



## The Exorcist (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. At what age can teenagers go and see a horror film in your country?
2. Do you ever watch horror films?
3. If so, what kind of horror films do you find most frightening?
4. Which is the best horror film you've ever seen? Why?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The characters in the 1973 film The Exorcist were based on real people.
2. The director of the film was William Friedkin.
3. Some members of the cinema audience felt unwell during the film.
4. The film was not banned all over the US.
5. During filming, a storm damaged the set.
6. The Exorcist won ten Oscars.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and the information box and answer the questions.

1. What are the main events of the film plot?
2. Which scene did cinema audiences find extremely shocking?
3. What did some people think about the accidents that happened during filming?
4. What other strange things were noticed on the film itself?
5. Why is the film considered to have been a great success?
6. What is the title of the newly released sequel?
7. How many more sequels are planned?
8. Who does Ellen Burstyn play in it?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. Sam didn't think he had a broken leg, but the fracture \_\_\_\_\_ clearly on the X-ray.
2. Amanda was given the job \_\_\_\_\_ her lack of experience in that field.
3. Don't swim out \_\_\_\_\_ the red flags. The current is very strong out there.
4. John Dillinger was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ bank robbers of the 20th century.
5. The film director thanked his \_\_\_\_\_ for their dedication and hard work.
6. We love picnics but every time we have one in summer we are \_\_\_\_\_ by wasps!

### E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

During the making of The Exorcist, a disagreement arose <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the director William Friedkin and the screenwriter William Peter Blatty, the author on <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ novel the film was based. Blatty was a devout Catholic who believed in the threat of demons and intended to

make a film about <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the faith of a priest is tested when a demon takes over the body of a young girl. Friedkin, on the other <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, being an agnostic, was more interested in the story of a desperate mother who tries to <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ out what is happening to her daughter. Friedkin cut two scenes which Blatty considered to be important for the religious message of the film. As a result, the two men stopped speaking to each <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

### **F – Talk about it**

*In pairs or groups.*

1. Do you believe in the supernatural?
  2. What do you think about demons and the role of exorcists?
  3. Why do you think so many people enjoy watching frightening films?
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## **Hogmanay (C1 - Advanced)**

### **A – Before you start**

*Answer the questions with a partner*

1. Do you celebrate New Year?
2. If so, do you usually spend it with friends, or family, or both?
3. Are there any special customs in your country for New Year celebrations?

### **B – Listen and answer**

*Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).*

1. Hogmanay, the Scottish New Year celebration, lasts longer than in most countries.
2. Juliane Frank thinks the word Hogmanay comes from a French word meaning 'midwinter day'.
3. She says it was probably brought to Scotland by Mary Queen of Scots.
4. During the Reformation, New Year celebrations were banned in Scotland.
5. All over Scotland, people practise Loony Dook and dive into the sea and rivers.
6. The most common New Year tradition in Scotland is visiting family and friends with little gifts.
7. Edinburgh Hogmanay begins with a free torchlight procession on 29th December.
8. The largest free Hogmanay celebration in Scotland takes place in Inverness.

### **C – Read and answer**

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. Why did pagans celebrate around the time of the winter solstice?
2. Why doesn't Juliane Frank want to say the French word she believes Hogmanay originated from?
3. How did Mary Queen of Scots come to know French?
4. Why are the celebrations of Hogmanay bigger than those of Christmas in Scotland?
5. What kind of person is the ideal 'first footer'? Why?
6. What are the usual gifts that first footers bring?
7. Where does the Inverness Hogmanay celebration take place and what does it consist of?
8. How is the Stonehaven procession different from the Edinburgh procession?

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)*

1. It's dangerous to \_\_\_\_\_ into the sea from this pier. There are too many rocks.
2. Our manager has \_\_\_\_\_ to improve working conditions for the staff.
3. We've had little rain this summer, \_\_\_\_\_ last year when it rained for most of July.
4. Have you ever eaten Scottish \_\_\_\_\_? It's delicious!
5. My old phone was \_\_\_\_\_ good, but this new one is excellent.
6. We have a radiator in the lounge, but on very cold days we light the fire for extra \_\_\_\_\_.

