READING 1 (Items 1–4) (4 marks)

Match the four texts on the left with the texts in the box. There is **ONE** extra text in the box.)

1. Hilal watched a documentary about Mars and now dreams of space. He wants to learn more, but in short, fun lessons, not long books. His favourite subject at school is science.

_____

2. Shaikha loves science but hates wasting things. She wants to learn how to recycle and reuse things at home in creative ways. Her family throws away too much, she says.

_____

3. Badr wants to be a pilot. He knows it is difficult, and he wants to know exactly what to study and how to prepare, step by step. He watches planes from his bedroom window.

_____

4. Ghalya is interested in the weather. She wants to understand why storms happen and how scientists predict them, in simple language. She checks the sky from her window every morning before school.

_____

A. Why does the wind blow? Where do storms come from? Our weather school explains it all in simple words, with beautiful animations. Learn to read weather maps, predict rain, and understand the sky above you. New lesson every week, only ten minutes long, with a fun quiz at the end!
B. Do you dream of flying? Our guide 'From Student to Pilot' shows you the exact path: which subjects to choose at school, which exams to take, and how to prepare your body and mind. Written by real airline pilots with years of experience. Your journey to the sky starts here!
C. Don't throw it away - create with it! Learn to turn old bottles into plant pots, old T-shirts into bags, and cardboard into wonderful toys. Fifty creative recycling projects with simple steps and clear photos. Save money, save the planet, and have fun at the same time with your family!
D. Space for young dreamers! Learn about Mars, the Moon and the International Space Station in five-minute animated lessons. How do astronauts sleep? What do they eat? When will the first person walk on Mars? Join two million young space fans, watch real rocket launches, and find out the answers today!
E. Learn a musical instrument! Our videos teach you the oud, the guitar or the piano, starting from zero. Practise fifteen minutes a day, and play your first song in two weeks. Then join our online band and play with students from thirty schools. Music is the language that everyone in the world understands!

READING 2 (Items 5–10) (6 marks)

Read the text. Then complete the task.

Should humans go to Mars? Governments and companies are spending billions of rials to answer this question with rockets. In my opinion, the answer is yes - but for the right reasons.

Some people say we should not go to Mars because it costs too much money. They say we should fix Earth's problems first. I understand this argument, but history shows that big journeys always pay us back. The space programme of the last century gave us satellites, weather forecasts, GPS, and even the cameras in our phones. We did not plan these gifts; they happened because we tried difficult things.

Others are afraid of the danger. It is true that Mars is far - six months in a small rocket - and the journey will be hard. But humans have always crossed the dangerous unknown. Omani sailors crossed oceans in wooden ships long before engines existed. If our grandfathers had stayed safe at home, Oman would have no ports, no trade, and no stories to tell.

For me, the best reason to go is not science or money. It is that Mars makes us dream. When a child watches a human step onto that red planet, she will believe that nothing is impossible for her - and that child might solve the problems we cannot solve today.

In conclusion, let us go to Mars - carefully, together, and with open eyes. The stars are far, but so was India to a boy on a beach in Sur five hundred years ago. He built a ship anyway. Perhaps the first child born on Mars is already alive today, watching the sky from a classroom just like ours - and dreaming.

READING 2 (continued)

For each question, write a short answer (not more than FOUR WORDS or a NUMBER).

5. What is being spent to answer the Mars question?

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6. Name one gift from the old space programme.

_____

7. How long is the journey to Mars?

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8. What did Omani sailors cross in wooden ships?

_____

9. What is the writer's best reason to go to Mars?

_____

10. Where was the boy in the last sentence?

_____

READING	SCORE	10