



**Diploma Examination for General Education**

**Semester One – First Session**

**English Language 'Core'**

**Prepared by teacher Malik Abdel-Ghaffar Hussain**  
**Al-Khalil bin Abdullah School, B,E ( 10-12 )**

ELEMENT	Marks		Red Marker	Green Marker	Blue Checker
			Name	Name	Name
LISTENING	15				
VOCABULARY/ GRAMMAR	10				
READING	25				
WRITING 1	10				
WRITING 2	10				
TOTAL					

**Final Total in Numbers**

**Final Total in Words**

**Signature**

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

*You are going to hear a conversation between Yousuf and a famous author called Maeve Binchy.*

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



1. Maeve Binchy is from \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Austria                      ☐ Ireland                      ☐ Syria
2. Maeve's new book is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Evening Class                      ☐ Tara Road                      ☐ Circle of Friends
3. This year, the Dalkey Book Festival will be held in \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Dalkey Castle                      ☐ a primary school                      ☐ the Town Hall
4. Yousuf's friend is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ writer                      ☐ student                      ☐ journalist
5. A one-way train ticket from Dublin city to Dalkey costs \_\_\_\_\_ Euros.  
☐ two                      ☐ four                      ☐ seven
6. Yousuf plans to attend one of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ debates                      ☐ writers' workshops                      ☐ theatre productions
7. The talk given by Maeve Binchy will be on \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Thursday                      ☐ Friday                      ☐ Sunday

**Do not write in this space**

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

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

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

8. Where were the oldest pair of shoes found? (country)

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9. How old were the shoes found in Armenia?

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10. Which animal skins were used to make the shoe of Otzi, the iceman? ( list one)

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11. Whose shoes were found on a beach in the UK in 2006?

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

12. The shoe industry has recently shifted from England to \_\_\_\_ .

☐ Germany☐ Egypt☐ Vietnam

13. The manufacturing of shoes was transformed after the invention of \_\_\_\_ .

☐ the sewing machine☐ hand tools☐ the rolling machine

14. In the Netherlands, shoe companies are now beginning to use \_\_\_\_ materials.


☐ leather☐ sustainable☐ plastic

15. The global footwear market was worth \_\_\_\_ billion US dollars in 2023.

☐ 15☐ 150☐ 340

**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-** The passion for over-shopping \_\_\_\_\_ men as well as women.

- ☐ misuses      ☐ afflicts      ☐ affluent      ☐ protects

**17-** Many old people adore local souqs and markets as they enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ camping      ☐ sleeping      ☐ selling      ☐ bargaining

**18-** Students studying abroad should learn to \_\_\_\_\_ with local customs.

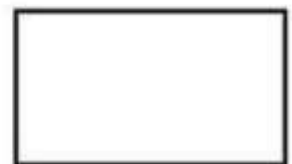
- ☐ cope      ☐ blend      ☐ argue      ☐ complain

**19-** Due to bad weather, the plane finally reached its \_\_\_\_\_ three hours late.

- ☐ harbour      ☐ occupation      ☐ destination      ☐ vacation


**20-** There are two \_\_\_\_\_ close to our school to avoid accidents.

- ☐ limits      ☐ bumps      ☐ walls      ☐ combs



## GRAMMAR (Items 21–25)

(2½ marks)

For each item, shade in the bubble  under the correct option.

**Speaker A:** Hey! I'm really looking forward to starting this course.

**Speaker B:** Me too! I feel so <sup>(21)</sup> ☐ motivated / ☐ motivating to begin.

**Speaker A:** Have you <sup>(22)</sup> ☐ decided / ☐ decide what your focus area will be?

**Speaker B:** Not yet. I'm still <sup>(23)</sup> ☐ thinking / ☐ thought about it. I want to explore a bit more before choosing.

**Speaker A:** That's understandable. I've <sup>(24)</sup> ☐ already / ☐ ago picked mine. I'm going with business management.

**Speaker B:** That sounds great! Maybe I'll <sup>(25)</sup> ☐ look / ☐ looking into something similar.



## GRAMMAR/VOCABULARY (Items 26–30)

(5 marks)

Branding is the process of creating a distinct <sup>(26)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ for a product or company. It helps customers easily <sup>(27)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a business among its competitors. A strong brand communicates a clear <sup>(28)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and builds trust with the audience. Successful branding requires consistency in visual elements such as the logo and color, <sup>(29)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ significantly contribute to brand recall. Moreover, delivering on the brand's promises leads to higher customer <sup>(30)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. In today's competitive market, companies must invest in building a unique brand. A well-established brand can also command higher prices and improve overall business growth.


- 26- ☐ ship      ☐ identity      ☐ product      ☐ job
- 27- ☐ recognize      ☐ buy      ☐ follow      ☐ support
- 28- ☐ colour      ☐ message      ☐ design      ☐ market
- 29- ☐ what      ☐ who      ☐ where      ☐ which
- 30- ☐ confusion      ☐ loyalty      ☐ trust      ☐ frustration



10

## 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.** Solar energy is one of the fastest-growing renewable energy sources. With advancements in solar panel technology, efficiency has significantly increased. Many countries are investing heavily in solar power as a way to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

**Statement****True****False**

Solar energy furthers the dependence on oil, coal and gas.

