

Bassmaah – Oman Grade 12 English

Theme 1: Retail Therapy | Unit 1: A Fair Exchange | Lesson 1

Name: _____

Time: 20 minutes

Marks: 20

Part 1 — Reading Comprehension (10 marks)

Read the text below, then answer the questions that follow.

Trade has changed the course of history. It has started wars, made countries rich, and led to the discovery of new lands. In the past, merchants travelled far from their homes to trade in silk and spices. Today the goods that are traded have changed dramatically.

The Arabs, specifically the Omanis, have always been great traders. In ancient times, caravans travelled along the Silk Road to China and the Far East, carrying silk, spices, perfumes, rice and sugar. Arab dhows sailed across the ocean and discovered sea routes to India, China and East Africa. In 5000 BCE, the centre of the frankincense trade was Dhofar. Frankincense was one of the most valuable products in the ancient world, so traders became very wealthy. Today, however, it is oil which has given Oman a new economic importance. Since the 1960s, most of Oman's income has come from the sale of petroleum to countries such as China and Japan.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

(A) Trade has shaped world history.

(B) Merchants always travelled by ship.

(C) Silk was the only traded good.

(D) Wars are caused by spices.

2. According to the text, Arab dhows discovered sea routes to all of the following EXCEPT:

(A) India	(B) China	(C) East Africa	(D) Europe
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3. Where was the centre of the frankincense trade in 5000 BCE?

(A) Muscat	(B) Dhofar	(C) Sur	(D) Salalah city centre
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4. Since the 1960s, most of Oman's income has come from:

(A) frankincense	(B) silk	(C) petroleum	(D) spices
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5. Find a word in paragraph 1 that means "greatly and suddenly":

Part 2 — Vocabulary (5 marks)

Match each word (6–10) with its correct meaning. Write the matching letter in the brackets.

6. merchants	()
7. exported	()
8. rituals	()
9. commercial	()
10. enormous	()

A. religious ceremonies B. very large C. sold to another country D. relating to trade and money E. people who buy and sell goods

Part 3 — Grammar (5 marks)

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

11. In the past, merchants ____ far from their homes to trade.

(A) travel

(B) travelled

(C) travelling

(D) have travelled

12. Frankincense ____ across the ocean to India and the Far East.

(A) ships

(B) shipped

(C) was shipped

(D) is shipping

13. Today, oil ____ Oman a new economic importance.

(A) gives

(B) give

(C) giving

(D) has give

14. Gigantic supertankers ____ oil from the Middle East today.

(A) carried

(B) carry

(C) carrying

(D) has carried

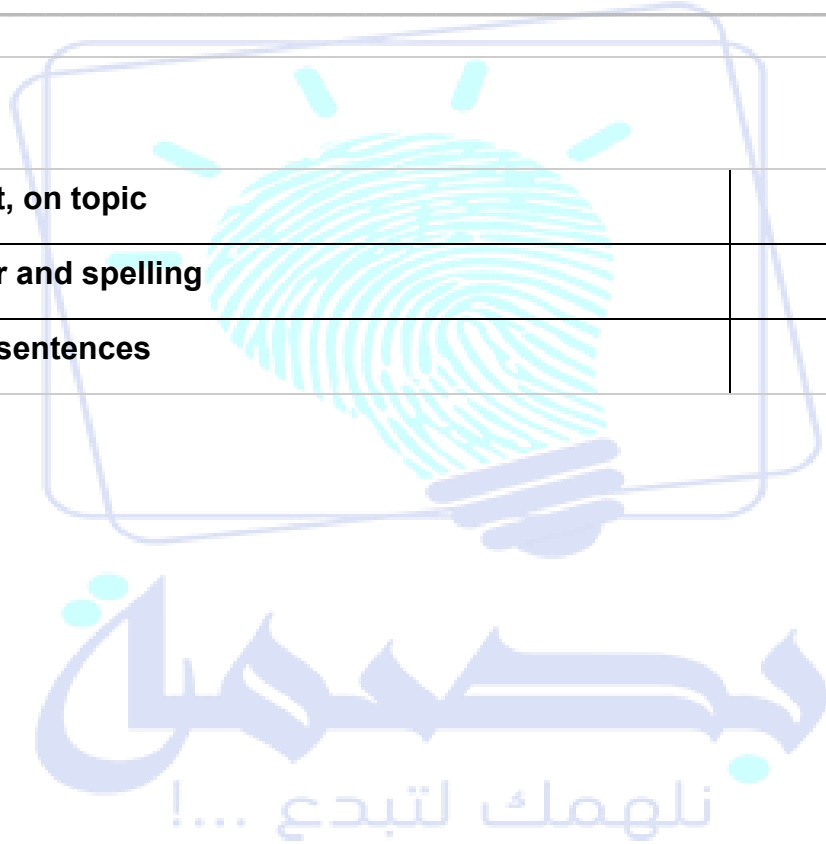
15. Since the 1960s, most of Oman's income ____ (come) from petroleum. (Use the correct verb form.)

Part 4 — Writing Practice (5 marks)

Write 4-5 sentences describing something you have traded or exchanged with a friend or family member. Use at least one past simple passive verb.

Marking guide:

Relevant content, on topic	2
Correct grammar and spelling	2
Clear, complete sentences	1



Answer Key

Q#	Answer	Reason
1	A	<i>The paragraph states trade "has changed the course of history."</i>
2	D	<i>The text names India, China and East Africa only.</i>
3	B	<i>"the centre of the frankincense trade was Dhofar."</i>
4	C	<i>"most of Oman's income has come from the sale of petroleum."</i>
5	dramatically	<i>Matches the meaning "greatly and suddenly."</i>
6	E	<i>Merchants = people who buy and sell goods.</i>
7	C	<i>Exported = sold to another country.</i>
8	A	<i>Rituals = religious ceremonies.</i>
9	D	<i>Commercial = relating to trade and money.</i>
10	B	<i>Enormous = very large.</i>
11	B	<i>Past simple for a completed past action: travelled.</i>
12	C	<i>Passive voice, past simple: was shipped.</i>
13	A	<i>Present simple for a current/general fact: gives.</i>
14	B	<i>Present simple, plural subject "supertankers": carry.</i>
15	has come	<i>Present perfect for an action continuing since the 1960s.</i>