

Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

I'm Tom, I'm 15 years old, and three years ago my family and I moved into a castle on a small island! It all started when my father was invited to be the castle's manager. He works for an organisation that looks after historical buildings and keeps them open to the public. He was pleased, as he felt he wouldn't be offered such a great chance again, and the rest of us knew this was true, but it was a while before we agreed he should take the job. We were just focused on what life on the island would be like – we knew the castle probably wouldn't be as comfortable as our cosy home just across the water, and there was no school.

Once we'd moved, though, we quickly got used to island life. The castle isn't particularly beautiful, but our apartment in it is comfortable. The island feels very sociable in summer as it attracts lots of visitors, and there are often parties on the beach. During the winter, we only see the other families who live on the island, and there aren't as many teenagers among them as I'd hoped. The adults all support each other, though, and help with repairs on the island, which often involves lots of hard work.

The biggest change for me was travelling by boat every day, back to my old school. I was looking forward to going on stormy days, when there are huge waves – but the ferries don't run then! And I've discovered that if I miss the bus to the harbour after school, I also miss the last ferry home, which is worrying. So when schoolmates come home to stay with me, I'm always telling them to hurry up!

We do get the most fantastic views. Visitors like watching the sun go down over the sea, but I love to see the sun come up. Some days, though, it's so foggy that you can't see a thing, then within minutes it's brilliant sunshine again – it still seems incredible when that happens, even after living here all this time. Of course, we do get awful storms, and I wonder sometimes if the castle's strong enough to avoid getting damaged. But then I remind myself it's been here for centuries – and it's still standing!

- 11 When Tom's father was offered the job at the castle, his family
- A were delighted that he was going to be promoted.
 - B needed time to decide whether it was a good idea.
 - C didn't mind leaving their family home.
 - D didn't realise what an unusual opportunity it was for him.
- 12 What does Tom say about living on the island in the second paragraph?
- A He's disappointed there are so few people his age.
 - B He's enjoying helping others when they need it.
 - C He's less keen on the castle now than before they moved.
 - D He's used to meeting new people all through the year.
- 13 Tom feels that travelling to and from school by boat
- A is the most exciting part of his day.
 - B means he can't invite friends back after school.
 - C is still enjoyable even when the weather is bad.
 - D makes him stressed about getting home.
- 14 How does Tom feel about the views from the castle?
- A He's especially impressed by the evening sunsets.
 - B He's sad when he sometimes can't see very far.
 - C He's amazed at how the weather changes so quickly.
 - D He's worried when he sees storms damaging the castle.
- 15 What would be a suitable title for this article?

A

How we prepared for life in a castle

B

Living on an island – the good and the not so good!

C

A dream that finally came true

D

Do you want an easier life? Then move to an island!