

Diploma, English, Semester One - First Session

Academic Year: 2026/2027

(Practice Exam - Exam One)

MARKING GUIDE

TOTAL MARKS: 70

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LISTENING 1

(Items 1-7) (7 marks)

1. The competition was held in _____.
 - Muscat
 - Salalah
 - Sur
2. Khalid first became interested in photography at the age of _____.
 - four
 - fifteen
 - eighteen
3. Khalid's winning photograph showed _____.
 - a mountain village
 - an old fisherman
 - a busy souq
4. The judges based their decision mainly on _____.
 - originality
 - colour
 - equipment
5. Khalid's prize included _____.
 - a camera only
 - a course abroad only
 - a camera and a course
6. Next year, Khalid hopes to _____.
 - teach beginners
 - study photography abroad
 - open a gallery
7. Khalid's advice to young people is to _____.
 - keep practising
 - buy an expensive camera
 - enter many competitions

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

LISTENING 2

(Items 8-15) (8 marks)

Part One

8. (in) 980
9. near Bukhara
10. about 240
11. used for 600 years / a standard textbook (600 years)

Part Two

12. Ibn Sina began to study medicine when he was _____.
 - ten
 - thirteen
 - sixteen
13. "The Canon of Medicine" describes _____.
 - hundreds of diseases
 - modern hospitals
 - European universities
14. According to Ibn Sina, good doctors should treat _____.

- only the disease
- only the mind
- the whole person

15. Ibn Sina died in _____.

- Bukhara
- Hamadan
- Muscat

Notes:

One mark each.

Qs 8-11: (i) Complete accuracy in grammar & spelling is not required, but answers must be clearly and convincingly correct. (ii) In general, apply the 'not more than four words' rule. HOWEVER, use common sense for any slightly longer, but obviously correct answers.

Qs 12-15: Responses must be indicated clearly.

Do not write in this space

Vocabulary

(Items 16-20) (2½ marks)

16.

- courage
- silence
- anger
- fear

17.

- resign
- employ
- dismiss
- retire

18.

- journey
- mistake
- discovery
- habit

19.

- welcoming
- pleasant
- hospitable
- hostile

20.

- agreement
- argument
- accident
- adventure

Notes:

Half-a-mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

Grammar

(Items 21-25) (2½ marks)

21.

- Do
- Did

22.

- has
- have

23.

- will
- would

24.

- was
- were

25.

- must
- had to

Notes:

Half-a-mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

Grammar / Vocabulary

(Items 26-30) (5 marks)

26.

- which
- who
- where
- whose

27.

- rarely
- recently
- hardly
- never

28.

- hobbies
- habits
- jobs
- games

29.

- increase
- raise
- reduce
- worsen

30.

- consumers
- importers
- producers
- sellers

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

Do not write in this space

Reading 1**(Items 31-37) (7 marks)**

31. *The library will open late on Friday.*
☐ True ☒ False
32. *Hamed suggests meeting on a different day.*
☒ True ☐ False
33. *The course is cheaper if you register early.*
☒ True ☐ False
34. *The match will start at a different time.*
☐ True ☒ False
35. *Fishermen are advised to stay on land.*
☒ True ☐ False
36. *Maryam has studied medicine.*
☐ True ☒ False
37. *Photography is not allowed anywhere in the museum.*
☐ True ☒ False

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

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

38. Faisal has been in Manchester for _____.
☐ one month ☒ three months ☐ six months
39. At first, Faisal was shocked by _____.
☐ the food ☐ the people ☒ the weather
40. Faisal taught his friends how to _____.
☒ cook an Omani dish ☐ speak Arabic ☐ take photographs
41. In the afternoons, Faisal usually _____.
☐ attends lectures ☒ works in the library ☐ meets his friends
42. Last Saturday, Faisal _____.
☐ played football ☐ visited a museum ☒ watched a match

43. Faisal joined a club for _____.

- ☐ cooking ☐ music ☒ photography

44. In London, Faisal and his classmates will stay for _____.

- ☒ three nights ☐ one week ☐ two weeks

45. Faisal passed his first exams with _____.

- ☐ average grades ☒ excellent grades ☐ no grades

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

Do not write in this space

Do not write in this space

Writing 1

(10 marks)

Rating Scale:

10: Message to the intended reader(s) is very clear. Writing clearly succeeds in achieving its intended purpose. Writing is very well-organised, clear and coherent. A varied range of grammar and vocabulary, with a very good level of accuracy.

8: Message to the intended reader(s) is fairly clear. Writing has reasonable success in achieving its intended purpose. Writing is generally well-organised, and mostly clear and coherent. A fair range of grammar and vocabulary, with a good level of accuracy.

6: Message to the intended reader(s) is partially clear. Writing has only partially achieved its intended purpose. Writing is not well-organised, but is still reasonably clear and coherent. A limited range of grammar and vocabulary with a reasonable level of accuracy.

4: Message to the intended reader(s) is mostly unclear. Writing has only very limited success in achieving its intended purpose. Writing is poorly-organised, and often unclear. A very limited range of grammar and vocabulary, and frequent errors.

2: Message to the intended reader(s) is unclear. Writing clearly fails to achieve its intended purpose. Writing is incoherent and confusing. Extremely limited range of grammar and vocabulary, and frequent serious errors.

0: No attempt at the task: EITHER Irrelevant (completely unrelated to the topic) OR Hardly any writing at all, or not written in English OR Complete nonsense.

Writing 2

(10 marks)

Rating Scale:

10: Message to the intended reader(s) is very clear. Writing clearly succeeds in achieving its intended purpose. Writing is very well-organised, clear and coherent. A varied range of grammar and vocabulary, with a very good level of accuracy.

8: Message to the intended reader(s) is fairly clear. Writing has reasonable success in achieving its intended purpose. Writing is generally well-organised, and mostly clear and coherent. A fair range of grammar and vocabulary, with a good level of accuracy.

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