

Listening 1 (Items 1 – 7)**(7 marks)**

*You are going to hear a conversation between a **flight attendant** and a **passenger**.*

Listen, and shade in the bubble (☐) next to the correct option.

1. The flight is delayed because _____.
☐ a passenger is late ☐ of a mechanical problem ☐ a passenger got sick
2. The new departure time is _____.
☐ 14:30 ☐ 14:45 ☐ 15:00
3. The passenger is worried about _____.
☐ missing her next flight ☐ losing her luggage ☐ the wet weather
4. The flight attendant offers to move the passenger to row _____.
☐ one ☐ two ☐ three
5. The only meal the passenger can have is the _____ option.
☐ meat ☐ vegetarian ☐ fish
6. The _____ channel on the plane is not working.
☐ music ☐ film ☐ documentary
7. The passenger selects the _____ newspaper.
☐ Times of Oman ☐ Muscat Daily ☐ Observer

Do not write in this space

Listening 2 (Items 8 – 15)**(8 marks)**

You are going to hear a talk about *The History of Jeans*.

Part One: For each item, write a short answer (*not more than FOUR WORDS or a NUMBER*)

8. When was the first pair of jeans made? (year)

9. Who wore the first pair of jeans?

10. Why did Davis cover the pockets with copper?

11. Where did Davis and Levi Straus open their jeans factory? (country)

Part Two: For each item, shade in the bubble (☐) next to the correct option.

12. Workers prefer denim jeans because they are_____.

☐ softer☐ practical☐ lighter

13. Jeans became popular _____ the Second World War.

☐ before☐ during☐ after

14. The 2012 report showed that _____ percent of jeans were manufactured in Asia.

☐ forty☐ fifty☐ seventy

15. By 2030, the global jeans market will rise to _____ billion US dollars.

☐ 78☐ 83☐ 122

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Do not write in this space

Vocabulary (Items 16 – 20)**(2½ marks)***For each item, shade in the bubble () next to the correct option.*

16. Ali was so rude that his teacher told him to change his _____.
☐ review ☐ attitude ☐ description ☐ organisation
17. To become healthy, everyone should eat _____ meals full of vitamins.
☐ nervous ☐ ambitious ☐ nutritions ☐ cautious
18. My father is very proud of all my _____ at university.
☐ discharges ☐ achievements ☐ desires ☐ failures
19. We were exhausted because we had spent a whole day _____ the forest.
☐ exploring ☐ fasting ☐ cooking ☐ exchanging
20. She has become more relaxed and _____ in her English-speaking skills.
☐ fragrant ☐ hesitant ☐ affluent ☐ confident

Do not write in this space

Grammar (Items 21 – 25)**(2½ marks)***For each item, shade in the bubble () next to the correct option.*

Speaker A: Hi! How was your trip to Australia last year?

Speaker B: Oh, it was horrible! I ⁽²¹⁾ ☐ has had / ☐ had a terrible experience there.

Speaker A: Really! What happened?

Speaker B: Well, we were swimming, when suddenly I
⁽²²⁾ ☐ was attacked / ☐ were attacked by a shark.

Speaker A: Oh dear! So what did you ⁽²³⁾ ☐ doing / ☐ do?

Speaker B: Well, I screamed and screamed. Thankfully, my friends saved me but
I had ⁽²⁴⁾ ☐ to / ☐ for stay in hospital in Australia for six months.

Speaker A: Oh! I'm so sorry! I had no idea but I can see that you
⁽²⁵⁾ ☐ are / ☐ were fine now.

Do not write in this space

Do not write in this space

Grammar/Vocabulary (Items 26 – 30)**(5 marks)***For each item, shade in the bubble (☐) next to the correct option.*

Many people face (26) situations in their lives. Balancing work, family, and other responsibilities can be a real challenge. (27), one way to deal with this stress is to include relaxation techniques in your (28) routine. These methods can help calm you down and reduce anxiety. You can do deep breathing exercises and you can (29) time in nature. There are plenty of options to choose from, so finding moments to relax and refresh yourself can make a big (30) in how you cope with challenges.

26. ☐ stressful ☐ cheap ☐ inedible ☐ round

27. ☐ Because ☐ However ☐ Whenever ☐ Finally

28. ☐ secondary ☐ fatal ☐ surprising ☐ daily

29. ☐ complain ☐ prove ☐ spend ☐ release

30. ☐ emergence ☐ difference ☐ chance ☐ service

Do not write in this space

Reading 1 (Items 31 – 37)**(7 marks)**

Read the texts. Are the statements which follow each text **True** or **False**?
For each item, shade in the bubble (○) under the correct option.

