**Match each sentence 1–6 to the sentence a–f that should logically follow it.**

1 William Blake grew up in a middle-class family in London.
2 In 1772 he started working as an apprentice of an engraver in London.
3 Blake became a student at the Royal Academy in 1779.
4 When Blake married Catherine Boucher in 1782, she couldn't read or write.
5 Blake fell seriously ill in the spring of 1825.
6 The Blake Prize for Religious Art was established in his honour in Australia.

a Seven years later, at the age of twenty-one, he became a professional engraver himself.
b It has been awarded annually since 1949 to artists of outstanding merit.
c While he was teaching her these skills, he also decided to train her as an engraver.
d Despite his worsening physical condition, he remained occupied with his art.
e The institution was then based at Old Somerset House, near the Strand.
f His father worked as a hosier (a person who makes or sells stockings), while his mother was responsible for William's education.

**Read this extract from a literary encyclopaedia. Six clauses have been removed from the text. Complete each gap with a missing clause from A–G. There is one clause that you do not need to use.**

**William Blake** (1757–1827) is today regarded as one of the most original of English writers and artists, [1]____.

Born in London, he spent most of his years in the centre of the capital, [2]____; the streets of the metropolis became for him windows to infinite time and space.

Blake's visions began early, and throughout his life he experienced what was, for him, direct contact with spirits of the long-dead, with angels, God and the devil. While modern psychiatry would consider Blake to have been under the spell of hallucinations, [3]____.

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He was also not shy in describing the sources of his inspiration to his friends and colleagues. The eccentric reputation he thus gained did little to help him to commercial success; for most of his life his work was neglected, [4]_____.

But while his work was often out of step with his time, [5]_____. Trained as an engraver, he pushed forward the boundaries of that art by his own innovations, and combined it with his poetry to such an extent that one cannot be properly understood without the other. Among the best known (and easiest to understand) of his hand-illustrated books are *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*, [6]_____.

A for him the visions were real, and directly inspired and guided his art
B but his visionary powers transformed all around him
C despite all this, his dedication to his art never wavered
D and he often lived near to poverty
E which contain some of the simplest and most beautiful lyrics in the English language
F yet during his lifetime he was largely ignored and often called mad
G few of the best artists of his day doubted his technical ability

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