

Theme 1: Retail Therapy — Unit 4 — Malls and Markets
Diploma-Style Comprehensive Practice Exam — Unit 4 Practice Exam

Subject: English Language 'Core' | Time: 2 Hours | Total Marks: 55 Marks

Section	Marks	Score
Vocabulary	2.5	
Grammar	2.5	
Grammar / Vocabulary	5	
Reading 1	7	
Reading 2	8	
Reading 3	10	
Writing 1	10	
Writing 2	10	

VOCABULARY (ITEMS 1–5)

(2½ marks)

For each item, choose the correct answer from A, B, C or D.

1. Traditional Omani souqs are famous for their friendly shopkeepers and old-fashioned _____ lock			
A) parking	B) charm	C) walkways	D) brand names
2. One of the main features of ancient traditional markets is the narrow _____ lined with tiny shopslock !... نلهمك لتبدع			
A) passages	B) supertankers	C) routes	D) dhows
3. Modern shopping malls attract thousands of visitors every day because they offer convenient customer _____ lock			
A) bargaining	B) parking	C) dockets	D) rituals

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4. Shoppers who enjoy negotiating prices with local sellers love the great opportunities for _____ in souqslock

A) branding

B) advertising

C) bargaining

D) editing

5. Young shoppers often head to large commercial centers to look for the latest fashions and top brand _____ lock

A) names

B) caravans

C) headings

D) dhows

GRAMMAR (ITEMS 6–10)

(2½ marks)

Read the dialogue. For each numbered *item*, choose the correct option.

Fatma: Hi Reem! Where would you like to go this afternoon?

Reem: I'd rather (6) go / going to Muttrah Souq than visit a modern malllock.

Fatma: Really? I prefer (7) shopping / shop in air-conditioned malls because of the wide walkways.

Reem: I understand, but I'm really into (8) explore / exploring traditional places and buying local craftslock.

Fatma: Are you keen (9) on / at bargaining for spices and frankincenselock?

Reem: Yes, absolutely! My mother prefers not (10) to visit / visiting crowded markets on weekends, so we can go togetherlock.

GRAMMAR / VOCABULARY (ITEMS 11–15)

(5 marks)

Complete each numbered blank with the correct word.

Shopping habits in Oman have changed significantly over the past few decades. In the past, people did all their daily shopping in local traditional souqs. Today, many young consumers prefer (11) _____ modern malls where they can find top brand names, cinema complexes, and coffee bars all under one rooflock. However, traditional markets still hold a special place in Omani culture. Many tourists and locals would rather (12) _____ ancient souqs like Nizwa or Muttrah because of their unique, vibrant (13) _____ lock. Moreover, traditional shoppers are very keen (14) _____ bargaining with shopkeepers to secure a fair pricelock. Ultimately, both

malls and markets offer a wonderful shopper's (15) _____ depending on personal taste.

READING 1 (ITEMS 16–22)

(7 marks)

Read each short text. Is the statement that follows True or False?

Muttrah Souq is located along the scenic corniche in Muscat. It is famous for its labyrinth of narrow passages filled with the rich scents of frankincense, Omani perfumes, and traditional silver jewellery. Visitors from around the world love its old-fashioned charmlock.

Statement	True	False
16. Muttrah Souq is characterized by modern architecture and wide steel walkwayslock		

Ahmed wanted to buy a traditional Omani Khanjar for his father's retirement gift. He visited several shops in Nizwa Souq and spent nearly an hour bargaining with a friendly shopkeeper until they agreed on a reasonable pricelock.

Statement	True	False
17. Ahmed bought the Khanjar without discussing or negotiating the pricelock		

Large commercial malls offer easy customer parking, indoor temperature control, and a wide variety of international retail stores. These features make them a shopper's paradise during hot summer monthslock.

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Statement	True	False
18. Modern malls provide convenient parking facilities for their shopperslock		

Said is not a fan of crowded shopping malls on Friday eveningslock. He says the noise in the food courts and the difficulty of finding a parking space make the experience stressful. He'd rather stay at home or visit a quiet bookstorelock.

Statement	True	False
19. Said loves visiting busy mall food courts on Friday nightslock		

Many Omani families enjoy spending their Saturday afternoons at regional shopping centers because they offer restaurants, children's play areas, and clothing shops under one rooflock.

