

Diploma-Style Comprehensive Practice Exam — Unit 1: A Fair Exchange

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. In ancient times, Omani _____ travelled across oceans to trade frankincense, silk, and spices			
A) consumers	B) merchants	C) accountants	D) lecturers

2. Frankincense was a highly prized product that was _____ from Southern Oman to Egypt and Rome			
A) exported	B) emitted	C) proofread	D) afflicted

3. People who shop compulsively to lift their mood when feeling sad are engaging in _____			
A) fast fashion	B) corporate law	C) retail therapy	D) time management

موقع اختبارات بصمة

4. Advertisers create catchy brand slogans and logos to _____ people to buy their products

A) persuade

B) alleviate

C) reduce

D) predict

5. The discovery of oil in the 1960s caused Oman's national economy to grow _____

A) misleadingly

B) dramatically

C) excessively

D) irritatingly

GRAMMAR (ITEMS 6–10)

(2½ marks)

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

Ahmad: Hi Salim! Where (6) do / are you going with all those shopping bags?

Salim: I've just been to the new mall. I bought a shirt (7) who / which was on sale!

Ahmad: Nice! I prefer traditional souqs because I enjoy bargaining. Traditional dhows (8) were used / are using by Omani traders for centuries to carry goods across the sea.

Salim: That's true. My grandfather has been trading in Muttrah Souq (9) since / for 1980.

Ahmad: Impressive! If I have enough money tomorrow, I (10) will buy / bought a new watch from there too.

GRAMMAR / VOCABULARY (ITEMS 11–15)

(5 marks)

Complete each numbered blank with the correct word.

Global trade has undergone massive transformations throughout human history. In the past, Omani sailors navigated dangerous maritime routes using wooden dhows powered by wind. Today, crude oil and petroleum are (11) _____ across world oceans in gigantic steel supertankers. Modern companies spend millions on clever advertising campaigns because they aim to (12) _____ a huge profit. However, psychologists warn that some consumers become (13) _____ to shopping, buying items they do not need. If people spend money (14) _____, they may end up facing severe financial problems such as (15) _____.

READING 1 (ITEMS 16–22)

(7 marks)

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

Katy works as an accountant in a busy city firm. Because her job is very stressful, she goes shopping every weekend with her friend Vanessa to relax. She says buying new clothes gives her a temporary feeling of excitement.

Statement	True	False
16. Katy goes shopping because she has a lot of free time		

Muttrah Souq is one of the oldest markets in Oman. Visitors love walking through its narrow passages filled with the fragrant scent of frankincense and spices. Unlike modern malls, shoppers in the souq can negotiate prices with friendly shopkeepers.

Statement	True	False
17. Prices in Muttrah Souq are fixed and cannot be bargained		

In 2002, a fast-food company was taken to court in the United States. Claimants argued that the company's advertisements encouraged obesity and failed to warn customers about health risks like diabetes. The judge ruled that consumers had the personal choice whether to eat there or not.

Statement	True	False
18. The judge found the fast-food company legally responsible for customers' health issues		

موقع اختبارات بصمة

Salim wanted to buy a luxury watch online from an international website. Before paying, he read several customer reviews and checked the security of the online payment gateway. His order arrived safely within three days.

Statement	True	False
19. Salim bought his watch from a traditional local market		

Ancient trading caravans travelled for months across harsh deserts to deliver silk from China to Western markets. The journey was dangerous due to extreme weather conditions and difficult mountain terrains.

Statement	True	False
20. Silk trade in ancient times was fast and risk-free		

Omani dhows were crafted entirely from sturdy wood and equipped with triangular sails. These ships relied on seasonal monsoon winds to travel between the Arabian Gulf, India, and East Africa.

Statement	True	False
21. Omani dhows were powered by modern engines		

Many international brands create short, catchy slogans that are easy to remember. Studies show that a good slogan can increase brand recognition and boost company sales significantly.

Statement	True	False
22. Catchy slogans help customers remember company brands		

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 new job as a marketing assistant at an international retail company here in Muscat. As you know, I graduated in business management last year, so getting this position is a dream come true for me. My main duty is helping the team design advertising campaigns for new consumer products. Last week, we launched a major campaign for a local brand of organic perfumes made from Omani frankincense. We designed colourful posters, catchy slogans, and video adverts for social media platforms. The primary goal was to persuade young consumers that traditional scents can be both modern and stylish.

Working in advertising is exciting, but it comes with tight deadlines and high stress. I usually start work at 7:30 AM and do not finish until 5:00 PM. The biggest challenge I face is creating ethical adverts that are truthful and do not mislead buyers. Some companies try to exaggerate product benefits, but our manager insists that honesty builds long-term customer trust.

Next month, our company is opening a new branch in Salalah. My manager invited me to join the launch team. I am really looking forward to it!

