

3 Skim the text below. When you have finished, choose the best heading.

- a. Silver Souqs in Oman c. Working in the Omani Silver Trade
b. Omani Heritage and Culture d. How to set up a Business in Oman

My name is Farooq Al Sumar and I'm a **silversmith**. My great-grandfather, Sumar Abdul Kader, came to Oman from Zanzibar and set up a small jewellery business in Muttrah in 1910. Today, it's very successful family business, which I run with my two brothers. My father helps manage it too, although he's over 80 years old. But he's still one of the few people whose advice I ask – after all, he's been in the business for 60 years.



New from old

We make new pieces from **traditional** Omani designs. We also specialise in silver rather than gold because silver is more popular these days. I travel around Oman, and **purchase** old silver from local silversmiths. Some of the pieces are 60 or 70 years old. I choose them very carefully because I want every piece to be **unique**. Nizwa has the best silver souq in Oman, but I also buy a lot of things from Sur. I bring the pieces back to Muttrah, and we copy them in our workshop. We produce silver jewellery, khanjars, coffee pots and many other things.



The market for silver

Our customers are both private individuals and corporate organisations. When Omani companies and other organisations want to present gifts to their **international clients**, they often buy silver pieces from us. We also supply our products to international hotels in Muscat, so they can showcase them. But we have private customers too. For example, we make jewellery based on traditional designs for Omani ladies to wear at weddings.

Preserving our Omani heritage

Silver is an important part of our Omani **heritage** and culture, and I'm very proud of that. Our traditional silverwork is a national treasure, and I want to help **promote** it internationally. I also want to show the new generation of young Omanis that we shouldn't forget about things from days gone by. It's important to **preserve** things from the past because they've helped shape our national **identity**, and who we are today.

4 Read the text again. For each statement, shade in the bubble ☐ next to the correct answer.

- The Al Sumar business is run by _____.
☐ one person ☐ three people ☐ four people
- Farooq buys old silver from silversmiths in _____.
☐ Nizwa ☐ Oman ☐ other countries
- Farooq's customers are mostly _____.
☐ private individuals ☐ Omani ladies ☐ individuals and companies
- Farooq wants to encourage young Omanis to _____.
☐ forget about the past ☐ think about the future ☐ remember days gone by



Farooq Al Sumar