

Exercise 2

Read the article about four young people (**A–D**) who live by the sea. Then answer **Questions 7(a)–(i)**.

Why I love living by the sea**A Amin**

I grew up in the mountains, away from the coast. Everything there was green as far as you could see, and we were so high up. It's the opposite now – I love seeing the ocean. I get fantastic views from every window in my home as the beach isn't far away. I spend a lot of time there and I'm always bringing in sand on my clothes – enough to build a sandcastle, my mum says! Last year, I started working in a local craft shop during the holidays, selling paintings of the sea by local artists. After spending their holidays looking at the sea, tourists want a souvenir to take back. I have to admit there aren't many opportunities outside the tourism industry here, especially in what I want to do, which is engineering. I'm determined to follow my dream, so unfortunately I'll have to make some big decisions, I know.

B Joey

I can't imagine living anywhere else. I mean, the weather's not always fantastic it's true, but no one minds. After all, there's always something to do, cycling along the coast paths or water sports like swimming and sailing. I love anything active, but I also love watching the waves. Now, you might think that's a bit strange – after all, waves all look the same, right? Wrong! Every day brings something new, and the colours and shapes change completely. I've started taking photos and making interesting prints from them. I've just done one where it's impossible to tell where the sea ends and the sky begins. I'm really pleased with it. And it's not only the waves that are interesting. What's under them is just as fascinating. There are some rare seahorses that live in our area, and I'm really keen to find out more about them.

C Kira

I'm so lucky my home is here. Of course, surfing is what most people come here to do – the beaches are full of colourful surfboards every summer – and people laugh that local kids can surf before they can walk! All except me – it's just never appealed, I'm afraid. My friends are always trying to persuade me to find out what I'm missing, with no success! I'm still happy to be here, though. I listened to a science podcast where I learned that having a diet of fish meant our ancient ancestors living on the coast developed bigger brains! I don't know if that's true, but what I do know is that when I lived in a city, I used to find that the air quality caused me a few problems. Since we moved here, with the fresh sea air, that's not been the case at all.

D Dom

This is a beautiful place to live. I actually like it just as much in the winter as I do in the summer. In the winter, after the tourists leave, the wild waves crashing onto the beach during a storm make me appreciate the power of nature, and the drama of the waves, whereas in the summer, it's much calmer. That's what attracts the huge summer crowds, of course. If you're not into swimming, there are lots of things to do like sailing, or scuba diving. My parents are always fed up because the car parks get so full at peak tourist times. But for me, any season is perfect. In winter, when it's not so busy, my friends and I go for long walks along the beach. We've found some really strange shells, and even a part of a dinosaur fossil! It's in the local museum now, helping people learn more about the history of the area.

Question 7

Which young person ...

- (a) says that the location inspires them to be creative? [1]
- (b) mentions being able to see the sea wherever they are in their house? [1]
- (c) admits to having an unusual opinion about an activity? [1]
- (d) describes an intention to gain some knowledge about something found locally? [1]
- (e) explains their personal reaction to changes in their environment during the year? [1]
- (f) mentions why they might choose to move from the area? [1]
- (g) mentions a benefit to health of living near the sea? [1]
- (h) describes a regular issue that annoys people living in the area? [1]
- (i) compares the scenery in the different places they have lived? [1]

[Total: 9]