Best regards, Nasser

موقع اختبارات بصمة

23. Nasser works as a _____ in an international retail firm

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A) corporate lawyer | B) marketing assistant | C) financial accountant |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|

24. Nasser obtained his job _____

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| A) after graduating last year | B) while studying at university | C) five years ago |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|

25. The recent advertising campaign was created for a brand of _____

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| A) sports cars | B) organic perfumes | C) electronic mobile phones |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|

26. The promotional materials for the campaign included social media videos, posters, and _____

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A) slogans | B) dhow models | C) free samples |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|

27. The main target audience for the new campaign was _____ consumers

- | | | |
|------------|----------|------------------|
| A) elderly | B) young | C) international |
|------------|----------|------------------|

28. Nasser's daily working hours end at _____

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| A) 7:30 AM | B) 3:00 PM | C) 5:00 PM |
|------------|------------|------------|

29. The main professional challenge Nasser encounters in his job is _____

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| A) making ethical, truthful adverts | B) finding shop assistants | C) travelling abroad |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|

30. Next month, Nasser will travel to Salalah to _____

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| A) attend university | B) help launch a new branch | C) go on vacation |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|

READING 3 (ITEMS 31–40)

(10 marks)

Read the text. Then complete the tasks below.

The History of Frankincense and Maritime Trade in Oman

For thousands of years, Oman occupied a vital strategic geographic location at the crossroads of ancient trade routes connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. Long before the discovery of petroleum, frankincense was Oman's most valuable export commodity. Extracted from the sap of Boswellia trees growing in the Dhofar region of Southern Oman, frankincense was prized across the ancient world. It was widely used in medical treatments, perfumes, and sacred religious rituals in ancient Egypt, Rome, and China. To transport this aromatic treasure, two primary trade routes were established: the overland Incense Route and the maritime sea routes. The overland route involved large caravans of camels trekking through dangerous desert landscapes for months. However, Omani merchants soon mastered ocean navigation. Using traditional wooden vessels called dhows, Omani sailors harnessed the seasonal monsoon winds to cross the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Trading brought immense wealth to ancient Omani port cities like Sumhuram and Al Baleed. In exchange for frankincense, Omani traders brought back valuable commodities such as silk from China, spices from India, and timber from East Africa. This vibrant commercial exchange shaped Omani culture and established Oman as a dominant maritime power.

In the mid-20th century, the economic landscape of Oman changed dramatically with the commercial extraction of petroleum in the late 1960s. Today, modern steel supertankers have replaced wooden dhows, carrying millions of barrels of oil to industrial nations worldwide. Nevertheless, the ancient frankincense trade remains a proud symbol of Oman's rich cultural heritage and commercial history.

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

31. Where in Oman do frankincense trees grow?

32. What was Oman's primary export product before the discovery of oil?

33. Mention ONE ancient civilization that imported Omani frankincense.

34. What type of ships did ancient Omani sailors build for ocean trade?

35. What natural force helped Omani dhows sail across the ocean?

36. In which decade did commercial petroleum sales begin in Oman?

Task Two: Choose the correct answer for each item.

37. Sumhuram and Al Baleed were ancient Omani _____		
A) desert oases	B) port cities	C) mountain villages

38. Omani merchants imported spices primarily from _____		
A) India	B) China	C) Egypt

39. Overland trade caravans transported goods across the desert using _____		
A) dhows	B) supertankers	C) camels

40. Modern trade in Oman is dominated by the export of _____		
A) timber	B) petroleum	C) silk

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." 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 went to a market or mall and traded/bought a special item. Include in your story:

- Where did you go and who was with you?
- What item did you trade or buy?
- How did you feel at the end of the day?

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



بصمة
نلهمك لتبدع ...!

Official Answer Key

VOCABULARY (2½ marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
1	merchants (0. mark)	
2	exported (0. mark)	
3	retail therapy (0. mark)	
4	persuade (0. mark)	
5	dramatically (0. mark)	

GRAMMAR (2½ marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
6	are (0. mark)	
7	which (0. mark)	
8	were used (0. mark)	
9	since (0. mark)	
10	will buy (0. mark)	

GRAMMAR / VOCABULARY (5 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
11	transported	1 mark
12	make	1 mark
13	addicted	1 mark
14	excessively	1 mark
15	bankruptcy	1 mark

READING 1 (7 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
16	False	1 mark
17	False	1 mark
18	False	1 mark
19	False	1 mark

موقع اختبارات بصمة

20	False	1 mark
21	False	1 mark
22	True	1 mark

READING 2 (8 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
23	marketing assistant	1 mark
24	after graduating last year	1 mark
25	organic perfumes	1 mark
26	slogans	1 mark
27	young	1 mark
28	5:00 PM	1 mark
29	making ethical, truthful adverts	1 mark
30	help launch a new branch	1 mark

READING 3 (10 marks)

#	Correct Answer	Marks
31	Dhofar / Southern Oman	1 mark
32	Frankincense	1 mark
33	Egypt / Rome / China (Any ONE)	1 mark
34	Dhows / Wooden dhows	1 mark
35	Monsoon winds / Wind	1 mark
36	1960s / late 1960s	1 mark
37	port cities	1 mark
38	India	1 mark
39	camels	1 mark
40	petroleum	1 mark

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 (Spelling/Punctuation)	3 marks