☐☐

**32.** The Oman Botanic Garden, located near Muscat, aims to preserve the country's rich plant biodiversity. It showcases over 1,200 plant species, 80 % are native to Oman's diverse landscapes, from coastal plains to mountain peaks. The garden is a key part of national conservation efforts.

**Statement****True****False**

The Oman Botanic Garden includes about 240 international plant species.

☐☐

**33.** In the field of robotics, autonomous machines are being developed to perform tasks in a variety of industries, from manufacturing to healthcare. These robots can operate independently or with minimal human intervention, increasing efficiency and reducing human error in complex environments.

**Statement****True****False**

Robots can be widely used in factories.

☐☐

**34.** The Omani Rial is one of the world's strongest currencies, a reflection of the country's economic stability, primarily supported by oil revenues. Despite efforts to diversify the economy, Oman remains reliant on oil exports, though sectors like tourism and logistics are growing.

**Statement****True****False**

Oman's economy is mainly dependent on tourism and logistics sectors.

☐☐



**READING 1 (continued)**

**35.** Cybersecurity is increasingly important as digital systems become more integrated into daily life. Attacks like hacking, phishing, and ransomware pose serious threats to individuals, corporations, and governments, making the development of stronger defenses critical to protecting sensitive data.

**Statement****True****False**

Cybersecurity threats have decreased with the growth of digital systems

☐☐

**36.** Chocolate is made from cocoa beans, which are harvested from cacao trees. It has a rich history dating back to ancient Mesoamerican cultures, where people consumed it as a bitter drink. Today, chocolate is enjoyed worldwide in various forms, including bars and desserts. Dark chocolate contains higher cocoa content and is considered healthier than milk chocolate due to its antioxidants.

**Statement****True****False**

At first, chocolate was drunk without sugar .

☐☐

**37.** The Frankincense Trail in Oman is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognized for its historical significance in ancient trade. This trail was a crucial link between Oman and major civilizations, allowing the trade of frankincense to thrive across regions such as Egypt and Greece.

**Statement****True****False**

Oman purchased frankincense from Egypt and Greece.

☐☐



**READING 2 (Items 38-45)****(8 marks)**

Read the text. Then for each item, shade in the bubble ☐ next to the correct option.

Dear David,

I hope this letter finds you in great spirits! I wanted to take some time to share my thoughts on the hospitality industry in Oman, a sector that has been flourishing and adapting in response to both local and international demands. As you may know, Oman boasts a unique blend of rich cultural heritage and stunning natural landscapes, making it an attractive destination for travelers seeking both relaxation and adventure.

One of the key elements that distinguishes Omani hospitality is its deep-rooted cultural authenticity. From the moment visitors arrive, they are greeted with the traditional Omani coffee, known as *kahwa*, accompanied by dates. This warm gesture reflects the profound hospitality rooted in Omani culture. Many hotels and resorts incorporate traditional architectural designs that showcase complex details, creating an ambiance that honors the nation's history and traditions.

In recent years, the Omani government has recognized the importance of the hospitality sector in diversifying the economy. Through initiatives like Vision 2040, the government aims to enhance tourism while ensuring that it aligns with sustainable practices. This includes promoting eco-friendly resorts and responsible tourism that respects local communities and the environment. You'll find that many establishments are implementing green technologies to minimize their ecological footprint, a commendable effort that aligns with global sustainability goals.

Oman offers abundant of experiences designed to different types of travelers. For those seeking luxury, world-class resorts along the coast provide breathtaking views and exceptional service. Meanwhile, adventure enthusiasts can explore the rugged beauty of the Hajar Mountains or embark on thrilling desert safaris. The rich history and culture of Oman can be experienced through visits to ancient forts and museums that narrate the story of this beautiful land.

Another significant aspect of the hospitality industry here is its focus on training and developing local talent. There are numerous initiatives aimed at equipping Omani youth with the skills needed to excel in hospitality roles. This not only supports job creation but also ensures that the authentic Omani experience is delivered by those who know their culture best. However, the industry does face challenges, particularly in maintaining the balance between growth and the preservation of Omani culture. As the tourism sector expands, it is crucial to ensure that the unique traditions and natural beauty of Oman are protected. The government and industry stakeholders are committed to this cause, recognizing that sustainability and cultural integrity are essential for long-term success.

In conclusion, the hospitality industry in Oman is more than just a service sector; it acts as the heart and soul of the nation. With its commitment to cultural authenticity, sustainability, and

local empowerment, Oman is truly emerging as a premier destination for travellers from around the globe. I can't wait for you to visit so you can experience this wonderful blend of hospitality and tradition personally!

