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

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

Science Club Notice: Tomorrow's meeting will be held in Lab 3 instead of the usual room because the air conditioner is being repaired. Same time: 2 p.m. Please bring your project files.

26. The Science Club will meet in a different room.

○ True ○ False

Hi Maather! Good news - the mangrove trip is back ON. The weather warning has been lifted. Bus leaves school at 7 a.m. Saturday. Bring a hat, water and your camera! - Ms Ahlam

27. The mangrove trip was cancelled because of the weather.

○ True ○ False

BEACH CLEAN-UP: Volunteers needed this Friday, 4-6 p.m., at Al-Sawadi Beach. Gloves and bags provided. All participants receive a certificate and free refreshments. Register at the environment office.

28. Volunteers must bring their own gloves.

○ True ○ False

Dear Parents, Please note that the school's water coolers have all been fitted with new filters. We also encourage students to bring reusable bottles instead of buying plastic bottles from the canteen.

29. Students are encouraged to use reusable bottles.

○ True ○ False

READING 1 (continued)

Warning: High temperatures are expected this weekend, reaching 47 degrees in some areas. Avoid outdoor activities between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., drink plenty of water, and never leave children or animals in parked cars.

30. Outdoor activities are safest in the early afternoon.

○ True ○ False

GREEN SCHOOL COMPETITION: Does your class have an idea to help the environment? Enter the national Green School Competition! First prize: a trip for the whole class to the Daymaniyat Islands. Entries close on 30 April.

31. The competition winners will visit the Daymaniyat Islands.

○ True ○ False

Reminder: Students taking the lab safety test must read pages 40-52 of the science handbook before Thursday. The test is compulsory for anyone who wants to use the chemistry laboratory this term.

32. Only chemistry students must take the safety test.

○ 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 Azza,
How are you? I have so much to tell you about our school's science fair last week!
As you know, our group had been preparing our project for two months. We built a small machine that waters plants automatically when the soil becomes dry. It uses an old phone charger, a small pump from a broken aquarium, and a sensor that we bought online for three rials.
On the morning of the fair, disaster nearly struck. While we were carrying the machine to the hall, I dropped the sensor, and it cracked! Luckily, Said had brought his father's toolbox, and we repaired it with strong tape twenty minutes before the judges arrived.
Three judges walked around and asked each group questions. One of them, a university professor, asked us how much water our machine could save. We explained that a normal garden loses a lot of water in the afternoon heat, but our machine waters only when the soil is dry. He wrote many notes and smiled.
At four o'clock, the results were announced. We did not win first prize - that went to a group who built a robot arm - but we won second prize and the special award for the most useful project! The head teacher has asked us to present it at the open day next month.
I wish you could have been there. How is your new school in Barka? Do they have a science club?
Your friend,
Shaikha

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READING 2 (continued)

33. Shaikha's group prepared their project for _____.

○ two weeks ○ two months ○ one year

34. The machine waters plants when _____.

○ the sun rises ○ the weather is hot ○ the soil becomes dry

35. The sensor cost _____.

○ three rials ○ five rials ○ thirteen rials

36. The sensor broke when Shaikha _____.

○ carried it to the hall ○ showed it to the judges ○ tested it at home

37. Who repaired the machine?

○ Shaikha ○ Said ○ the professor

38. The professor asked about _____.

○ the cost of the machine ○ how much water it saves ○ how they built the sensor

39. First prize went to a group who built _____.

○ a watering machine ○ a robot arm ○ a solar cooker

40. Shaikha's group will present their project again at _____.

○ the open day ○ a national competition ○ the university

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

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

THE RETURN OF THE ARABIAN ORYX

Fifty years ago, the Arabian oryx disappeared completely from the wild. This beautiful white antelope, with its long straight horns, had lived in the deserts of Arabia for thousands of years, but hunting with modern weapons and cars reduced its numbers until, in 1972, the last wild oryx was killed. The animal survived only in zoos and private collections far from its home.

The story could have ended there, but Oman decided to bring the oryx back. In 1982, ten oryx from zoos in America were flown to the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in the Al Wusta region. Rangers watched over them day and night, teaching them to find water and wild plants again. Slowly, the animals learned to live as wild creatures once more.

The project was a great success. The herd grew from ten animals to more than four hundred, and in 1994 the sanctuary was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List - the first place in Oman to receive this honour. The Arabian oryx became the first animal in the world to return to the wild after disappearing completely.

Hard times came again in the 2000s, when illegal hunters killed many oryx for their valuable horns, and the sanctuary lost much of its protected land. The number of wild oryx fell to about sixty-five. However, the government acted firmly: protection was increased, new laws were passed, and the rangers' work was supported with modern technology such as tracking collars.

Today, the white herds are growing again. Visitors to Al Wusta can sometimes see the oryx standing against the desert sky, its horns pointing at the clouds - a living proof that when people decide to repair the damage they have done, nature can forgive.

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READING 3 (continued)

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

41. When was the last wild oryx killed? (year)

_____

42. Where did the first ten oryx come from?

_____

43. In which region is the sanctuary?

_____

44. When was the sanctuary added to the World Heritage List?

_____

45. Why were the oryx hunted in the 2000s?

_____

46. What technology supports the rangers' work?

_____

Task Two: Shade the correct option.

47. The Arabian oryx disappeared from the wild because of _____.

○ disease ○ hunting ○ climate change

48. The first ten oryx arrived in Oman in _____.

○ 1972 ○ 1982 ○ 1994

49. The sanctuary was the first _____ in Oman.

○ place on the World Heritage List ○ national park in Arabia ○ zoo in the Gulf

50. In the 2000s, the number of wild oryx fell to about _____.

○ sixty-five ○ one hundred ○ four hundred

READING SCORE: _____ / 25

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