

TASK 3

Read the texts below. Match choices (A - H) to (11 - 16). There are two choices you do not need to use. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet.

REMOTE HIDEAWAYS

11



Aescher
Guesthouse,
Switzerland

It's a minor miracle the Aescher Guesthouse got through Swiss planning permission departments. Its precarious cliff-top perch means guests wake to a panorama like no other: rocky summits marching along the Swiss-Liechtenstein border, teensy towns concealed among wispy clouds below. Facilities are basic: guests sleep in dorms, and washing facilities consist solely of sinks. Chances are, however, everyone is too enraptured by the view to care about their personal hygiene scruples.

12



Uma by COMO,
Bhutan

A tiny kingdom squigged between the leviathan nations of India and China, Bhutan's status as one of the world's most remote countries has been preserved by the Himalayan mountains rising around it. A fine spot to admire said peaks is Uma by COMO: a hotel and spa set among peaceful rice terraces in the upper reaches of the Mo Chhu valley. Rooms have huge beds and blonde-wood surfaces, and command views of the Mo Chhu River on its epic journey downstream to India and the Bay of Bengal.

13



Bloomfield
Lodge, Australia

Bloomfield Lodge sits near the shores of Cape Tribulation: a remote, rainforested stretch of Queensland's coast, named by an irritable Captain Cook after his ship ran aground here in 1770. These days, arriving still isn't without complications. The reward at the end is more than ample: luxury timber cabins set up in the canopy, with verandas overlooking the blue shallows of the Pacific.

14  The Dash, Cumbria	The Lake District's The Dash farmhouse isn't as frantic as its name suggests, set at the head of a sleepy, otherwise uninhabited valley, silent but for the gurgling of the Whitewater Dash waterfall and the baas of contented Cumbrian sheep. Dating in parts to the 16th century, the farmhouse has been recently refurbished, with open fires for drying soggy boots. The view, meanwhile, hasn't changed in the intervening five centuries: heathery slopes, silvery lakes and Scotland visible as a faint smudge in the distance.
15  Mihir Garh Rajasthan, India	Mihir Garh sits in splendid isolation amid the Thar Desert near Jodhpur. It looks like an enormous sandcastle, a mirage; but there is nothing insubstantial about this 'fort of the sun'. It took 150 masons, artisans and craftsmen two years to build what the owners describe as 'a dream realised'. Certainly, it has the feel of a place where commercial considerations play second fiddle to the unbridled pleasure of creation. But the luxury isn't as important as the pervasive sense that someone has granted you access to their fantasy world.
16  Saugerties Lighthouse, New York State, USA	Saugerties Lighthouse is an historic 1869 landmark that makes a wonderful base for exploring the scenic Hudson Valley. Located 100 miles north of New York City, the red brick building has played a pivotal role in safely guiding steamboats, barges and other vessels safely along the Hudson River over the years. More recently (in the mid 1990s), the lighthouse was transformed into a two-room B&B, providing safe haven of a different sort. Its rooms have quaint touches of Americana - antique furnishings, quilt bedspreads - and ample natural light, with windows overlooking the river.

[79; 112]

Which of the places is described by the following:

- A. The place provide the visitors with splendid sights of the countryside.
- B. Luxury lost in the sand emptiness.
- C. This place is hardly for the tourists who are used to having luxurious amenities.
- D. Visitors are sure to enjoy the breathtaking views on the Asian riverside.
- E. The place combines the functions of the lighthouse and the hotel.
- F. Do not try to harbour the place unless you are experienced enough.

G. Tourists can take pleasure from swimming in the shallow waters of the river.

H. From the beacon to the hotel.

