observer' was published in _____.

○ Arabic ○ French ○ English

50. Historians use old newspapers to _____.

○ learn about modern Oman's history ○ study printing machines ○ find old advertisements

READING SCORE: _____ / 25

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