Unit 1 A Fair Exchange





1 **1 Look at photographs A and B. What is the connection between them?**
2 Draw two columns in your exercise book and label them A and B. Write the words and phrases that go with each photograph into the correct column.

powered by wind	made of wood	powerful engines	triangular sail
carries silk and spices	carries oil	electronic controls	made of steel

2 **Read the following text as quickly as possible. When you have finished, choose the most appropriate title.**

a The History of the Frankincense Trade
b Shopping for Perfumes
c The Rise of the Oil Business in Oman
d Trading in Ancient and Modern Times

Trade has changed the course of history. It has started wars, made countries rich and led to the discovery of new lands. In the past, merchants travelled far from their homes to trade in silk and spices. Today the goods that are traded have changed dramatically. Countries trade with each other in food, fuel, cars, textiles, chemicals and machinery.

The Arabs, specifically the Omanis, have always been great traders. The Middle East lands are in an excellent location for trading with countries in the East, such as India and China, and those in Europe and the West. In ancient times, caravans travelled along the Silk Road to China and the Far East, carrying silk, spices, perfumes, rice and sugar. Meanwhile, Arab dhows sailed across the ocean and discovered sea routes to India, China and East Africa.

In 5000 BCE, the centre of the frankincense trade was Dhofar. Frankincense was one of the most valuable products in the ancient world, so traders in frankincense became very wealthy. It was shipped across the ocean to India and the Far East in exchange for spices. It was also exported to Greece, Italy and Egypt, where the Pharaohs used it in temple rituals. Today frankincense is still highly-prized. It is bought and sold in modern shopping centres, and is one of the ingredients in perfumes created by Omani companies.

Today, however, it is oil which has given Oman a new economic importance. Since the 1960s, most of Oman's income has come from the sale of petroleum to countries such as China and Japan. The oil consumption of these countries is enormous. Today the traditional Arab dhows no longer set sail across the ocean on their dangerous journeys. Instead, gigantic supertankers carry oil from the Middle East to countries all over the world.

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