READING PART 2

You are going to read an article about a boxer. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-G the one which fits each gap (1-6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Women's boxing is a new addition to the list of sports included at the Olympic Games. But according to Lucy O'Connor, winner of various international competitions, it's still widely misunderstood — a situation that Lucy's hoping to change. After graduating, Lucy took up boxing on the advice of a sports coach, who thought it would improve her general fitness. But Lucy soon set her sights on competitions, and it wasn't long before she was boxing at the National Championships, which she eventually went on to win. As a result of her success, Lucy was accepted into what the Navy calls its "elite sportsman's program". 1._____ Every day now starts with a run at 7 a.m., followed by a skill and technique session or a strength and conditioning circuit. Come the afternoon, there are more aerobic workouts before Lucy gets into the ring and practices with other elite boxers.

As with all competitors, diet is a huge part of Lucy's life. Since she first started boxing, she's had to shed twenty-eight kilos. Losing the last six, which took her into the flyweight category, required great determination. 2._____ As she explains, "I don't go out to parties anymore. Thankfully, I'm married to my boxing coach, so at least I've got some sort of social life!" Lucy's husband boxed as a heavyweight himself, and he's in her corner for all her domestic competitions. Lucy's mum works as a buyer at a big department store, and Lucy has been testing out products for the store's sports division. Whilst preparing for a recent international championship, Lucy wore a new titanium-based sports clothing range designed to improve circulation and aid recovery. 3._____ But how does her family react to her taking part in competitions? "Mum tends to admire me boxing from afar, but Dad just loves it".

Lucy has clearly answered questions about safety concerns before and cites all the protective gear boxers strap on before a fight, such as hand bandages, head guards, gum shields, and much more. "Amateur boxing is not dangerous," she says definitively. "It's so safety-oriented and the rules are so

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stringent, it's actually difficult to get hurt. We approach it more as a skill and point-scoring exercise, rather than as a fight." 4._____ Boxers win points by landing the white knuckle part of their gloves on the opponent's scoring area — essentially the upper body and head - cleanly and with sufficient force. In five years of competitive boxing, Lucy's suffered only a few bruises and a broken thumb. And in response to those who think it's "inappropriate" to see women boxing at the Olympics, Lucy is quick to point out that women have been competing in martial arts such as taekwondo and judo for years. 5._____ Her biggest concern is that people confuse amateur boxing competitions with professional fights, where the focus is more on aggression and hurting their opponents. "Female amateur boxing is about showing skill, speed, and stamina. 6._____" she says, "I find it so satisfying to be changing people's opinion."

A. All that hard work certainly paid off, and the competition itself brought out the best in Lucy.

B. That's because, in order to reach that target, she had to totally rethink her lifestyle.

C. Having access to this space-age training kit was certainly an advantage.

D. If the sport were more in the public eye, then fewer people would make that mistake.

E. Nobody complained about women taking part in those events when it was introduced.

F. That's why I've always regarded it as a thinking girl's sport, really.

G. What this meant, in effect, was that she was able to train full-time.

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