

Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Selling flowers

I'm Gina D'Costa and I run a flower shop in the UK. We don't just sell flowers to people buying them for friends or for their homes; all kinds of customers want flowers. Hotels and offices often have flowers in Reception, and sometimes we take part in photo sessions for businesses by providing flowers for their advertising pictures. Once I even decorated a castle with flowers for a wedding. It took a huge amount of work, but I was really proud of the job we'd done.

My day starts at 4 a.m. when I go to the market to buy fresh flowers. Most people are still asleep then and my friends think I must be crazy, but it's never bothered me – I'm excited about what I do. It's often colder than I'd like, and it's usually dark, but you can't expect anything else at that time in the morning, so I don't let it worry me.

The flower market's wonderful, with flowers from all over the world. The sights and smells make it hard to make a decision. If I was choosing for myself, I'd probably only get pink ones – it's my favourite colour. But I mustn't forget that what I love and what other people want aren't necessarily the same thing. It isn't always possible to find customers' choices – not all flowers are available all year. I'm not so keen on having to argue about prices with the flower-sellers, but it's a necessary part of the job. Flowers aren't cheap, so I have to try to get the best price possible.

Back at the shop we look at customer orders and set up vases with the flowers I've bought. Then we get on with creating bunches of flowers and working out how much orders will cost. Customers are often surprised by how expensive they are, and I sometimes have to ask them to think again about what they'd like. Some people might think this sounds like too much trouble, but I like thinking about how I can put together the nicest possible flowers for the amount of money someone wants to spend. That's what you have to do when you're selling things – I wouldn't want any other job!

11 In the first paragraph, what does Gina say about her work?

- A She was especially pleased with one project she was involved in.
- B She finds visiting other businesses very interesting.
- C She has learnt how to take good photographs of her flowers.
- D She prefers some types of customers to others.

12 What does Gina say about getting up so early?

- A She admits she needs more sleep.
- B She doesn't notice what the weather's like.
- C Her friends don't realise how hard it is for her.
- D It's worth doing because she loves her job.

13 What does Gina find difficult when she is at the flower market?

- A asking to pay less for flowers
- B finding flowers in a variety of colours
- C remembering what customers have asked for
- D having such a limited range of flowers to choose from

14 When working in her shop, Gina feels

- A guilty about the high prices she has to charge.
- B upset when people change their mind.
- C pleased she is able to sell so many flowers.
- D positive about the challenges she has to deal with.

15 Which would be a good notice for the window of Gina's flower shop?

- A

All our flowers are locally grown!
- B

We can provide flowers for any occasion – large or small!
- C

Design your own flower display here!
- D

We can find any kind of flower that you'd like!