

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

LISTENING 1

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

(The text is read TWICE.)

Interviewer	Welcome to 'Omani Voices'. Today we are talking to Maryam Al-Habsi, a seventeen-year-old student from Ibri whose first novel won the Gulf Young Writers' Prize last month. Maryam, congratulations on this wonderful achievement.
Maryam	Thank you very much.
Interviewer	First, tell us about the novel itself. What is it about?
Maryam	It's called 'The Old Lighthouse'. It tells the story of a boy who finds a box of old letters inside an abandoned lighthouse. As he reads them, he uncovers a mystery about his own grandfather.
Interviewer	That sounds fascinating. Where did the idea come from?
Maryam	I grew up in a small fishing village with a real lighthouse near my grandfather's house. As a child, I was never allowed inside it - so of course, it became the most interesting place in the world to me!
Interviewer	How long did it take you to write the novel?
Maryam	About fourteen months. I wrote mostly at night, after finishing my homework. Sometimes I wanted to give up, but my mother kept encouraging me.
Interviewer	Did anyone help you with the writing?
Maryam	My English teacher read the first three chapters and gave me very honest advice. She told me my descriptions were beautiful but my dialogue sounded like a textbook! So I rewrote every conversation. She was completely right.
Interviewer	The judges were full of praise for you. What exactly did they say?
Maryam	They said the novel showed 'a mature voice far beyond the writer's age', and that the mystery kept them reading until the last page. One judge said she finished it in a single night.
Interviewer	Wonderful. What did you receive as a prize?

Maryam	A gold medal, five hundred rials, and - best of all - a contract with a publishing house in Muscat. The novel will be in bookshops across the Gulf next year.
Interviewer	And what are your plans for the future?
Maryam	Right now, I need to focus on my final exams. But I have already started my second novel - it's about a girl who dreams of becoming the first Omani woman to climb Mount Everest.
Interviewer	Finally, what advice do you have for other young writers?
Maryam	Write a little every day, even if it's only one paragraph. And read everything - novels, newspapers, history, science. Every book you read becomes a tool in your hands.
Interviewer	Maryam Al-Habsi, thank you for being with us, and we wish you all the best.
Maryam	Thank you. It was a pleasure.

Number of words: 399 (target: 350-400 words)

Do not write in this space

LISTENING 2

You are going to hear a talk about 'Marie Curie, a famous scientist'.

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 Marie Curie, the first woman ever to win a Nobel Prize, and still the only person in history to win Nobel Prizes in two different sciences.

Marie Curie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, in Poland. At that time, girls in Poland were not allowed to go to university, so she worked as a teacher and studied secretly in her free time. In 1891, at the age of twenty-four, she moved to Paris to study physics and mathematics at the Sorbonne University. She was an extraordinary student: although she lived in poverty and sometimes had little to eat, she finished first in her class.

In Paris, she married Pierre Curie, a young French scientist who shared her passion for research. Together, they began to study a strange kind of energy given out by certain rocks. Marie called this energy 'radioactivity' - a word that she herself invented.

Working in a small, cold laboratory, the Curies discovered two completely new elements, which they named 'polonium', after Marie's beloved homeland, and 'radium'. For this work, in 1903, Marie and Pierre shared the Nobel Prize in Physics.

Three years later, Pierre died in a terrible street accident. Marie continued their research alone, and in 1911 she won a second Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry, for her work on radium. To this day, she remains the only person in the world to hold Nobel Prizes in both physics and chemistry.

During the First World War, Marie Curie designed small mobile X-ray units, which travelled to hospitals near the battlefields and helped doctors treat wounded soldiers. These vehicles were called 'little Curies'. It is believed that, thanks to these machines, more than a million soldiers received faster and better treatment during the war.

Sadly, the radioactivity that made her famous also destroyed her health. In those days, nobody understood how dangerous it was. Marie Curie died in 1934, at the age of sixty-six. Today, her name lives on: a chemical element, several research institutes, and thousands of scholarships for young scientists are named after her.

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