

You are going to read an article written by a young pianist. For questions 1-8 choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

## When Your Dream Comes Musical

1 I am known as "Fab", which was a  
2 nickname given by my parents. I started playing  
3 the piano when I was four years old. My  
4 mother thought it would be a good outlet for  
5 positive childish energy and I was really into it;  
6 it was exciting. It was something different and I  
7 had much more time to practice then. The first  
8 time I performed in front of an audience was  
9 when I was five years old, and I loved it. I went  
10 on a summer camp run by my piano teachers at  
11 the time and at the end of the week we all got  
12 up and played a piece. At that age I was  
13 unaware of any of the pressure associated with  
14 performing live, so it just felt nice to have  
15 people concentrating on my playing, and I  
16 liked the applause and attention. Now I  
17 perform regularly, often in front of large  
18 audiences, and I still really enjoy it.

19 I always knew I wanted to be a pianist and  
20 never thought I would do anything else. In that  
21 respect I felt different from my friends when I  
22 went to school; they all thought they wanted to  
23 become teachers or doctors and things like that  
24 and I just knew I would be a pianist, but it  
25 didn't feel strange. Finding time to play and  
26 practice wasn't a problem at school until my  
27 last few years when the pressure of exams and  
28 things was hard, but generally I would choose  
29 to practice instead of doing homework. It  
30 always felt like schoolwork got in the way of  
31 playing the piano rather than the other way  
32 around. Unfortunately, I was never given any  
33 special allowances or extended deadlines  
34 though. After I finished school, I went on to  
35 study a degree in music and now I'm studying  
36 a master's degree in accompaniment.

37 A typical day now involves a couple of  
38 hours practice in the morning before going into  
39 college and attending classes. I spend a lot of  
40 time in the library listening to music, trying to  
41 learn and become familiar with new pieces of  
42 music. One downside to choosing to study and

43 pursue a career in music is that you end up  
44 spending hours and hours by yourself.  
45 However, I also try to spend time at college  
46 meeting other people and networking. The  
47 more musicians I know, the more likely I am to  
48 be asked to play for others. The more I play, the  
49 better known I become and in the music  
50 business it's all about recognition and getting  
51 your name out there. It's important to get  
52 involved in as many performances as possible  
53 and take part in competitions so that as many  
54 people as possible see you perform and know  
55 who you are. It's a very competitive industry.  
56 Ultimately, if I am asked to play and get given a  
57 job, it means that someone else loses work and  
58 sometimes it feels like a constant battle. You  
59 can't help being drawn into an artificial world  
60 where you are constantly comparing yourself to  
61 others and are always worried about what  
62 others think of your performances. In the real  
63 world outside of college your audience is much  
64 wider.

65 I chose to get involved in accompaniment  
66 because as much as I love playing the piano I  
67 also enjoy working with others. And working as  
68 an accompanist is a good way of doing that.  
69 There are also more job opportunities as  
70 although there is still a lot of competition, other  
71 performers will always need good  
72 accompanists, so there is more demand. I really  
73 enjoy performing with other people because  
74 there's an even greater sense of achievement  
75 when you are both on form and a piece comes  
76 out amazingly.

77 To follow a career in music you have to  
78 have a real passion for it; as unfortunately, it's  
79 not a very secure path and it's not usually very  
80 well paid. Having said that, the real positive  
81 side is that I am doing something I love; it's not  
82 just a subject to study. I love everything  
83 associated with music and performing and it's  
84 what I do every day.

