

PART 7

You are going to read a magazine article in which four people talk about going on holiday. For questions 43 – 52, choose from the activities described under the titles (A – D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which person

arranged the trip on someone else's suggestion?

43

found the atmosphere reduced their anxieties?

44

found the places rather mysterious?

45

got most pleasure from another person?

46

felt uncomfortable as an outsider?

47

found other people spoilt their holiday?

48

thought they had seldom had a better holiday?

49

appears interested in the history of the place?

50

hadn't planned their holiday?

51

chose a holiday to find out more about themselves?

52

Holidays

Many people go away on holiday and discover as much about themselves as they do about the places they visit.

A Hugo

When my eldest daughter, Alice, was ten, she asked for a holiday with me – just the two of us. I have four children so it can be difficult for Alice to get a word in, and I understood what she wanted. I decided to show her Venice, because it has such warm associations for me. I first went there with my wife shortly after we were married, and Alice was curious to see it.

We arrived at night, which was completely magical. The water gives the city a sense of secrecy. Even if you've been down a street before, the next time you find it you see something different and that stops you recognising it. So you constantly get lost.

Alice loved Venice. We laughed a lot, and the best thing for me was seeing her excited face.

B Maria

I love deserts. I usually travel on my own and with more camera equipment than clothes. I've been to deserts all over the world but my favourite is the Sahara. During my last trip I went to Timbuktu, which is an amazing place. Centuries ago it was at the centre of the trans-Saharan caravan routes, routes used by travellers and traders who rode their camels for weeks on end across the Sahara. There was even a university there. Today it's a different place.

The local inhabitants, the Tuareg, are a nomadic tribe of the Sahara. They are proud-looking in their blue robes, but although they are very friendly, I felt curiously out of place. It might have been to do with the fact that there were no other travellers or tourists there. I felt almost as if I should not be there, as if I was an intruder, and the last thing I felt able to do was to take photographs. People's lives seemed so private. It was a different trip from the one I'd expected but it was nevertheless a truly rich experience.

C Krystyna

I thought I would try an activity holiday last year as I enjoy the outdoor life. I usually end up lying on a beach somewhere but I reckoned an activity holiday would help me discover hidden talents, skills that I never knew I possessed. Perhaps I would turn out to be a brilliant canoeist, mountain climber or skydiver.

The trouble with holidays like this is that you may not like what you discover. I had forgotten that I would be with a group of people each day. It had never occurred to me how competitive some people would be. Whatever we did, they had to be first. First to put up their tent, first to reach the top of the mountain, fastest cyclist, and so on. They also had the loudest voices and made the most irritating remarks. Such daily companions can come as a bit of a shock if you are more used to quiet conversations with your best friend.

D Daniel

I made a decision at the last minute to go to Jamaica. I booked a package holiday with a friend which included accommodation in a cottage and all our meals. We had so much fun – it was one of the best holidays I've ever had.

There are amazing sunsets in Jamaica and you can sit on the rocks and watch the sun go down. Everyone and everything is very relaxed. The thing you hear most often is 'No problem, man'. At first I thought they were just saying it, but then you realise nothing is a problem because the whole place is so relaxed. And that attitude makes you chill out and forget about all the things you worry about.