31. Anne always remembers the time when her jeep ran out of petrol driving from Duqm to Salalah along the coast road. There were no petrol stations open at that time! Luckily, a very nice Omani family stopped and gave her petrol so she could continue her journey.

Statement**True****False**

Anne bought fuel for her car at the petrol station.

☐☐

32. In the past, companies used to pay newspapers a lot of money to advertise their goods. However, nowadays companies are using social media platforms, like Instagram, to promote their products.

Statement**True****False**

Companies have changed the way they promote their goods.

☐☐

33. Hi Fahad,
I'm so sorry but I won't be able to play football with you tonight. My father and uncle have asked me to go with them to visit my grandfather in Al Hamra.
See you tomorrow,
Talal

Statement**True****False**

Talal will visit his relative tomorrow.

☐☐

Do not write in this space

Do not write in this space

Reading 1 (continued)

34. Two weeks ago, when I was going to the airport with my wife, we got stuck in a traffic jam. When we arrived at the airport, the check-in desk was closed and we had to buy new tickets because we had missed our flight. I'll never forget that journey.

Statement

True

False

The writer reached the airport on time.

☐
☐

35. Jumbo Electronics is looking for a talented, dynamic sales manager. Interested candidates should email their CV and application letter, to the manager@jumboelectronics.om.

Please note that all candidates should:

- have at least 5 years' sales experience.
- be fluent in Arabic and English.
- have a driving licence.

Statement

True

False

No experience is required for the job.

☐
☐

36. The Ministry of Tourism in Italy has introduced strict guidelines for tourists who wish to visit historical places. Tourists must obtain an official letter or permit and be accompanied by a tour guide at all times.

Statement

True

False

Visiting historical sites in Italy requires special permission.

☐
☐

37. When I first started working, I did not value team work. I thought I could do everything by myself. However, I have changed my opinion because I have learned how important team work is, if one wants to succeed in life.

Statement

True

False

The writer did not believe in team work when he began his career.

☐
☐

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Reading 2 (Items 38 – 45)**(8 marks)**

Read the following letter. Then for each item, shade in the bubble (☐) next to the correct option.

Dear Majid,

I hope you're doing well. How is it at Dhofar University? You haven't written to me for a while. I expect you must be busy with your studies. Anyway, I wanted to tell you about the summer course I took at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). It was similar to the programme your brother, Sami, took at Nizwa University last year. It was a fantastic experience, and I know you'll be interested to hear about it.

The course was for a total of eight weeks, four of which were spent in face-to-face and online sessions at SQU. It started the last week of June and finished the third week of August. Unfortunately, I joined the course one week later than scheduled in July because I wasn't well. There were three courses: Accounting, Marketing and Management and we had to select one according to our specialisation and interest. I chose the Marketing Course as I felt it would help me get a good job after graduation.

An important part of the course involved being placed in a business environment for three weeks. The reason SQU did this was to equip students with the skills they needed to work with business organisations and experience first-hand real world problems. I was selected to work with a company called Falcon while some of my classmates went to Shell and others to Majan. As a result, we acquired essential skills in key areas such as customer service, cooperation, discipline and report writing. However, the most important thing I learned was how to manage my time more efficiently. As you know I find it difficult to get things done on time!

Initially, the most challenging problem we all had was adapting to business working hours especially those of us who lived outside Muscat. We had to work two shifts from 9 am to 1 pm and then work from 4 pm to 7 pm. It was so different to studying at SQU where we finished at 2 pm every day. The last week of the course was very busy as we only had five days to write, edit and submit our projects. I was really happy when I got an 'A' in my final report. However, I felt very sorry for those who failed as they won't be allowed to graduate. I thought it was because they had missed some classes or had not attended their online sessions but it was because they had submitted their work late after the deadline had passed.

Please, write soon and tell me all your news.

