

Diploma, English, Semester One - First Session

Academic Year: 2026/2027

(Practice Exam - Exam Three)

MARKING GUIDE

TOTAL MARKS: 70

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LISTENING 1

(Items 1-7) (7 marks)

1. Maryam's novel is called _____.
 - The Old Lighthouse
 - The Lost Letters
 - The Village Mystery
2. The idea for the novel came from _____.
 - a dream she had
 - a place near her home
 - a story her grandfather told
3. Writing the novel took about _____.
 - six months
 - ten months
 - fourteen months
4. Who helped Maryam with her writing?
 - her mother
 - her English teacher
 - a publisher
5. The judges praised Maryam's _____.
 - mature voice
 - fast writing
 - short sentences
6. Maryam's prize included _____.
 - a trip to Europe
 - a publishing contract
 - a new laptop
7. Maryam's advice to young writers is to _____.
 - write every day
 - read only novels
 - enter many competitions

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

LISTENING 2

(Items 8-15) (8 marks)

Part One

8. (in) 1867
9. (in) Warsaw, Poland
10. two
11. women barred from university (at home) / to study at Sorbonne

Part Two

12. Marie Curie moved to Paris at the age of _____.
 - twenty
 - twenty-four
 - thirty
13. The word "radioactivity" was invented by _____.
 - Pierre Curie
 - Marie Curie
 - the Nobel committee
14. The element "polonium" was named after _____.

- Marie's homeland
- Pierre's brother
- a Polish king

15. During the war, Marie Curie designed _____.

- new hospitals
- mobile X-ray units
- army radios

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.

- facilitate
- celebrate
- tolerate
- decorate

17.

- pleasant
- trivial
- exhausting
- amusing

18.

- obey
- deny
- offend
- confuse

19.

- selection
- collection
- direction
- election

20.

- confusing
- complicated
- straightforward
- meaningless

Notes:

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

Grammar

(Items 21-25) (2½ marks)

21.

- Are
- Is

22.

- have
- had

23.

- has been
- have been

24.

- is
- are

25.

- will
- would

Notes:

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

Grammar / Vocabulary

(Items 26-30) (5 marks)

26.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| ○ Therefore | ● However | ○ Although | ○ Because |
|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|

27.

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| ○ who | ○ whose | ● that | ○ where |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|

28.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| ○ improve | ○ protect | ● damage | ○ repair |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|

29.

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| ○ dust | ● rubbish | ○ noise | ○ traffic |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|

30.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ● benefits | ○ dangers | ○ expenses | ○ problems |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

Do not write in this space

43. On their day off, the volunteers went to _____.

- Masirah Island
- Ras Al Hadd
- Salalah

44. At the reserve, Talal watched a turtle _____.

- lay her eggs
- catch a fish
- swim away

45. At home, Talal plans to start _____.

- a football team
- a singing group
- a clean-up club

Notes:

One mark each. Responses must be indicated clearly.

Do not write in this space

Reading 3**(Items 46-55) (10 marks)****Task One**

46. (in) 2001
 47. (from) India
 48. 90 metres
 49. up to 20,000
 50. 600 women
 51. (in) Germany

Task Two

52. The mosque was opened as a gift from _____.
 ○ the people of Muscat ● the Sultan ○ the architects
53. The main carpet took _____ to weave.
 ○ two years ● four years ○ six years
54. The chandelier is decorated with _____.
 ○ gold ● crystal ○ diamonds
55. Non-Muslims can visit the mosque _____.
 ● every morning except Friday ○ every evening ○ on Fridays only

Notes:

One mark each.

Qs 46-51: (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 52-55: Responses must be indicated clearly.

WRITING**(GENERAL NOTES)**

- The wording of the descriptors in the relevant Rating Scale should form the basis of all decisions.
- Different approaches to the tasks are acceptable, as long as they are relevant to the task.
- If an answer is clearly not relevant to the task, no marks are awarded.
- If a task has been genuinely attempted, but is only partly relevant, the mark should be reduced, but not to zero.
- If in doubt, consult other markers and the Table Head.

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.

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.

Do not write in this space