Part 3

Questions 11 – 15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

My flying experience

Twelve-year-old Jessica Gilligan describes how she flew a small plane

I'd never thought of flying as something I would ever actually want to do in my free time until my family bought me what's called a 'flying experience day' as a birthday present. Don't get me wrong, I wasn't like some of my friends, who would start shaking with fear at the thought of going in a plane of any size. I'd actually always looked forward to flying off somewhere on holiday, especially that feeling you get when the plane's just taking off. But flying a plane was something other people did, not me.

I started researching the experience day online straight away. The little aircraft I was going to fly in could only go up to 3000 metres, which is quite low when you realise big jets fly closer to 10000 metres. I found out there was a half-hour talk from the instructor about safety and the controls. This seemed more than enough to me, as I was only going to be in the air for about the same amount of time, which I couldn't quite believe. My parents were amazed that something like that was available for twelve-year-olds, but I'm very pleased it was.

On the day, I was quite nervous but Sheena, my instructor, was very calm, which helped a lot. She took the controls as we took off, of course. It appeared to take ages to get high up, but it was only actually a minute or two, and then I took the controls. I was so excited, I wasn't really listening to what Sheena was saying. I was hoping to see my house but it was hard to work out where everything was from the air. Even though we were flying at 280 kilometres per hour, you could hardly tell we were moving when you looked down.

I'm now so into flying that I'm considering it as a career. I'll need to become qualified, of course, and I'm happy to save up for more classes to do this. It was such fun that I'd love to do it every day and get paid for it, too. The company that organises experience days keeps sending emails about train driving and other things, but I only want more of one particular kind of experience now!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11 How did Jessica feel about flying before she did the flying experience day?

A scared of flying in a small plane
B confident that she would be good at it
C uninterested in taking it up as a hobby
D curious about what it would feel like

12 What surprised Jessica as she was researching the flying experience day?

A the low age limit
B the lack of training
C the height the plane would reach
D the length of the flight

13 What does Jessica say about being in the air?

A the plane appeared to travel very slowly
B seeing where she lives was incredible
C it was too noisy to hear the instructor
D they seemed to climb very quickly

14 What does Jessica hope to do in the future?

A have more flying lessons just for fun
B attempt to get a pilot's licence
C try different 'experience days'
D learn how to handle other vehicles

15 What would Jessica's mum say about her?

A "I can't believe Jessica's gone so quickly from someone who got quite bored during flights to someone who goes flying every weekend."

B "We only bought her that present after she'd found out that the experience day was open to twelve-year-olds."

C "Jessica will want money for her birthday from now on but at least she'll be using it for something she loves."

D "Jessica was so relaxed when we arrived for the flying experience day, so I was surprised she got so anxious after taking off."

TIP STRIP

Question 11: Was Jessica scared of flying? Did she show any interest in learning how to fly?

Question 12: Was Jessica surprised by how little training there was? Who was surprised about the age limit?

Question 13: Does Jessica say she could see her house? What does she say about how fast the plane was flying?

Question 14: What does Jessica say about other experience days? Does she say she wants to go on another which involves trains?

Question 15: Does Jessica say she used to get bored during flights? What does Jessica say about money and flying lessons in the future?

LIVEWORKSHEETS