# Use of English

**GEORGE GERSHWIN**

George Gershwin, who was born in Brooklyn in 1898, (0)____ one of the world's most popular composers today. He lived and worked in the perfect era for his unique talent to (1)____. It was at a time when the Jazz Age coincided with composers like Berg, and the first Broadway musicals. Although a gifted pianist, he had only basic reading skills in music, but due to his regular attendance at concerts, he was able to (2)____ up his own repertoire. In 1924, Gershwin worked with his brother Ira on a musical comedy called *Lady Be Good*. This proved to be a successful (3)____ that continued for the rest of his life.

George Gershwin was determined to (4)____ an impression as a serious composer, which he also achieved in 1924. At its New York premiere, one of his most famous (5)____, *Rhapsody in Blue*, received wild applause from an audience that included musical celebrities such as the Russian composers Rachmaninov and Stravinsky. Gershwin (6)____ this success with innovative orchestral works such as *An American in Paris* and, in 1935, the memorable opera *Porgy and Bess*.

No one has been able to match Gershwin's ability to write original works that (7)____ the boundaries of jazz, opera and classical music and his (8)____ on modern music has been enormous. Sadly, Gershwin died at the early age of 38.

---

0 A remains     B keeps     C stays     D continues

1 A become     B develop     C result     D invent

2 A grow     B pull     C move     D build

3 A company     B teamwork     C pair     D partnership

4 A make     B get     C put     D take

5 A writings     B exercises     C designs     D compositions

6 A brought     B followed     C adopted     D led

7 A enter     B split     C cross     D carry

8 A power     B direction     C control     D influence