## E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Complete the text. Use only one word in each space.

Auld Lang Syne is a song <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ by many people on New Year's Eve, not <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in Scotland but in many countries around the world, to <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ farewell to the old year. It is also often used at funerals, graduations or closing ceremonies. The Guinness Book of World Records lists it <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ one of the most frequently sung songs in English. <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the text was written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788, it was <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ on an earlier folk song. At the stroke of midnight, people cross arms and <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ hands with the people next to them in order to sing Auld Lang Syne. Recent research <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ out by the University of Edinburgh has revealed that this was a parting ritual at many Masonic Lodges. Robert Burns was, in fact, a Freemason.

## F – Write about it

Write about your most memorable New Year's Eve. Mention:

- when it was;
  - where you were;
  - who you were with;
  - what you did;
  - why it was memorable.
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## Coco Chanel (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are you interested in fashion? Why (not)?
2. Do you mostly shop for clothes in the same place?
3. Do you have a favourite designer label?
4. What do you know about Coco Chanel?

### B – Listen and answer

Listen to the introductory article (without reading) and complete this fact file.

#### Fact File: Coco Chanel

- Real name: <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ Chanel.
- Born: in Loire Valley, France, in <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- First jobs: shop assistant, café <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1913: opened first boutique selling <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and simple <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1920s: shocked society by introducing <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ for women.
- Closed couture house in <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1954: <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ fashion house and designed her iconic suit.
- Continued working into her <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
- 1971: died in the <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in Paris.

### C – Read and answer

Read the introductory article and the information box and answer the questions.

1. Where did Chanel get the name Coco from?
2. How did she open her millinery shop?
3. What kind of women was her sportswear popular with?
4. What other goods did she start producing during the 1920s?
5. What indications are there that her industries soon became very successful?
6. Which of her designs was praised by a famous fashion magazine?
7. Why did her reputation suffer after World War II?
8. Where can you go to see one of Chanel's earliest creations? What is it?

## D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

*Read these statements. Then listen to the interview with Tilar Mazzeo, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).*

1. Cultural historian Tilar Mazzeo has made a documentary about the perfume Chanel N° 5.
2. The perfume was a new version of one created for the Russian Tsarina by Ernest Beaux.
3. The original perfume had been a great success in Russia.
4. Ernest Beaux made several versions of the perfume and chose the fifth version for Coco Chanel.
5. Chanel sold the perfume to a few important customers.
6. She decided to get another company to make the perfume but to separate the two businesses.
7. Later on, she introduced an almost identical perfume called Coco Mademoiselle.
8. She wanted to change the terms of the Chanel No.5 contract, but she never succeeded in doing so.

## E – Listen, read and check your answers

*Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)*

## F – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense or change from plural to singular.)*

1. Helen's gone to live in Normandy. She likes it there and says she's never \_\_\_\_ her decision.
2. You don't need a large dining table if you rarely \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When her father retired, Daisy \_\_\_\_\_ the family business and made a success of it.
4. Oh, no! A button's just come off my shirt and I haven't got time to \_\_\_\_\_ it on again.
5. This is a reply-paid envelope so you don't need to put a \_\_\_\_\_ on it.
6. Our Maths teacher's away today. It's a great \_\_\_\_\_! I haven't done my Maths homework yet.

## G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

*Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.*

1. Chanel was born into \_\_\_\_\_ (POOR) in the Loire Valley in 1883.
2. She grew up in an \_\_\_\_\_ (ORPHAN) and learnt her dress-making skills there.
3. In 1913, she opened her first boutique in the French \_\_\_\_\_ (SEA) resort of Deauville.
4. One of her most famous designs was a chic but \_\_\_\_\_ (AFFORD) simple black dress.
5. Chanel closed her fashion house at the \_\_\_\_\_ (BREAK) of war in 1939.
6. She reopened it in 1954 because she said she was dying of \_\_\_\_\_ (BORE).
7. She gave up control of Chanel No.5 and then spent years trying to \_\_\_\_\_ (DO) the deal.
8. Over the years, the sales of Chanel No.5 made her incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ (WEALTH).

