Task 2

Read this article on flying. For each statement choose the option that is nearest in meaning to what the article says. Write the appropriate letters in the white boxes next to the numbers (11-15) as in the example *(0)*.

Happy landing in Hong Kong … virtually

The skies are safe. Cath Urquhart, Times travel editor, tries to fly a jumbo but never leaves Gatwick

The airport runway lights blinked up at me out of the darkness. Below me were the inky waters of Victoria Harbour, and beyond, the skyscrapers of Hong Kong island, twinkling in the night. I had been intending to land on the runway, but alarmingly, it was crossing my screen from left to right instead of top to bottom. At this rate it looked as if I would shoot across it and end up in the harbour.

"Ease her nose up," instructed flight engineer Ray Maidment, admirably keeping the panic out of his voice. I pulled the control column towards me, and turned it to the right to set our course for the runway of Kai Tak airport, one of the trickiest approaches in the world. The lights seemed terribly close, the runway terribly short. Would we land safely – or would our Boeing 7-47-200 plough into the murky harbour waters?

Climbing from the flight simulator's cockpit ten minutes later, I felt pleased if a bit dizzy. We had landed so softly that no one in Virgin Atlantic's upper class would have spilled a single drop of champagne. "For a first-timer, that was exceptional," Ray said kindly.

Ray has landed at Kai Tak more times than most, if you count actual and virtual landings. After 42 years as a flight engineer with BOAC, then British Airways and Virgin, he has semi-retired and now instructs enthusiasts and would-be pilots in a flight simulator used by Virtual Aviation.

The company was set up last year by James Stevenson, a 24-year-old entrepreneur and aviation enthusiast. "We get people from all walks of life trying the simulator," James said. "One person bought 15 hours to give to business colleagues, some are celebrating birthdays. Others can fly light aircraft and want to see what it is like to fly a jumbo. The more experience they have of flying the more they can do in their session – for example fly into turbulence."

0) The title and the subtitle of the article inform the reader that Cath Urquhart

A) is the Times travel editor in Hong Kong.
B) has landed safely in Hong Kong.
~~C)~~ has taken part in a virtual flight.
D) has not been able to fly out of Gatwick.

0) **C**

11) The first paragraph describes how Cath Urquhart

A) piloted her jumbo jet towards Victoria Harbour.
B) worried about missing the runway.
C) was blinded by the lights of Hong Kong.
D) became involved in a shooting incident.

11)

12) She followed Ray Maidment's instructions and

A) managed to change course.
B) turned right to avoid Kai Tak.
C) fortunately didn't panic.
D) ended up in the harbour.

12)

13) Ten minutes later

A) first class passengers were served champagne.
B) Cath felt too dizzy to continue the flight.
C) the instructor congratulated her.
D) they started their descent.

13)

14) Ray, the instructor

A) has flown to Kai Tak a record number of times.
B) has worked for BOAC for 42 years.
C) is enthusiastic about flying.
D) is very experienced.

14)

15) James Stevenson, the owner of Virtual Aviation says

A) most of their customers are very rich.
B) people book sessions for a variety of reasons.
C) jumbo jet pilots come to receive further training.
D) the company will not accept complete beginners.

15)

5 pont