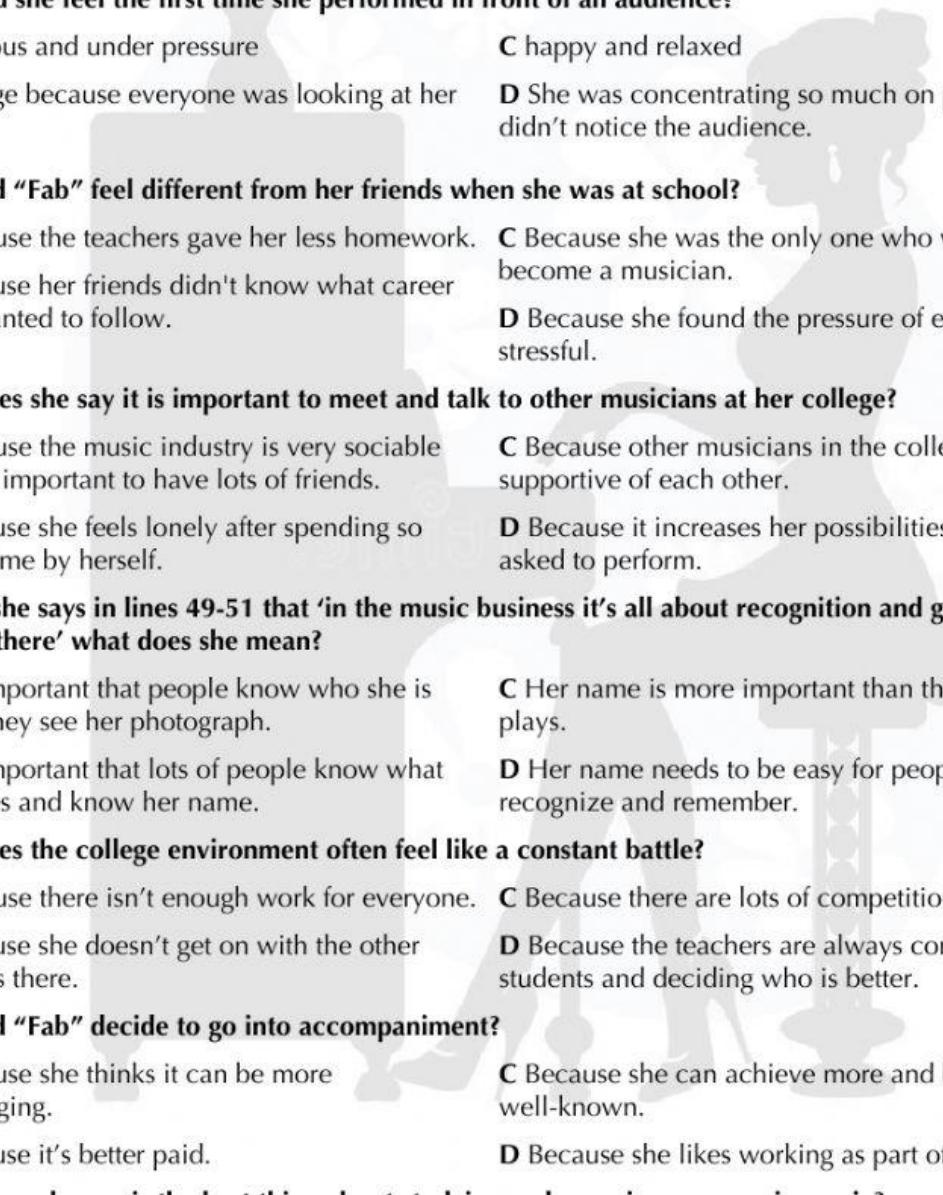
Taken from Dyer, K. & Harwood, D. (2013) FCE Practice Tests with Key. ELI S.R.L. Italy.

Adapted by Andrés Barón-Ávila  
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LIVE WORKSHEETS

## Reading Comprehension Questions



**1. How did "Fab" feel about playing the piano when she was very young?**

A She really enjoyed it. C She didn't like the fact she had to practice a lot.  
B She only did it since her mother wanted her to. D She felt strange and different from her friends.

**2. How did she feel the first time she performed in front of an audience?**

A nervous and under pressure C happy and relaxed  
B strange because everyone was looking at her D She was concentrating so much on playing she didn't notice the audience.

**3. Why did "Fab" feel different from her friends when she was at school?**

A Because the teachers gave her less homework. C Because she was the only one who wanted to become a musician.  
B Because her friends didn't know what career they wanted to follow. D Because she found the pressure of exams less stressful.

**4. Why does she say it is important to meet and talk to other musicians at her college?**

A Because the music industry is very sociable and it's important to have lots of friends. C Because other musicians in the college are very supportive of each other.  
B Because she feels lonely after spending so much time by herself. D Because it increases her possibilities of being asked to perform.

**5. When she says in lines 49-51 that 'in the music business it's all about recognition and getting your name out there' what does she mean?**

A It's important that people know who she is when they see her photograph. C Her name is more important than the way she plays.  
B It's important that lots of people know what she does and know her name. D Her name needs to be easy for people to recognize and remember.

**6. Why does the college environment often feel like a constant battle?**

A Because there isn't enough work for everyone. C Because there are lots of competitions.  
B Because she doesn't get on with the other students there. D Because the teachers are always comparing the students and deciding who is better.

**7. Why did "Fab" decide to go into accompaniment?**

A Because she thinks it can be more challenging. C Because she can achieve more and become more well-known.  
B Because it's better paid. D Because she likes working as part of a team.

**8. What does she say is the best thing about studying and pursuing a career in music?**

A Eventually, she might find her real passion. C She spends all her time doing something she takes pleasure in.  
B There are lots of job opportunities. D She finds it a competitive and well-known subject.

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