

GRADE TEN, LISTENING SCRIPT
(Practice Exam - Unit 4: Civilisation)

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LISTENING 1

(a conversation between a student, Hamad, and his grandmother, about a class project)

- Man:** Grandma, I need your help. Our class is doing a project about old Omani forts.
- Woman:** How lovely! Which fort are you writing about, Hamad?
- Man:** Nizwa Fort. Do you know anything about it?
- Woman:** Of course! It was built in the seventeenth century. Your grandfather took me there on our first trip together.
- Man:** Really? When was that?
- Woman:** In 1962. I remember the huge round tower. It was designed to protect the town from attacks.
- Man:** Wow. Was the fort ever damaged?
- Woman:** Yes, parts of it were destroyed in old wars, but it was repaired many times. In 1990 it was restored completely.
- Man:** That's interesting. What else was Nizwa famous for?
- Woman:** It was an important centre of trade. Frankincense, copper and dates were sold in its old market.
- Man:** Perfect for my project! Were many books written about it?
- Woman:** Yes, and old maps were drawn by sailors who visited the port towns nearby.
- Man:** Did you keep any photos from your trips, Grandma?
- Woman:** I did! There is an album in the cupboard. Some photos were taken by your grandfather himself.
- Man:** Brilliant! Can I use them in my presentation on Sunday?
- Woman:** Of course. But bring them back safely - they are our family history!
- Man:** I promise. One more question: was the souq near the fort busy in those days?
- Woman:** Oh yes. Merchants came from many countries, and the market was full of colours and smells.
- Man:** I can almost see it! Thanks, Grandma. My project will be the best in class.
- Woman:** I'm sure it will. Come, let's find that album now.

(253 words) (Target Range: 250-300 words)

LISTENING 2

(a talk about ancient civilisations in Oman)

Good morning, students. Today, I'm going to talk about the ancient civilisations of Oman and why archaeologists find them so exciting.

Oman has a very long history. Thousands of years ago, this land was part of a civilisation called Majan, which was famous for its copper. Traders carried Omani copper to Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley by sea.

Later, frankincense made the south of Oman wealthy. The frankincense tree grows in Dhofar, and its valuable resin was traded across Arabia and beyond. Camel caravans crossed the desert for weeks to reach markets in Petra and Rome. Today, visitors can walk along the old Frankincense Trail, which was added to the World Heritage List in 2000.

Omani sailors were also famous. They travelled to India, East Africa and even China on wooden ships called dhows. These journeys spread goods, ideas and languages between civilisations, and they made Omani ports some of the busiest in the region. Old coins from many countries have been found in these ports.

Archaeologists are still making discoveries in Oman. At Bat, ancient stone tombs were built more than four thousand years ago. Tools and pots found there help scientists understand how people lived. Every year, new evidence is discovered by teams from Oman and other countries.

Why should we care about the past? Because history teaches us who we are. When we protect old forts, tombs and monuments, we protect the story of our country for our children.

I hope you will visit one of these amazing sites soon. Thank you for listening.

(257 words) (Target Range: 250-300 words)