## H – Write about it

*Write about your favourite item of clothing. Mention:*

- what it's like (style/material/colour, etc.)
  - how long you've had it;
  - where you got it;
  - when/where/how often you wear it;
  - why you like it.
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## An American Christmas (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you and your family celebrate Christmas?
2. How do most people in your country usually celebrate it?
3. Have you got any plans for the holiday this year?

### B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. The first known Christmas celebration was held in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In England, Christmas celebrations were banned by \_\_\_\_\_ in 1647.
3. From 1659 to \_\_\_\_\_, they were also banned in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in America.
4. British traditions became less popular in the US after the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the early 19th century, two \_\_\_\_\_ helped to revive the celebration of Christmas in the US.
6. On \_\_\_\_\_, 1870, US President Ulysses S. Grant declared Christmas a national holiday.
7. The tradition of Christmas trees was brought to America by \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In the US and the UK, children usually open their presents on Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and the information box and answer the questions.

1. What are festivities usually like in the US, according to the article?
2. Who were the English separatists who lived in the early British colonies in the US?
3. Why did the works of Washington Irving and Charles Dickens change people attitudes?
4. How long have trees been associated with Christmas in Germany?
5. Which Christmas traditions do the US and the UK have in common?
6. How did the tradition of eating Chinese food at Christmas develop in the US?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense.)

1. What's the matter with Simon? He looks really \_\_\_\_\_ today?
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ something means to ban it.
3. Children don't usually like eating green vegetables like \_\_\_\_\_ or spinach.
4. Our grandfather's a real \_\_\_\_\_. He hates spending money and never buys us presents.
5. That restaurant's expensive and the food's awful; \_\_\_\_\_, people still go there.
6. I can't lend you my dictionary. Daisy \_\_\_\_\_ it yesterday and she hasn't given it back yet.

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Christmas became a global celebration after that.

HAS Christmas has become a global celebration since then.

1. Before its arrival in the US, it was celebrated for centuries in England.

YEARS Before its arrival in the US, it was celebrated \_\_\_\_\_ in England.

2. The English separatists did not approve of Christmas celebrations.

OPPOSED The English separatists \_\_\_\_\_ celebrating Christmas.

3. In the US, the celebration of Christmas was revived thanks to two authors.

WAS In the US, \_\_\_\_\_ helped to revive Christmas.

4. Only in 1870 did Christmas become a national holiday in the US.

UNTIL It \_\_\_\_\_ that Christmas became a national holiday in the US.

5. In some rural areas, turkey isn't served. It is replaced with game meats.

INSTEAD In some rural areas, game meats \_\_\_\_\_ turkey.

6. In Hawaii, don't be surprised if you see local specialties on the table.  
EXPECT In Hawaii, you \_\_\_\_\_ local specialties on the table.

### **F – Talk about it**

*Write about a special occasion you celebrated during the year. Mention:*

- what the celebration was about;
  - when/where/how you celebrated it;
  - who you celebrated it with.
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## **Answers: The Exorcist (B1 - Lower Intermediate)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. F – The film was based on a novel. 2. T 3. T 4. T 5. F – A fire damaged the set. 6. F – It won two Oscars.

