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

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

Exam Notice: The English exam will take place on Tuesday in the main examination hall, not the sports hall as announced before. Be seated by 8.45 am. Bring your ID card and pens. Calculators and phones are not allowed.

26. The exam is in the sports hall.

○ True ○ False

Hi team, our project must be submitted by Sunday midnight. I have finished the introduction and first two sections. Hamad, please add your charts to the shared folder by Friday, so we can review everything together on Saturday. Amira

27. Hamad must add his charts on Saturday.

○ True ○ False

SUMMER JOBS: City Hotel needs four friendly students at reception during July and August. Hours: 4 pm to 10 pm, five days weekly. Good English is essential, but experience is not required. Apply at the hotel office before 30 May.

28. Experience is necessary for this job.

○ True ○ False

FOUND: A black smartphone was found on a seat in the school library on Monday morning. The screen is slightly damaged. The owner can collect it from the secretary's office after describing the phone and its cover correctly.

29. The phone was found in the playground.

○ True ○ False

READING 1 (continued)

Warning to concert-goers: Police advise fans to buy tickets for Saturday's concert only from the official website. Fake tickets are being sold online at low prices. Anyone with a fake ticket will not be allowed to enter the stadium.

30. Fake tickets are sold at low prices.

○ True ○ False

The Muscat International Book Fair opens next Thursday at the Exhibition Centre and continues for ten days. More than 600 publishers from 40 countries will take part. Entry is free for students on the first two days. Opening hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

31. Students pay nothing on the first two days.

○ True ○ False

HOSPITAL NOTICE: Visiting hours are 4 pm to 8 pm. Only two visitors per patient are allowed at once. Children under ten may not visit the third floor. Wash your hands before and after visiting, and keep phones silent.

32. Three visitors may see a patient together.

○ True ○ False

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

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

Dear Rashid,

Greetings from Sur! I hope you and the family are all well. I have been here for three weeks now with the 'Clean Coast' volunteering programme, and I have so much to tell you.

The programme brings together forty young people from all over Oman. Our job is to clean the beaches around Sur and to teach the local community about protecting the sea. Every morning we wake up at half past six, and after a quick breakfast we walk to a different beach with our gloves and bags. By eleven o'clock, we have usually collected more than a hundred kilograms of plastic bottles, fishing nets and other rubbish. It is hard work under the sun, but the beaches look beautiful when we finish.

In the afternoons, we visit schools in the area. We give short presentations to the children about how plastic harms turtles and other sea creatures. The kids are wonderful - they always ask a thousand questions! Last Tuesday, one little girl told me she wants to become a marine biologist because of our visit. Moments like that make all the tiredness disappear.

The evenings are my favourite part of the day. We cook dinner together in our beach camp, and then we sit around and talk or play games. I have made friends from Muscat, Nizwa, Salalah and even from Masirah Island. One of them, Khamis, plays the oud beautifully, and he is teaching me to play a few traditional songs on the oud.

Yesterday we had a day off, and the programme leaders took us to the turtle reserve at Ras Al Hadd. We were incredibly lucky: after midnight, we watched a giant green turtle come out of the sea and lay her eggs in the sand, only a few metres away from us. It was one of the most magical things I have ever seen.

Only one week remains of the programme, and honestly, I don't want it to end. I have learned that protecting our environment is not just the government's job - it belongs to all of us. When I get back home, I am going to start a small clean-up club in our neighbourhood. Will you join me as the first member? Say yes!

Write soon.

Your friend,

Talal

READING 2 (continued)

33. Talal is in Sur for _____.

○ one week ○ three weeks ○ one month

34. The volunteers work on the beaches _____.

○ in the morning ○ in the afternoon ○ at night

35. In the afternoons, the volunteers visit _____.

○ hospitals ○ schools ○ offices

36. The children ask many _____.

○ songs ○ questions ○ gifts

37. Khamis is teaching Talal to _____.

○ play the oud ○ swim ○ cook

38. On their day off, the volunteers went to _____.

○ Masirah Island ○ Ras Al Hadd ○ Salalah

39. At the reserve, Talal watched a turtle _____.

○ lay her eggs ○ catch a fish ○ swim away

40. At home, Talal plans to start _____.

○ a football team ○ a singing group ○ a clean-up club

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

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

THE SULTAN QABOOS GRAND MOSQUE

The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, in the Bausher district of Muscat, is the largest and most magnificent mosque in Oman. Sultan Qaboos announced a competition to design it in 1992, and construction began in 1995. After six years of work by hundreds of craftsmen, the mosque was officially opened in 2001 as a gift from the Sultan to the nation, and to the whole Islamic world.

The mosque is built from 300,000 tonnes of sandstone imported from India. Its main minaret rises ninety metres into the sky, and four smaller minarets stand at the corners of the complex. The main prayer hall can hold 6,500 worshippers at one time, and the women's prayer hall holds 750. With the outdoor courtyards and gardens, the mosque can receive up to 20,000 worshippers in total. Around the mosque there are beautiful gardens with fountains and palm trees, where visitors can walk and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere.

The main prayer hall contains two world-famous treasures. The first is the carpet, which covers the whole floor of the hall. This single piece of hand-woven carpet measures about 70 by 60 metres, and it took six hundred women four years to weave it by hand. It contains 1,700 million knots and weighs 21 tonnes. The second treasure is the enormous chandelier that hangs from the main dome. Made in Germany, it is fourteen metres tall, weighs more than eight tonnes, and is decorated with 600,000 pieces of crystal. It contains 1,122 lamps, and when they are all lit, the whole hall shines like daylight.

The walls and ceilings of the mosque are decorated with beautiful patterns from Islamic art, and verses of the Holy Quran are written in traditional calligraphy around the main hall. The wooden doors and window frames were carved by hand by Omani craftsmen. The library of the mosque holds around 20,000 books on science, culture and religion, and it welcomes students and researchers from all over the country.

Non-Muslim visitors are welcome at the mosque every morning, except on Fridays, from 8.30 until 11.00. Visitors are asked to dress modestly, and women should cover their hair. Every year, hundreds of thousands of tourists from every corner of the world come to admire this masterpiece of modern Islamic architecture, which combines traditional Omani craftsmanship with the finest materials from across the globe. It has truly become one of the most famous landmarks in the whole of Oman.

READING 3 (continued)

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

41. When was the mosque officially opened? (year)

_____

42. Where was the sandstone brought from? (country)

_____

43. How tall is the main minaret?

_____

44. How many worshippers can the mosque receive in total?

_____

45. Who wove the main carpet?

_____

46. Where was the chandelier made? (country)

_____

Task Two: Shade the correct option.

47. The mosque was opened as a gift from _____.

○ the people of Muscat ○ the Sultan ○ the architects

48. The main carpet took _____ to weave.

○ two years ○ four years ○ six years

49. The chandelier is decorated with _____.

○ gold ○ crystal ○ diamonds

50. Non-Muslims can visit the mosque _____.

○ every morning except Friday ○ every evening ○ on Fridays only

READING SCORE: _____ / 25

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