

GRADE TWELVE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SEMESTER ONE
ACADEMIC YEAR: 2026/2027
FIRST SESSION
(Practice Exam - Exam One)
LISTENING SCRIPT

LISTENING 1

You are going to hear an interview about a photography competition. Listen, and shade in the bubble next to the correct option.

(The text is read TWICE.)

Interviewer	Good morning, and welcome to our programme. Today we are delighted to have with us Khalid Al-Balushi, the young Omani photographer who won first prize in the National Youth Photography Competition last week. Khalid, congratulations!
Khalid	Thank you very much. It is a great honour to be here. Winning this competition has been a dream of mine for many years, and I still cannot believe that it has finally come true.
Interviewer	First of all, tell us where the competition was held this year.
Khalid	It was held in Muscat, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. More than three hundred young photographers from all over the country took part, from Musandam in the north to Dhofar in the south. The standard of the entries was extremely high this year.
Interviewer	Wonderful. When did you first become interested in photography?
Khalid	Well, I was about fifteen when my uncle gave me his old camera. I started taking pictures of everything around me - my family, the sea, the mountains. I quickly realised that photography was more than a hobby for me.
Interviewer	Now, tell us about your winning photograph. What was its subject?
Khalid	It shows an old fisherman repairing his nets at sunrise on the beach in Sur. I woke up at four in the morning for three days in a row to get the perfect light!
Interviewer	Amazing! And what did the judges base their decision on?
Khalid	They said they were looking for originality above everything else. They wanted photographs that tell a real Omani story, not just beautiful pictures.
Interviewer	What was the prize, if you don't mind telling us?
Khalid	I received a professional camera and a two-week photography course in London. I still can't believe it!
Interviewer	That's wonderful. So what are your plans for next year?

Khalid	I hope to study photography abroad after I finish school, and one day I would love to open my own gallery in Muscat.
Interviewer	Finally, what advice would you give to young people who want to become photographers?
Khalid	My advice is simple: keep practising every day, and don't wait for the perfect camera. The best camera is the one you have with you.
Interviewer	Khalid Al-Balushi, thank you very much for talking to us, and good luck with your future plans.
Khalid	Thank you. It was a pleasure.

Number of words: 376 (target: 350-400 words)

Do not write in this space

LISTENING 2

You are going to hear a talk about 'Ibn Sina, a famous scientist and physician'.

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

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

(The text is read TWICE.)

Today I am going to talk about Ibn Sina, one of the greatest scientists and physicians in history. He is known in the West by the name Avicenna.

Ibn Sina was born in the year 980 near the city of Bukhara, in what is now Uzbekistan. He was a remarkable child. It is said that he had memorised the whole Quran by the age of ten, and he began to study medicine when he was only thirteen. By the age of sixteen, he was already treating patients, and at eighteen he was a famous physician.

During his life, Ibn Sina wrote about 450 books and articles on many subjects, including medicine, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and chemistry. Sadly, only about 240 of these works have survived until today.

His most important book is 'The Canon of Medicine'. This huge medical encyclopedia describes hundreds of diseases and explains how to treat them. What makes it so important is that it was used as a standard medical textbook in universities across Europe and the Islamic world for more than six hundred years. Students of medicine had to study it until the seventeenth century.

Ibn Sina believed that good doctors should treat the whole person, not just the disease. He wrote about the connection between the mind and the body, and he understood that exercise, good food and clean air were important for health - ideas that we still believe today. He also described how some diseases can spread through water and soil, centuries before scientists in Europe discovered bacteria.

In addition to medicine, Ibn Sina made important contributions to philosophy. His ideas influenced many later thinkers, both in the Islamic world and in Europe.

Ibn Sina died in 1037 in the city of Hamadan, in present-day Iran, where visitors can still see his tomb today. He was only fifty-eight years old, but his influence on medicine and science continues to this day. Many hospitals and universities around the world are named after him, and in 1980, a thousand years after his birth, countries around the world held celebrations in his honour.

Number of words: 348 (target: 350-400 words)