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

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

LECTURE CHANGE: Wednesday's Biology lecture (Hall B, 10 a.m.) has been moved to Hall C at the same time. The Friday lab session is cancelled and will be repeated next week.

26. The Biology lecture will start later than usual.

○ True ○ False

Dear Students, The university library will extend its opening hours during the exam period: from next Sunday, we will open at 7 a.m. and close at midnight. Group study rooms must be booked online one day in advance.

27. Students can book a study room on the same day they use it.

○ True ○ False

CLUBS FAIR! Tuesday 12-4 p.m., Sports Hall. Join one of our 40 student clubs: photography, chess, drama, hiking and more. Sign up with your student ID card and get a free T-shirt!

28. Students need their ID card to join a club.

○ True ○ False

Salam Dr Ahmed, I woke up with a fever this morning and can't attend today's lecture. Could you please send me the slides? I'll ask my roommate for the notes. Sorry for the trouble. - Iman, Group 3

29. Iman missed the lecture because she was ill.

○ True ○ False

READING 1 (continued)

Scholarships for excellent students! The Al-Noor Foundation offers fifty scholarships for engineering students starting university this year. Apply before 30 June with your school report and two recommendation letters.

30. Fifty engineering scholarships are offered.

○ True ○ False

Reminder to all first-year students: mobile phones must be switched off during examinations. Any student found with a phone, even inside a bag, will be reported to the examinations committee.

31. Phones are allowed in the exam hall if they are inside a bag.

○ True ○ False

The College of Science invites all first-year students and their families to a welcome dinner on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the main garden. Please confirm attendance by email before Monday.

32. Family members are welcome at the dinner.

○ 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 Warda,
It was lovely to receive your message. You asked about my first semester at the college here in Sohar, so let me tell you everything.
I live in the college dormitory now. It is comfortable, and I share a large room with two other students - one from Muscat and one from Ibri. We take turns cleaning, and we cook dinner together on Fridays.
My classes begin at eight o'clock every morning, which was difficult at first because I used to wake up late. Now I sleep by eleven and feel fresh in the morning. After classes, I usually spend an hour in the library before I go back to the dormitory.
In September, I joined the volunteer club. Last weekend, we visited a primary school and read stories with the children. It was one of the happiest days I have had here.
Not everything is easy, of course. The statistics course is very difficult for me, and I failed the first quiz. I was embarrassed, but the lecturer was kind and gave me extra help after class twice a week. My marks are improving now.
Last Friday, my roommates and I went to the beach after lunch. The water was warm, and we watched the sunset. I took many photos to show you when I come home.
I miss the family very much, especially mother's cooking! I will visit you all next month, after the mid-term exams.
Tell me about your new school in your reply. Have you made new friends?
Your friend,
Sara

READING 2 (continued)

33. Sara shares her room with _____.

○ one student ○ two students ○ three students

34. Her classes begin at _____.

○ seven o'clock ○ eight o'clock ○ nine o'clock

35. The club Sara joined is a _____ club.

○ volunteer ○ photography ○ cooking

36. Sara finds _____ very difficult.

○ chemistry ○ English ○ statistics

37. When Sara struggled, the lecturer _____.

○ gave her extra help ○ changed her group ○ lent her a book

38. On Friday afternoon, Sara went to _____.

○ the mountains ○ the souq ○ the beach

39. Sara will visit her family _____.

○ next week ○ next month ○ after the final exams

40. Sara asks Warda about _____.

○ her new school ○ her driving test ○ her part-time job

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

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

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY

Sultan Qaboos University was the first public university in the Sultanate of Oman. It opened its doors in 1986, and it is located in Al Khoud, in the governorate of Muscat. The university was named after Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who believed that higher education was the key to the country's future.

The university began with five colleges and has grown steadily. Today it has nine colleges, including Medicine, Engineering, Science, Arts and Social Sciences, Education, Law, Nursing, Agricultural and Marine Sciences, and Economics and Political Science. Each college offers several degree programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

More than 15,000 students study at the university. The campus has a large central library, modern laboratories, sports facilities and student clubs for almost every interest. Students who come from distant regions can live in dormitories inside the campus, which makes student life easier and builds strong friendships.

Research is an important part of the university's mission. Its scientists study subjects that matter to Oman, such as marine life, desert agriculture, medicine and renewable energy. The university's teaching hospital is one of the largest in the country and serves patients from every governorate.

Admission to the university is competitive. Students are accepted mainly on the basis of their school examination results, and the best applicants choose subjects such as medicine and engineering. Graduates of the university now work in every sector, across Oman and abroad, and many have become leaders in government and business.

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READING 3 (continued)

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

41. When did the university open? (year)

_____

42. Where is the university located?

_____

43. After whom is the university named?

_____

44. How many students study there?

_____

45. What is one of the largest in the country?

_____

46. What is admission mainly based on?

_____

Task Two: Shade the correct option.

47. Sultan Qaboos University was the country's first _____.

- ○ public university
- ○ medical college
- ○ technical school

48. The university has _____ colleges.

- ○ seven
- ○ nine
- ○ twelve

49. Students from distant regions can stay in _____.

- ○ the hospital
- ○ local hotels
- ○ dormitories

50. Graduates of the university work _____.

- ○ only in Muscat
- ○ across Oman and abroad
- ○ only in government

READING SCORE: _____ / 25

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