Best wishes,  
Malik

## **READING 2 (continued)**

**38.** Omani hospitality is characterized by its deep-rooted cultural \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ originality                      ☐ modernity                      ☐ complexity

**39.** The Vision 2040 initiative aims to enhance tourism while promoting \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ sustainability                      ☐ urbanization                      ☐ consumption

**40.** Many hotels \_\_\_\_\_ traditional Omani designs in their architecture.

- ☐ exclude                      ☐ conclude                      ☐ include

**41.** Oman offers \_\_\_\_\_ resorts along the coast.

- ☐ dangerous                      ☐ luxurious                      ☐ traditional

**42.** The government promotes eco-friendly \_\_\_\_\_ to minimize environmental impact.

- ☐ practices                      ☐ fashions                      ☐ permission

**43.** Many establishments in Oman are implementing \_\_\_\_\_ technologies for sustainability.

- ☐ advanced                      ☐ traditional                      ☐ affordable

**44.** The hospitality industry helps create many \_\_\_\_\_ through local talent development.

- ☐ infrastructure                      ☐ jobs                      ☐ economic

**45.** The balance between growth and cultural \_\_\_\_\_ is crucial for sustainability.

- ☐ expansion                      ☐ change                      ☐ preservation

**READING 3 (Items 46-55)****( 10 marks )***Read the text. Then complete the task.***Aviation Then and Now**

Aviation has transformed dramatically since the Wright brothers' historic flight in 1903, marking the dawn of a new era in transportation. This pioneering event laid the groundwork for modern aviation, which has evolved significantly over the past century. From the early days of biplanes to the modern jets of today, the journey of aviation reflects not only remarkable technological advancements but also profound changes in society, economics, and global connectivity.

In the early 20th century, aviation was largely considered a novelty and was limited to experimental flights. The first commercial flights began in the 1910s, but these early endeavors were slow, short, and excessively expensive for most people. It wasn't until after World War II that commercial aviation experienced a significant boom. The introduction of jet engines in the 1950s revolutionized air travel, allowing aircraft to fly faster, farther, and more efficiently than ever before. This breakthrough made air travel more accessible to the general public, leading to a surge in passenger numbers.

By the late 20th century, air travel became an essential aspect of global transportation networks. Major airlines emerged as key players in the economy, establishing extensive networks that connected cities and countries around the world. The advent of computerized systems transformed flight scheduling and management, significantly increasing both efficiency and safety. Notably, the Boeing 747, introduced in 1970, was a game-changer, known as the "Jumbo Jet" for its capacity to carry hundreds of passengers. This innovation democratized air travel, making it possible for more people to experience flight.

Entering the 21st century, the aviation industry has continued to embrace cutting-edge technologies. Modern aircraft are now equipped with advanced navigation systems, fuel-efficient engines, and lightweight materials that enhance both performance and safety. The rise of low-cost airlines has further changed the landscape of air travel, making flying affordable for a broader segment of the population.

Despite these advancements, the aviation industry faces significant challenges. Environmental concerns have gained prominence, prompting the search for sustainable aviation fuels and electric aircraft to reduce the industry's carbon footprint. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on global travel patterns, forcing airlines to adapt rapidly to new health

protocols and changing consumer behaviors. As travel restrictions were implemented, many airlines faced unprecedented financial difficulties, leading to a check of operational strategies.

Looking ahead, the future of aviation holds exciting possibilities. Innovations such as autonomous aircraft, supersonic travel, and enhanced sustainability measures are on the horizon. The integration of artificial intelligence and advanced analytics promises to improve safety, efficiency, and customer experience. As we reflect on the evolution of aviation from its humble beginnings to its current state, it is evident that this industry will continue to shape how we connect globally and how we navigate the challenges of the future.

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

**46.** Who were the pioneers of aviation?

\_\_\_\_\_.

**47.** When did commercial aviation begin to expand significantly?

\_\_\_\_\_.

**48.** How have modern aircraft improved? ( Give One Factor )

\_\_\_\_\_.

**49.** What major challenge does the aviation industry face today?

\_\_\_\_\_.


**50.** What innovative technology is being explored for the future?

(Give only one example.)

\_\_\_\_\_.

**51.** What global event dramatically affected air travel patterns?

\_\_\_\_\_.

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

**52.** The first powered flight occurred in the beginning of the \_\_\_\_.

☐ 18<sup>th</sup> century

☐ 19<sup>th</sup> century

☐ 20<sup>th</sup> century

**53.** Jet engines developed air travel, leading to a/an \_\_\_\_ in numbers of passengers.

☐ decrease

☐ increase

☐ fall

**54.** The Boeing 747 was known as the \_\_\_\_ Jet.

☐ Jumbo

☐ Super

☐ Mega

**55.** The aviation industry is actively seeking sustainable \_\_\_\_.

☐ maintenance

☐ aviation fuels

☐ regulations

( _____ )	
	25

## Writing 1

(10 marks)

**“Omani shopping habits have changed over the past three decades.”**

Do you agree or not? Give your reasons.

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

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Do not write in this space

## Writing 1 (continued)

Do not write in this space



## Writing 2

(10 marks)

Complete the following task. Write at least **100** words.

**"Write a story about your horrible experience in a traffic congestion in a city."**

Include the following details:

- When was the journey?
- Where was the journey
- Who did you travel with?
- How did you feel?
- What did you do?

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

Do not write in this space

### Writing 2 (continued)

[ End of Examination ]

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