Statement	True	False
20. Malls only provide clothing shops without any entertainment or dining facilitieslock		

Mariam is really into fashion design and loves tracking the latest international trendslock. She prefers shopping at modern malls because she can easily find top brand names and new seasonal collectionslock.

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Statement	True	False
21. Mariam goes to malls to buy top international fashion brandslock		

Bargaining is a traditional custom in Omani souqs where buyers and sellers negotiate to reach an agreed pricelock. However, in modern retail malls, prices are fixed on price tags and cannot be negotiatedlock.

Statement	True	False
22. Price bargaining is common in both modern mall stores and traditional souqslock		

READING 2 (ITEMS 23–30)

(8 marks)

Read the letter. Then choose the correct answer for each item.

Dear Tariq,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to tell you about my weekend trip to Nizwa with my family. My uncle came to visit us from the UAE, so we decided to take him to see the historic city and explore its famous traditional market, Nizwa Souq.

We arrived early on Friday morning when the market was lively. Nizwa Souq is known for its authentic traditional style, old-fashioned charm, and friendly shopkeeperslock. As we walked through the narrow passages, we saw a wonderful variety of local products, including handmade pottery, Omani halwa, silver Khanjars, and aromatic spiceslock. My uncle was really into buying traditional crafts, so he spent two hours browsing different stallslock.

My favorite part of the visit was watching my father bargain for a handmade clay pottery jarlock. The shopkeeper initially asked for 15 Omani Rials, but after some friendly negotiation, my father bought it for 10 Rials! It was a great opportunity for bargaininglock.

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After visiting the souq, my cousin suggested going to a new indoor shopping mall nearby to have lunch. To be honest, I'd rather eat at a traditional restaurant, but we went to the mall food court because it was getting very hot outside. The mall had wide walkways, bright lights, and easy customer parking.

It was a memorable day comparing the ancient charm of the souq with the modern conveniences of the mall.

Best regards, Sultan

23. Sultan wrote this email to describe his weekend trip to _____

A) Nizwa

B) Muscat

C) Salalah

24. Sultan's family visited Nizwa because his _____ came to visit them

A) grandfather

B) uncle

C) teacher

25. Sultan's uncle was particularly interested in buying _____

A) electronic gadgets

B) traditional crafts

C) modern sports shoes

26. The initial price requested for the handmade clay jar was _____ Omani Rials

A) 10

B) 15

C) 20

27. Sultan's father managed to lower the price of the clay jar by _____

A) bargaining

B) paying on credit

C) using a coupon

28. The family went to the shopping mall for lunch because _____

A) the souq closed early

B) it was getting hot outside

C) the souq had no food

29. Sultan originally preferred to eat lunch at a _____ restaurant

A) traditional

B) fast-food

C) mall food court

30. According to Sultan, the indoor mall was characterized by easy customer parking, bright lights, and _____ lock

A) narrow passages

B) wide walkways

C) auction stalls

READING 3 (ITEMS 31–40)

(10 marks)

Read the text. Then complete the tasks below.

The Transformation of Shopping Places in Oman: Souqs and Malls

In Oman, shopping has always been an integral part of social and economic life. Over the past few decades, shopping environments across the Sultanate have undergone a remarkable transformation. While traditional markets (souqs) continue to preserve national heritage and social customs, modern shopping malls have introduced new lifestyles and leisure habits.

Traditional souqs, such as Muttrah Souq in Muscat, Nizwa Souq, and Sinaw Market, are historical commercial hubs. Characterized by their unique architecture, wooden roofs, and narrow passages, these markets offer an authentic atmosphere that reflects Omani culture. In souqs, the shopping experience is personal and interactive. Customers interact directly with friendly shopkeepers, smell the rich fragrances of frankincense and spices, and engage in the ancient art of price bargaining. For many older citizens and cultural tourists, souqs offer an old-fashioned charm that modern stores cannot replicate.

