

## Before-reading questions

- 1 The man on the cover is Freddie Mercury, whose real name was Farrokh Bulsara.
  - a He was born in Zanzibar in 1946.
  - b He died from an illness (AIDS).
  - c He was the lead singer of the rock band Queen.
- 2 **Model answer:**
  - a Queen started in 1970.
  - b and c Freddie Mercury (lead singer), Brian May (lead guitar player), Roger Taylor (drummer) and John Deacon (bass guitar player)
  - d “Bohemian Rhapsody”, “We Will Rock You”, “We Are the Champions”, etc.
- 3 *Reader’s own answer.*
- 4 *Reader’s own answer.*

## During-reading questions

### CHAPTER ONE

- 1 Bomi Bulsara (father), Jer Bulsara (mother) and Kashmira (sister)
- 2 He first went to school in Zanzibar, then St Peter’s School in Panchgani, south east of Mumbai.
- 3 Because a dangerous revolution started in Zanzibar, and many people were dying.
- 4 Things were difficult for them at first. The weather was cold and rainy, and the houses, shops and buildings were different from Zanzibar. Everything was very expensive, too.

### CHAPTER TWO

- 1 It was the Swinging Sixties, a great time for young people, with exciting new fashions and new rock and pop bands.
- 2 His parents wanted him to have a job like a lawyer or accountant, but he wanted to be a rock star.
- 3 Tim Staffell, the lead singer of Smile, left the band, so Brian and Roger asked Freddie to join them.

### CHAPTER THREE

- 1 It sold exciting clothes in the latest fashions, and the prices were not high.
- 2 Mary was introduced to Freddie by Brian May.
- 3 She was pleased that he was honest with her.

### CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 Queen could use Trident’s recording studios for free and record new songs for Trident to promote to the record companies.
- 2 EMI, a top record company, heard Queen’s songs on *Sounds of the Seventies* and decided to make a deal with them.
- 3 Brian was ill, and there were problems with Freddie’s ear and the band’s equipment. Also, some Australian bands were angry with Queen because they were the top band instead of an Australian band.
- 4 David Bowie cancelled a performance on *Top of the Pops*, so Queen got a chance to perform instead.

### CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Norman Sheffield did not want to give them their money. He told them to wait until the end of the year because the money from their records would arrive by then.
- 2 It was six minutes long and had three parts, with the middle part like opera. Most songs were only three minutes long.
- 3 The DJ Kenny Everett was a friend of Freddie’s. He helped Queen by playing “Bohemian Rhapsody” on his radio show fourteen times in two days.
- 4 Queen did not want to appear on *Top of the Pops* because they did not like singing to a recording. The video was special because it was the first music video to promote a song.

### CHAPTER SIX

- 1 John Deacon (with the song “You’re My Best Friend”)

- 2 He thought that, if people knew he was gay, perhaps they would stop buying Queen's records.
- 3 In the bath in the Hilton Hotel in Munich.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 "Another One Bites the Dust"
- 2 It sounded more like disco music than rock.
- 3 Roger thought that Paul was a very bad influence on Freddie, and that he (Paul) wanted Queen's music to sound like music in a gay club.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 Queen were paid a lot of money to perform in some concerts in South Africa, so many people thought they were supporting apartheid.
- 2 They were not top of the charts in the UK anymore, and people in America had stopped buying their records. Many of their fans in South America were angry with them, and other fans were angry about their performances in South Africa. The band members were not spending much time together.
- 3 Because there was a terrible famine in Ethiopia.

## CHAPTER NINE

- 1 It continued for sixteen hours and was held in two countries at the same time – the UK and the USA. In the UK the bands played at Wembley Football Stadium in London, and in the USA they played at the John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia. After each band in the UK had finished playing, the stage was made ready for the next band. While this was happening, the audience in the UK could watch a band in the USA.
- 2 They decided to play six songs that the audience knew and loved, and they planned

them very carefully. They rehearsed very hard for three days.

- 3 In a club in London.
- 4 He saw lots of famous rock stars everywhere. He also realized that Freddie was a really great rock star.

## CHAPTER TEN

- 1 He wanted the people from the media to think that Mary was still his girlfriend. He did not want them to know he was gay, or to find out about his relationship with Jim.
- 2 He was told that he had AIDS.
- 3 Freddie told Paul to leave his job. Paul was angry, so he sold information about Freddie's private life to the *Sun* newspaper for £32,000, together with photographs of Freddie's lovers.
- 4 He wanted Jim Beach to tell the journalists waiting outside his home that he had AIDS. He had decided to tell the world the truth about why he was dying.

