

Exercise 2

Read the article about four young people (**A–D**) who enjoy cooking. Then answer Question **7(a)–(i)**.

My hobby: cooking**A Zac**

It was my grandmother who got me into cooking. She taught me all the basics, and even told me about some of her favourite old recipes – it was quite funny hearing about the things they used to eat back in her day. She got a lot of pleasure from being able to share this with me. I never imagined I would discover so much about social history – you know, how people's tastes have really changed over the generations. Some of the things that were common back then actually sounded unpleasant, if I'm honest! If you don't happen to have a grandmother with suitable cookery skills, and you want to get into cooking, then food blogs can identify things that are fun to make as well as eat. They can be particularly helpful if you're attempting something a bit tricky or complicated.

B Shelly

The first time you make a new recipe, you'll most likely stick to the instructions pretty exactly and avoid any unnecessary stress. For beginners, after all, even the most basic things can be confusing, with lots of techniques and specialist cooking terms – there's a lot to take in! But once you are more confident, then like me you'll start to discover how easy it is to substitute ingredients, using milder or stronger spices according to taste, for example. There are all sorts of things you can do, and who knows – it might end up being better than the original! Of course, that's not always going to be the case, but when a dish doesn't come together as I'd expected, I've generally found there's still something to be learned from the process. And if not, well, put it down to experience and move on!

C Mustafa

I've been cooking for a while now, and while I enjoy it, I admit to having had quite a few disasters! I'd wrongly assumed that because my dad's a chef, it would be something I'd pick up in no time. But over time I've realised that although being a good cook isn't something you're born with, it is definitely a rewarding skill that can be acquired. The added bonus for me has been getting to try some interesting food along the way. Some of my favourite things to cook are exotic dishes I've had the chance to try elsewhere, and I sometimes look for recipes for those dishes. When I read them, however, I often have the feeling that all the stages involved, or the long list of ingredients, means it's just not practical to have a go myself. Occasionally I do, but even if the end result is something to be proud of, I'm never sure it's worth the hard work, to be honest.

D Becca

I've got a typically busy teenage lifestyle, and most of my day-to-day activities require concentration, or a degree of careful thought. However, when it comes to cooking, it's the repeated actions, especially simple ones like chopping or peeling, that offer me a complete contrast. I have a supermarket near my home, which has whatever I need when I decide to make something special. But of course, being able to create your own original dishes just based on what's available at home – that's something else altogether, and it's what I'm aiming to be able to do. One of my favourite recipes is for an unusual sweet-and-sour salad I tried on a family holiday in Thailand. I make it quite regularly, and then it's like I'm back in a beach-side café, in the sun – perfect!

Question 7

Which person gives the following information?

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|-----|---|-------|-----|
| (a) | the idea that attempting complex-looking recipes is too much effort | | [1] |
| (b) | a recommendation for a good source of inspiration | | [1] |
| (c) | a description of the effect on the writer of eating a certain dish | | [1] |
| (d) | a suggestion of how to adapt a recipe to individual preferences | | [1] |
| (e) | an understanding that made the writer enjoy cooking more | | [1] |
| (f) | the wish to be able to cook without having to follow recipes | | [1] |
| (g) | some advice about how to benefit from a negative situation | | [1] |
| (h) | something unexpected the writer learned from some recipes | | [1] |
| (i) | the idea that the writer finds the process of cooking relaxing | | [1] |

[Total: 9]