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

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

Al-Madinah Bookshop: Our annual sale starts on Monday 10th November. All school books will be reduced by 25% for one week only. During the sale, the shop will open one hour earlier than usual, at 8 a.m.

26. The sale will continue for two weeks.

○ True ○ False

Hi Amna! The shoes you ordered online have arrived, but they sent size 38 instead of 36. I'll take them back to the shop tomorrow and ask for an exchange. Do you want to come with me? - Salwa

27. Salwa wants to exchange the shoes because they are the wrong size.

○ True ○ False

FRESH FRUIT MARKET - Buy one kilo of Omani bananas and get half a kilo free! Offer valid every Friday in October at all our branches. Free home delivery for orders over 5 rials.

28. Free delivery depends on how much you spend.

○ True ○ False

Dear Mr Rashid, Thank you for your message about the laptop you bought from our website last month. We are sorry that it stopped working. Please bring it to any of our service centres with your receipt, and we will repair it free of charge.

29. Mr Rashid must pay for the repair.

○ True ○ False

READING 1 (continued)

CUSTOMERS ARE ADVISED that the main entrance of City Centre Mall will be closed on Thursday morning for cleaning. Please use the east entrance near the food court. We apologise for any inconvenience.

30. The whole mall will be closed on Thursday morning.

○ True ○ False

You are invited to the opening of our new handicrafts shop 'Asala' in Nizwa Souq on Saturday at 7 p.m. Traditional music, free gifts for the first fifty visitors, and discounts all evening.

31. Every visitor will receive a free gift.

○ True ○ False

Warning: Some online sellers advertise branded watches at very low prices. These products are often fake. Always check the seller's registration number before you pay.

32. Cheap branded watches online may not be real.

○ True ○ False

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

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

Dear Hamdan,
How are you? I hope your studies are going well. I promised to tell you about my new part-time job, so here is my news.
A large new supermarket opened near our house in Seeb last month, and I applied for a weekend job there. To my surprise, they accepted me! I work on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only, so the job does not affect my schoolwork.
The first week was all training. An experienced worker named Salim taught me how to use the till, how to weigh vegetables, and how to speak politely to customers. There is a lot to remember, but I am getting faster every day.
Last Saturday, something difficult happened. A customer became angry because the till had charged him twice for one item. He spoke loudly, and everyone was watching us. I stayed calm, checked his receipt carefully, and returned the extra money with an apology. He left the shop smiling! My manager said I had behaved professionally, which made me very proud.
The job has taught me patience, and of course I am saving money too. So far I have saved eighty rials. When I reach one hundred, I am going to buy the bicycle I told you about. Then I can cycle to work instead of taking the bus.
What I like most is meeting different people every day. Some customers are friendly, others are tired or in a hurry, and I am learning how to deal with all of them.
Write back soon and tell me about your new job at the pharmacy. Do you enjoy it?
Your friend,
Khalid

READING 2 (continued)

33. Khalid works at the supermarket on _____.

○ weekdays ○ weekends ○ public holidays

34. During his first week, Khalid learned to _____.

○ use the till ○ arrange the shelves ○ drive the delivery van

35. The angry customer complained about _____.

○ a long queue ○ a closed checkout ○ an item charged twice

36. Khalid solved the problem by _____.

○ giving a free voucher ○ returning the extra money ○ calling his manager

37. So far, Khalid has saved _____.

○ fifty rials ○ eighty rials ○ a hundred rials

38. Khalid plans to buy _____.

○ a bicycle ○ a phone ○ a laptop

39. What does Khalid like most about the job?

○ the free food ○ the short hours ○ meeting different people

40. Khalid asks Hamdan about his job at _____.

○ a pharmacy ○ a bookshop ○ a restaurant

Prepared by:
Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy
Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate

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

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

THE SOUQS OF OMAN

For hundreds of years, the souq has been the heart of every Omani town. Long before modern malls existed, people bought and sold everything in these busy markets, from food and fabrics to silver and spices. The most famous of all is Muttrah Souq in Muscat, one of the oldest markets in the Arab world. Local people also call it 'Al Dhalam', the Market of Darkness, because of its narrow covered lanes where sunlight rarely enters.

Inside Muttrah Souq, visitors can find frankincense, silver jewellery, traditional khanjars, and colourful fabrics. For centuries, merchants from India and East Africa came to this market by sea, bringing their own goods and taking Omani products home with them. This trade made Muscat an important port and gave its souq a special international character.

Every region has its own famous market. Nizwa Souq, for example, is known for its Friday cattle market, which begins early in the morning when farmers bring goats and cows to sell. Visitors also come for the sweet Omani dates and the beautiful pottery that arrives from the nearby town of Bahla.

In recent years, the government has restored many old souqs. Covered walkways have been repaired, lights have been added, and the buildings now look as beautiful as they did a century ago. Tourists love these markets, but they are not only for visitors. Local families still buy their daily goods there, and the souqs keep traditional crafts alive by giving silversmiths and weavers a place to sell their work.

Modern malls may be larger and cooler, but many people still prefer the souq. They come for the friendly atmosphere, the art of bargaining, and the personal relationships with shopkeepers they have known for years. In Oman, a souq is not just a place to shop - it is a place where the community meets.

Prepared by:
Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy
Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate

READING 3 (continued)

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

41. What is Muttrah Souq also called?

_____

42. Why was it given that name? (its lanes)

_____

43. Where did foreign merchants come from?

_____

44. What is sold in Nizwa's Friday market?

_____

45. Where does Nizwa's pottery come from? (town)

_____

46. Who restored many of the old souqs?

_____

Task Two: Shade the correct option.

47. Muttrah Souq is one of the oldest markets in _____.

- ○ Oman
- ○ the Arab world
- ○ Asia

48. The Friday market in Nizwa begins _____.

- ○ early in the morning
- ○ at noon
- ○ in the evening

49. The government improved the old souqs by _____.

- ○ moving them near the sea
- ○ adding large car parks
- ○ repairing the covered walkways

50. Many people still prefer the souq mainly because of _____.

- ○ the social atmosphere
- ○ the lower rents
- ○ the free parking

READING SCORE: _____ / 25

Prepared by:
Mohamed Mostafa Al Shorbagy
Regional Supervisor, Wusta Governorate