Best regards,

Ahmed

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Reading 2 (continued)

38. Majid's brother took a similar course at _____ University last year.
- ☐ Dhofar ☐ Sultan Qaboos ☐ Nizwa
39. Ahmed started his course in _____.
- ☐ June ☐ July ☐ August
40. Ahmed attended the _____ Course.
- ☐ Marketing ☐ Accounting ☐ Management
41. The course participants spent _____ weeks working in a company.
- ☐ three ☐ four ☐ eight
42. Ahmed was assigned to work with _____.
- ☐ Majan ☐ Shell ☐ Falcon
43. The best thing Ahmed learned was how to _____.
- ☐ manage his time ☐ find a job ☐ deal with customers
44. The main issue participants faced in the workplace was _____.
- ☐ writing reports ☐ working two shifts ☐ cooperating with others
45. Participants who _____ failed the course.
- ☐ submitted their work late ☐ did not attend online sessions ☐ missed some classes

Do not write in this space

Reading 3 (Items 46 – 55)**(10 marks)**

Read the following text. Then complete the tasks.

Andorra

Andorra is a tiny, land-locked country, with a population of approximately 79 thousand, that lies between France and Spain. With a land area of just 468 square kilometres, it is one of Europe's smallest countries. It is approximately 2,000 metres above sea level making it a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. It is the only country in the world to have Catalan as an official language even though French and Spanish are widely spoken.

Andorra is not only known for its stunning natural beauty but also its rich culture and traditions. It hosts many festivals throughout the year. It is one of the few countries in the world to hold an *International Clown Festival* just for women. It is a very popular event that is held in May. It attracts female clowns and comedians from across the world to perform, meet and share tips. The country's top summer event, *The Festa Mega Festival*, is a three-day event held at the beginning of August. It includes everything from street parades and music concerts to folk dancing. It also features food stalls serving traditional dishes like "Escudella", "Cunillo" and "Crèma Andorrana".

Andorra is considered one of the cheapest places to shop in Europe because of its tax-free status. There are over 1000 shops which are open 361 days a year. You can find many goods, such as designer clothing, watches, jewellery, and everyday items like cosmetics and perfumes at much lower prices than in any other European country. However, food and household items are very costly due to the country's mountainous terrain and lack of agricultural resources like farms.

Tourism is the main source of Andorra's economy. According to a recent survey, 10.2 million people visited it in 2023. The stunning natural landscapes of Andorra offer a wide range of outdoor activities. Spring is a great time for nature lovers. It is generally more peaceful and less crowded than other seasons. During summer time, hiking and biking trails provide breathtaking views of the valleys and mountains. Skiing and snowboarding are the main attractions in winter with several world-class ski resorts namely Grandvalira Pal-Arinsal, and Ordino-Arcalis. However, based on the latest World Top Ski Resort Report, Grandvalira is considered the best place to ski in Andorra.

Unfortunately, Andorra does not have its own airport. The nearest airports are Toulouse-Blagnac in France and Barcelona-El Prat in Spain. To actually get to Andorra from either airport, you need to take a bus, a taxi or hire a car as Andorra does not have its own railway system. For those staying a few days in Andorra, buses are the most convenient means of transport as they connect the capital to various towns and villages.

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Reading 3 (continued)

Car rental companies are also available but are expensive. During the summer, traffic can be very heavy at the border crossings with France and Spain as it is the peak tourist season. Therefore, visitors should plan their journey well in advance and be prepared for potential delays.

Task One: For each item, write a short answer (*not more than FOUR WORDS or a NUMBER*).

46. Where is Andorra located?

47. What is the official language of Andorra?

48. When is *The International Clown Festival* held?

49. How long does *The Festa Mega Festival* last?

50. Why are designer goods so cheap in Andorra?

51. What is the main source of income in Andorra?

Do not write in this space

Reading 3 (continued)

Task Two: For each item, shade in the bubble (☐) next to the correct option.

52. Around _____ people visited Andorra in 2023.
☐ 2,000 ☐ 79,000 ☐ 10.2 million
53. According to the text, _____ is the best ski resort in Andorra.
☐ Grandvalira ☐ Pal-Arinsal ☐ Ordino-Arcalis
54. Visitors mostly use _____ to travel between Andorra's towns and villages.
☐ buses ☐ cars ☐ taxis
55. During the _____ season, tourists might get delayed at border crossings.
☐ spring ☐ summer ☐ winter

Do not write in this space

Do not write in this space

(10 marks)

"Everyone in Oman should use a bus to go to work"

Your writing should be clear, convincing and well-organised.

13

Writing 1 (continued)

Lined area for writing.

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(10 marks)

Write a story about **the day when you did something good at school**. Include details such as:

- *When was it*
- *What did you do*
- *How did you feel*

*Your writing should be **clear** and **well-organised**.*

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