On the other hand, the emergence of multi-story shopping malls in the early 2000s changed retail habits, especially in urban areas. Malls like Mall of Oman, Muscat City Centre, and Grand Mall provide a climate-controlled environment that shields shoppers from high summer temperatures. Designed as all-in-one entertainment centers, malls feature wide walkways, bright lighting, easy customer parking, international food courts, and hypermarkets. They host top international brand names and the latest fashion collections, making them particularly attractive to younger generations.

Despite these differences, malls and souqs coexist harmoniously in Oman. While malls cater to modern convenience, speed, and global brands, souqs remain irreplaceable sanctuaries of tradition, heritage, and social connection.

Task One: Answer in no more than FOUR WORDS or a NUMBER.

31. Mention ONE historic traditional souq named in the text.

_____lock

32. What architectural feature characterizes the walkways of traditional souqs?

_____lock

33. What activity do buyers and shopkeepers engage in to agree on prices in souqs?

_____lock

34. In which decade did multi-story shopping malls begin emerging in Oman?

35. What feature shields mall shoppers from hot weather?

36. Which group of people finds international fashion brands in malls particularly attractive?

_____lock

Task Two: Choose the correct answer for each item.

37. The shopping atmosphere in traditional souqs is described as authentic and

_____lock

A) personal

B) stressful

C) dangerous

38. Modern shopping malls in Oman are designed as all-in-one centers for retail and

_____lock

A) farming

B) entertainment

C) industrial manufacturing

39. Malls attract fashion-conscious consumers because they stock top international

brand _____lock

A) names

B) dhows

C) caravans

40. According to the conclusion, souqs in Oman remain essential centers of heritage and _____ lock

A) tradition

B) bankruptcy

C) traffic congestion

WRITING 1

(10 marks)

Write at least 100 words on the following topic:

"Shopping in modern malls is much better than shopping in traditional souqs." lock Do you agree or not? Give your reasons.

Your writing should be clear, convincing, and well-organised.



WRITING 2

(10 marks)

Complete the following narrative writing task. Write at least 100 words.

Write a story about a memorable day you visited a market or mall with your family or friends. lock Include in your story: • Where did you go and who was with you? lock • What did you buy or do there? lock • How did you feel about the experience? lock

Your writing should be clear, interesting, and well-organised.

Official Answer Key

VOCABULARY (2½ marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
1	charm (0. mark)lock	
2	passages (0. mark)lock	
3	parking (0. mark)lock	
4	bargaining (0. mark)lock	
5	names (0. mark)lock	

GRAMMAR (2½ marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
6	go (0. mark)lock	
7	shopping (0. mark)lock	
8	exploring (0. mark)lock	
9	on (0. mark)lock	
10	to visit (0. mark)lock	

GRAMMAR / VOCABULARY (5 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
11	visiting (1 mark)lock	
12	explore (1 mark)lock	
13	atmosphere (1 mark)lock	
14	on (1 mark)lock	
15	paradise (1 mark)lock	

READING 1 (7 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
16	False (1 mark)lock	
17	False (1 mark)lock	
18	True (1 mark)lock	
19	False (1 mark)locklock	

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20	False (1 mark)lock	
21	True (1 mark)lock	
22	False (1 mark)lock	

READING 2 (8 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
23	Nizwa	1 mark
24	uncle	1 mark
25	traditional crafts (1 mark)lock	
26	15 (1 mark)lock	
27	bargaining (1 mark)lock	
28	it was getting hot outside	1 mark
29	traditional (1 mark)lock	
30	wide walkways (1 mark)lock	

READING 3 (10 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
31	Muttrah Souq / Nizwa Souq / Sinaw Market (Any ONE) (1 mark)lock	
32	Narrow passages / Wooden roofs (1 mark)lock	
33	Bargaining / Price bargaining (1 mark)lock	
34	2000s / Early 2000s	1 mark
35	Climate-controlled environment / Indoor air-conditioning	1 mark
36	Younger generations / Young people (1 mark)lock	

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37	personal (1 mark)lock	
38	entertainment (1 mark)lock	
39	names (1 mark)lock	
40	tradition (1 mark)lock	

Writing 1 & 2 (20 marks total) — Evaluated per Ministry of Education Criteria

Criterion	Marks
Task Achievement & Relevance	4 marks
Grammar, Vocabulary & Cohesion	3 marks
Organization & Mechanics	3 marks

