

The Exorcist (B1)

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 ¹ _____ the director William Friedkin and the screenwriter William Peter Blatty, the author on ² _____ novel the film was based. Blatty was a devout Catholic who believed in the threat of demons and intended to make a film about ³ _____ the faith of a priest is tested when a demon takes over the body of a young girl. Friedkin, on the other ⁴ _____, being an agnostic, was more interested in the story of a desperate mother who tries to*

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_____ 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 _____.

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?

Answers

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