READING

Before reading – see the meaning of the following words:

Quip – an humorous and clever remark

Taunt – an upsetting remark, laughing unkindly

Read the text and fill each gap with a suitable word:

**after, born,** f**igures**, **first** **,from, motor, religion, stripped**

Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali (1942-) is an American former heavyweight champion boxer and one of the greatest sporting **\_\_FIGURES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the 20th century. An Olympic gold medalist and the **\_\_1ST\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** fighter to capture the heavyweight title three times, Ali won 56 times in his 21-year professional career. Ali’s outspokenness on issues of race, **\_\_RELIGION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and politics made him a controversial figure during his career, and the heavyweight’s quips and taunts were as quick as his fists. **\_\_\_BORN\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Cassius Clay Jr., Ali changed his name in 1964 **\_AFTER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** joining the Nation of Islam. Citing his religious beliefs, he refused military induction and was **\_\_STRIPPED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of his heavyweight championship and banned **\_FROM\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** boxing for three years during the prime of his career. Parkinson’s syndrome has severely impaired Ali’s **\_\_\_MOTOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** skills and speech, but he remains active as a humanitarian and goodwill ambassador.

From: <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/muhammad-ali>