

Part 6

You are going to read an article about a musician. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A – G** the one which fits each gap (37 – 42). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

In the exam, you mark your answers on a separate answer sheet.

Femi Kuti, a great African musician

In the fashion-led world of pop culture, carrying a famous name is always a burden, as the offspring of musicians like John Lennon and Bob Marley have found. Yet the history of much of the world's music – certainly in Africa – is based on a long and deep tradition of passing on the torch from one generation to the next. Femi Kuti is the son of Fela Kuti, a renowned musician who died ten years ago.

Throughout his career, Femi Kuti has had to suffer comparisons with his father. You can't fill the boots of a legend and Fela Kuti was not only an extraordinary and innovative musician but one of the giants of world music. **37** He has kept alive the flame of Afro-beat as well as bringing his own unique creativity to its rhythms.

Femi was born in London in 1962, when his father was a student at the Royal Academy. Fela never showed his oldest son any signs of approval or encouragement. **38** Yet by the age of fifteen, Femi's impressive playing had earned him a place in his father's band, Egypt 80, on merit.

Femi didn't have to wait long for his first opportunity to head that band. In 1985, it had been booked to play at the Hollywood Bowl, but Femi's father failed to make it on to the plane. **39** This gave him the confidence he needed to start a band of his own.

In 1986, together with keyboard player Dele Sosimi, Femi left his father's band and formed the band *Positive Force*, resulting in tensions between father and son that were to last several years. **40** Now a collector's item, its mix of funk, soul and jazz, driven by thundering percussion, proved that he could stand on his own two feet.

Femi made his first US tour in 1995, which culminated in an acclaimed appearance at the Summer stage in New York's Central Park in July. The tour coincided with the release of his album, *Femi Kuti*, which earned him very good reviews across Europe and the US. **41** He finally admitted that his son had what it takes.

Though Femi remains resentful of what he sees as his father's lack of support early in his career, he recognises that he learnt things from him: '**42** ' says Femi. That individuality was certainly evident on his next album, *Shoki Shoki*, which added fresh flavours drawn from contemporary R&B and dance music.

And as we wait for his next album, the Kuti tradition continues and Femi's own son now plays alongside him in *Positive Force*. 'The one thing I learned from my father was to be true to myself, and that's the advice I've given my own child.' Femi sounds proud of his son.

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| A | Femi stepped forward to fill his place, and did so, by all accounts, with considerable skill. | E | Femi's debut album with the new band, <i>No Cause for Alarm?</i> , was recorded in Lagos and released on Polygram Nigeria in 1987. |
| B | It also won him six awards at Nigeria's Fame Music Awards and led at last to a reconciliation with his father. | F | After giving him a saxophone as a young boy, he then refused to give him any lessons. |
| C | Yet his father's long shadow should not obscure the fact that Femi Kuti has developed into a fine performer in his own right. | G | When I look at his life, it's very hard for me to be angry with him because he taught me to be different and to do things my own way. |
| D | It was at this place that he helped to fund a variety of cultural, social and educational projects. | | |