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Material for Section A

Background

Davide and Romia Kusia live and work in Likoto City. They are planning to buy a holiday home by the sea where, at the weekend, they can relax with their daughters, Tansay (aged 15) and Noella (aged 18). They have shortlisted the following two properties.

Hacienda Reddale

This stunning, recently modernised five-bedroom detached house is located in the historic harbour town of Boatby, renowned for its classic architecture and art gallery.

Boatby has a selection of shops and is famous for its second-hand bookshops and antiques shops, as well as crafters' markets and summer music festivals. The regular farmers' markets, together with the cafés and restaurants offering local cuisine, make it a perfect location for food lovers. There is excellent road access and there are frequent rail connections to Likoto City, making it an attractive and convenient location for a weekend getaway.

Hacienda Reddale is extremely spacious with accommodation on three floors, as well as a basement. The property boasts a spacious open-plan living room/kitchen-diner, where you can relax with friends and family or hold large family events. In the basement, there is a modern air-conditioned games room, which has a home cinema and enough space for a full-sized snooker table.

Casa Carlat

Situated in an isolated location close to picturesque Marly Forest National Park, the 20 kilometres of beach provide a habitat for birds and animals, making the area a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts. Hiking and cycling trails, surfing, sea-kayaking and scuba-diving are among the popular activities in the area.

Casa Carlat is a sixteenth-century house situated on a narrow road and surrounded by fields. This three-bedroom family home requires some renovation and modernisation.

The property includes stables and there is an abundance of scenic riding trails close by. Horse-riding and dog-walking on the beach are allowed all year round.

There is a garden with an old barn which has planning permission for conversion into a single-storey home.

The nearest village, Santirum, has a small convenience store.

Online reviews

boatbyresidents.com

The only good thing is the vintage clothes shop. The community centre in Boatby shut down several years ago so there's really nothing much to do in the evenings. My friends and I used to really enjoy playing snooker there. Most of the residents are retired and seem to find the rest of us irritating! They get all excited about their summer music festivals, but all they offer is folk music. Any suggestions to include pop or rock bands are swiftly rejected. The local bands don't stand a chance. It's no wonder all my friends can't wait to leave Boatby and go somewhere with a bit more life, like Likoto City. I'll be joining them next year, once I finish school.

Kallum, 17 years old

marlyforestcommunity.com

It's all very well being tranquil and isolated, but wait until you see the traffic on a Friday evening, with all the city dwellers driving their cars and campervans down the single narrow road to Marly Forest National Park! Lots of the trails have turned into mud where vehicles have tried to find alternative routes. The local authority, attempting to limit visitor numbers, has restricted the number of parking spaces. Great idea, in theory, but it has just encouraged people to abandon their cars anywhere. Last summer, I had to ask several people to remove their cars from my driveway, and it was sometimes impossible for me to leave my own house. Ridiculous!

Yolande, 58 years old

Additional Information

- 1 Tansay enjoys horse-riding and is desperate to have her own horse.
- 2 Noella has recently won a regional table tennis tournament.
- 3 Romia is a talented artist, who is inspired by modern art. Many of her paintings and drawings are displayed in their home.
- 4 The family lives 50 km away from Boatby and 120 km from Santirum.
- 5 Romia has always wanted to live in a house with some history.
- 6 When he was younger, Davide helped his father build a two-storey house extension.
- 7 Noella has just taken a cookery course.
- 8 Romia works as an architect and Davide is a lecturer specialising in international literature.
- 9 Tansay takes their dog for a walk before going to school at 08:30 and when she returns home at 15:30.
- 10 Sometimes Romia has to work at weekends and when on holiday, so she needs a room to use as an office when planning her designs.
- 11 Tansay and her best friend Janna have spent hours planning an elaborate 16th birthday party for Janna, which falls on a Saturday this year.
- 12 Romia can drive, but Davide does not have a driving licence.
- 13 The family often goes on canoeing holidays, but Romia would prefer to go on a cycling holiday, as she did when she was a teenager.
- 14 Romia and Davide met each other at university, where they enjoyed participating in a variety of aquatic sports.
- 15 Tansay would like to pursue a career in jewellery-making, having won a competition last year with a necklace made from natural materials.
- 16 Davide is mindful of the family budget.
- 17 Romia is a gifted pianist, while Davide is an enthusiastic member of a choir.

Material for Section B

Who Am I Now?

Solo travel can be enlivening, challenging, and reveal new versions of ourselves

Words by Ruth Allen

The first thing I noticed is that this place does not smell like home.

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I do not want to have to
at all times, but I can depend on myself.

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