### **C – Read and answer**

1. The film is about a young girl called Regan MacNeil. Regan is possessed by an evil spirit and an exorcist is called to try to free her of it. 2. The scene they found extremely shocking was the one where Regan's head rotates 360 degrees. 3. They thought the whole production was cursed. 4. On the film, there were strange images and visions that weren't intended to be there. 5. Apart from winning two Oscars, it inspired a multi-million-dollar media franchise, multiple film sequels and a television series. There is also a new sequel. 6. The title is The Exorcist: Believer. 7. Two. 8. She plays Chris MacNeil, Regan's mother, who is now an elderly woman.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. showed up 2. despite 3. beyond 4. notorious 5. crew 6. plagued

### **E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?**

1. between 2. whose 3. how 4. hand 5. find 6. other
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## **Answers: Hogmanay (C1 - Advanced)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. T 2. F – She thinks it comes from a French word meaning 'gala day'. 3. T 4. F – Christmas was banned. 5. F – Loony Dook is a regional custom, practised in South Queensferry. 6. T 7. F – It isn't free. You have to buy a ticket.

### **C – Read and answer**

1. They celebrated the fact that the shortest day of the year was over and that there was a new beginning with the days getting longer. 2. Because she thinks she won't be able to pronounce it correctly. 3. She grew up in France. 4. Because at one time celebrating Christmas was banned in Scotland, so people postponed the celebration till the end of the month. 5. The ideal first footer is a dark-haired man, because Vikings, who often brought trouble, were usually blond. 6. They usually bring symbolic gifts like bread or shortbread, whisky and coal. 7. It takes place along the River Ness and it consists of music, fireworks and entertainment. 8. In the Stonehaven procession, they juggle with fireballs. In the Edinburgh procession people carry torches

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. dive 2. gone all out 3. unlike 4. shortbread 5. fairly 6. warmth

### **E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?**

1. sung 2. only/just 3. say/bid 4. as 5. Although/Though 6. based 7. join/link/hold 8. carried
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## Answers: Coco Chanel (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### B – Listen and answer

1. Gabrielle 2. 1883 3. singer 4. hats 5. simple sportswear 6. evening trousers 7. 1939 8. reopened 9. 80s/eighties 10. Ritz Hotel

### C – Read and answer

1. She was called Coco by the soldiers in the audience at the café where she used to sing. 2. She was helped by her friend Arthur Capel. 3. It was popular with wealthy women who disliked the corseted styles of the time. 4. She started producing textiles, jewellery and perfumes. 5. By the late 1920s they were worth millions and employed more than two thousand people. 6. Her little black dress. 7. Because she had had a relationship with a Nazi officer. 8. You can go and see it at the Victoria and Albert Museum (in London). It's a silk blouse from 1916.

### E – Listen, read and check your answers

1. F – She has written a book about it. 2. T 3. F – It had failed in Russia. 4. F – It was Coco Chanel who chose the fifth because it was her lucky number. 5. F – She gave it to them as a present. 6. T 7. T 8. F – In the end she managed to renegotiate the deal.

### F – Learn it! Use it!

1. regretted 2. entertain 3. took over 4. sew 5. postage stamp 6. relief

### G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English?

1. poverty 2. orphanage 3. seaside 4. affordable 5. outbreak 6. boredom 7. undo 8. wealthy

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## Answers: An American Christmas (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### B – Listen and answer

1. 336 2. the Puritans/Oliver Cromwell 3. 1681 4. American Revolutionary War 5. authors 6. 26th June 7. German immigrants 8. morning

### C – Read and answer

1. They are usually elaborate and highly commercial. 2. They were Protestants who (had) separated from the Church of England. 3. Irving's stories described how Christmas had been celebrated in England before the Puritans outlawed it. Dicken's novella contained idyllic descriptions of the celebrations and showed the benefits of celebrating Christmas as a time of goodwill and charity. 4. Since the late 1400s. 5. The traditions that the US and the UK share are decorating trees, sending Christmas cards, exchanging gifts and having a big family dinner. 6. It developed because American Jews felt like outsiders at Christmas and saw Chinese restaurants, as safe havens.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. miserable 2. outlaw 3. cabbage 4. miser 5. nevertheless 6. borrowed

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. for hundreds of years 2. were opposed to 3. it was two authors who/that 4. was not/ wasn't until 1870 5. are served instead of 6. can/may expect to see