**Education for all**

We usually associate long and rewarding careers with older people who have had time to go deeply into their subject and have worked in the field for many years, but in fact it's not always the case.**1**\_\_\_ Then, by the time she was seventeen, she was already running a successful foundation, giving lectures and talks at universities and international events as well as making films, all of which focus on education and climate change.

Whilst Oduwole has roots in Africa, she was born and grew up in Los Angeles. Her first trip to Africa came about after she entered a national film-making competition. **2**\_\_\_ In order to film scenes for the documentary, Oduwole travelled to Ghana and was even able to conduct interviews with some of the people involved in transforming the country.

It was during that trip that Oduwole first realised she had a passion for education. She saw many young girls on the streets and realised they were not attending lessons and got the urge to do something to help. **3**\_\_\_ As part of this role, she speaks to young people about the importance of school and getting a good education. She also organises the DUSUSU awards which honour African first ladies and ministers who strongly support education for girls and gender equality.

Whilst these achievements already seem unbelievable for such a young woman, she hasn't stopped there. **4**\_\_\_ When classrooms are flooded and children can't get to school then they quickly fall behind with their studies and many give up altogether. She has met various presidents to discuss this issue and has given speeches to the United Nations and UNESCO on green initiatives.

**5**\_\_\_ One of her more recent projects involves giving workshops to girls and women under the age of twenty-five to help them acquire skills in basic film-making techniques, in the hope that it will empower them to share their own stories, and if possible, enable them to make money.

Whilst Oduwole gives much of her attention to helping girls, she believes her work does not exclude boys. **6**\_\_\_ She hopes that by setting an example of what females are capable of achieving, males will gain an understanding of the need for equality and the difficulties their classmates and colleagues can face. She understands, too, that life in parts of Africa can be difficult for everyone. Her focus at the moment is to ensure girls and women experience equal opportunities in life, which is undeniably a big task, especially for someone so young.

**Exercise 1: Read the text. Complete gaps 1–6 with sentences A–H. There are two extra sentences.**

**A After her return to the United States she started her foundation, Dream Up, Speak Up, Stand Up (DUSUSU) which signalled the beginning of her mission as a powerful education advocate.**

**B When she speaks at schools and events, her audiences are made up of all genders and she hopes that her talks make an impact on everyone present.**

**C Oduwole's group made a film that impressed their teacher so much that they won first prize.**

**D The project was to create a film about a revolution, and since Ghana saw what is considered to be one of the most successful revolts on the African continent, Oduwole chose it as her subject.**

**E Oduwole understands the threat that climate change poses to education.**

**F At the age of nine, Zuriel Oduwole started a successful career as a film-maker which inspired her to look for ways to encourage girls in Africa to attend school.**

**G She has written to various presidents and governments with ideas about how to encourage children to stay in the classroom when their parents want them to go out to work.**

**H Despite spending much time speaking at events and campaigning for equality, Oduwole still finds time to develop her own film-making and to share her knowledge with others.**

**Exercise 2: Read the text again. For questions 1–4, choose the correct answer, A–C.**

**1** Why did Zuriel focus on Ghana for her first film?

**A** She had met some of the people behind the revolution and wanted to learn more.

**B** She had previously travelled to Ghana and wanted to encourage girls to attend school.

**C** Ghana's political history was appropriate for the topic of the competition.

**2** What is the purpose of the DUSUSU awards?

**A** To recognise people who are working to improve the opportunities available to females.

**B** To put the wives of African presidents in the spotlight so they can help more women and girls.

**C** To enable Oduwole to give speeches to young people about attending school.

**3** Why has Oduwole chosen to focus on climate change?

**A** She wants to give speeches on the topic to the United Nations.

**B** She thinks climate change is misunderstood by young people.

**C** She sees a connection between climate change and students dropping out of school.

**4** What impact does Oduwole hope to have on boys?

**A** That they will campaign for equality in Africa with their classmates and colleagues.

**B** That they will understand more clearly the problems young women in Africa have.

**C** That they will learn to set a good example for their male friends and family members.

**ANSWER KEY**

Exercise 1:

1-F 2-D 3-A

4-E 5-H 6-B

Exercise 2:

1. C.

2. A.

3. C.

4. B.