## After-reading questions

- 1 *Reader's own answers.*
- 2 **Model answer:** He changed from Farrokh Bulsara, the shy young boy from Zanzibar, to Freddie Mercury, a great rock star. He also changed his look from the early years of long hair, make-up and flamboyant clothes to his later look with short black hair, jeans and a moustache.
- 3 **Model answer:**
  - a Brian May was the lead guitar player in Queen. He worked with Freddie for many years.
  - b Mary Austin was Freddie's girlfriend. After their relationship ended, they were best friends for the rest of their lives. She always loved and supported him.
  - c Paul Prenter was Freddie's assistant. He hurt Freddie by selling information about his private life to the *Sun* newspaper.

- d Jim Hutton was Freddie's last and most serious boyfriend. Their relationship started in 1984, and Jim stayed with Freddie until Freddie's death in 1991.
- e **Model answer:** All the members of Queen had the same dream. They were all great musicians who worked very hard, and did their best to make their fans happy. They all wanted their music to be excellent. An important difference between Freddie and the others were that Freddie liked going to clubs, and the others were all married with families.
- 5 **Model answer:** Freddie pretended about several things in his life, like his name (his real name was Farrokh Bulsara). He also pretended for a long time that he was not gay and did not have AIDS.
- 6 **Model answer:** Possible mistakes were the video to promote "I Want to Break Free" and playing in concerts in South Africa. Queen lost a lot of fans because of these mistakes. Freddie made a mistake by allowing Paul Prenter to have so much influence over him.
- 7 **Model answer:** Freddie was a really great songwriter, singer and musician who liked to make people happy through his music.

## Exercises

### CHAPTER ONE

- 1 1 true                    2 false  
 3 false                    4 false  
 5 true                      6 true

### CHAPTER TWO

- 2 1 transistor            2 show  
 3 promote                4 pirate  
 5 lawyer                 6 pillow  
 7 drummer

### CHAPTER THREE

- 3 1 Freddie told Brian that he liked Mary.  
 2 Brian told Freddie that Mary was just a friend.  
 3 Freddie told Roger that he was waiting to see Mary.  
 4 Mary told her friend that Freddie was not happy.  
 5 Freddie told Mary that he was bisexual.  
 6 Then he told her that he would always love her.

### CHAPTER FOUR

- 4 1 **The Sheffield brothers** owned Trident Studios.  
 2 **Jack Nelson** was Queen's first manager.  
 3 **EMI** was a top record company in London.  
 4 **Freddie Mercury** wrote most of Queen's songs.  
 5 "**Killer Queen**" was Queen's biggest hit single in 1974.  
 6 **Kenny Everett** invited Freddie to be a guest on his radio show.  
 7 **David Bowie** cancelled a show on *Top of the Pops*.

### CHAPTER FIVE

- 5 1 Freddie did not want to **cancel** the concert in Washington and make his audience sad.  
 2 Trident **organized** eight concerts for Queen in Japan.  
 3 Thousands of Japanese **fans** were waiting for Queen at Tokyo Airport.  
 4 Queen won several big prizes, including best **international** group.  
 5 *Sheer Heart Attack* was the name of Queen's third **album**.  
 6 They knew that "Bohemian Rhapsody" had to be a big **hit**.  
 7 The middle part of the song was like **opera**.  
 8 "Bohemian Rhapsody" was **released** as a single on 31st October 1975.

## CHAPTER SIX

- 6 1 By the start of 1976, Queen's relationship with Trident **had become** very bad.
- 2 At that time Norman was not happy with Queen, because he **had lost** a lot of money.
- 3 A new hit single **was released** by Queen on 18th May 1976.
- 4 By the end of 1976, Mary **had moved** out of the flat in Kensington.
- 5 If people knew Freddie was gay, perhaps they **would stop** buying Queen's records.
- 6 Queen left the UK because they **had not wanted** to pay a lot of tax.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

- 7 The years 1984 and 1985 were not good for Queen. At a <sup>1</sup> **concert** in Rio de Janeiro, Freddie was wearing a short black skirt and a black <sup>2</sup> **wig**. The people in the <sup>3</sup> **audience** threw stones and shoes at him. Queen had also been to South Africa. But a lot of their <sup>4</sup> **fans** were not happy about this, because they thought Queen was supporting <sup>5</sup> **apartheid**. Between 1983 and 1985, there was a terrible <sup>6</sup> **famine** in Ethiopia. The Irish singer and songwriter Bob Geldof <sup>7</sup> **formed** a huge pop group and on 25th November they <sup>8</sup> **recorded** a song called "Do They Know It's Christmas?".

## CHAPTER NINE

- 8 1 a    2 d    3 c    4 f    5 b    6 e

## CHAPTER TEN

- 9 1 Jim                    2 Freddie
- 3 Brian                4 Paul
- 5 Kashmira        6 Mary

## Project work

*Reader's own answers.*