



## The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What is your favourite genre of film?
2. Do you watch a lot of horror films? Why (not)?
3. Have you seen *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* or any of its sequels?
4. If so, what did you think of it/them?
5. Why do you think so many people enjoy being scared to death at the cinema?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. The poster for *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* was intended to make people feel uncomfortable.
2. The plot of the film was rather complicated.
3. All the film critics agreed it was an awful film.
4. The film was the true account of the crimes of a notorious serial killer of the 1950s.
5. The actors had to work long hours filming every day of the week.
6. The film has its origins in earlier horror films like *Halloween*.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What impact did the film have?
2. Who are the victims and who are their killers in the story?
3. How much did the film make in today's money?
4. How does the film manage to scare the audience?
5. What did the film crew use to create the set inside the farmhouse?
6. Why did the actors feel unwell while filming the final scene?
7. What did Tobe Hooper do besides directing the film?
8. Which elements of slasher films were seen here for the first time?

### 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 from plural to singular.)

1. Someone who enters a building or property without the owner's permission is a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Alex didn't intend to offend his best friend. His problem is that he's totally \_\_\_\_\_ of tact.
3. What meat do you use in this dish? Is it \_\_\_\_\_ or beef?
4. We had to cut down a tree in our garden, so we borrowed a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. This is a really \_\_\_\_\_ cheese, but surprisingly it tastes delicious.
6. If you sit too near the \_\_\_\_\_ in a cinema, you may get an aching neck.

### E – Ready for the B2 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. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre is considered one of the \_\_\_\_\_ (SCARE) films ever made.
2. Some of the reviews contained contradictory comments, so they were \_\_\_\_\_ (CONFUSE).
3. One journalist called the film a \_\_\_\_\_ (MASTER) of fear and loathing.
4. The horror and gore are mostly \_\_\_\_\_ (SUGGEST) and felt, rather than seen.
5. According to one critic, the driving force of the film is fear and total \_\_\_\_\_ (SANE).
6. There were no famous actors. The cast were \_\_\_\_\_ (KNOW) who were made to work hard.
7. Some of the blood used came from actors, as the tubes of blood were \_\_\_\_\_ (FAULT).
8. The film was the first of its kind and proved to be \_\_\_\_\_ (ENORMOUS) influential.

### F – Write about it

Write about a horror film or thriller you liked or didn't like. Include information about:

- the setting (time and place);
- the plot;
- the cast;
- why you liked/disliked it.

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## Isambard Kingdom Brunel (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Can you name any of your country's most famous bridges and tunnels?
2. If so, do you know who they were built by?
3. Have you ever heard of Isambard Kingdom Brunel?
4. If so, what do you know about him?

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was born on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ in Portsmouth, England.
2. His first job was helping his father to design and build the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. One of Brunel's best-known creations is a \_\_\_\_\_-long suspension bridge.
4. In 1833, he was asked to build a railway between London and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the late 1830s, Brunel began to design steamships. His first was the SS \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In 1838, it sailed from Bristol to New York in \_\_\_\_\_ days.
7. Brunel's health suffered because he worked long hours and smoked \_\_\_\_\_ a day.
8. He died aboard his last ship at the age of \_\_\_\_\_.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What does the article say about Brunel's physical appearance?
2. Why did he become an engineer?
3. What was the purpose of the tunnelling shield designed by Brunel and his father?
4. What does the article say about the location and yearly traffic of the Clifton Suspension Bridge?
5. What was the SS *Great Western* famous for besides its speed?
6. What was special about Brunel's second steamship, the SS *Great Britain*?
7. What was the SS *Great Eastern* eventually used for?
8. What did Brunel die of?

## 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, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Rose took the documents out of her briefcase and \_\_\_\_\_ them on the desk.
2. In the mid 1950s, aeroplanes began to replace \_\_\_\_\_ for transatlantic crossings.
3. The prisoner escaped by sawing through the \_\_\_\_\_ bars of his cell.
4. We got to the harbour late and found our ship had \_\_\_\_\_ without us.
5. The aircraft used in World War II were driven by \_\_\_\_\_ not jet engines.
6. As a child, Joey hated going to the dentist's. His mother always had to \_\_\_\_\_ him there.

## E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

When the SS Great Britain was launched by Prince Albert on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1843, she was the largest and <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ technically innovative ship of the day. She was <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of iron and was equipped with a propeller, as well as sails for wind power. She <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ accommodate a total of 360 passengers and 120 crew members, along <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 1,200 tons of coal for the engines and 1,200 tons of cargo.

Her first transatlantic voyage was from Liverpool to New York in July 1845, during <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ she covered 3,100 miles in 14 days and 21 hours. This was the first time an iron steamship <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ crossed the Atlantic. On her return journey, <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of damage to her propeller, she used only her sails, but still <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ to complete the voyage to Liverpool in 20 days.

## F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's greatest engineers or architects. Mention:

- when/where he/she was born;
- how his/her career began;
- what he/she is most famous for.

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## The Vikings in Britain (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about the Vikings?
2. Did they ever raid your country? Where? When?
3. Were there any Viking settlements? Where?

### B – Listen and answer

Listen to the introductory article (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false) beside these statements.

1. When Vikings raided the Lindisfarne monastery in 793, the monks managed to escape unharmed.
2. The Vikings ruled Britain for over a thousand years.
3. The people who raided Lindisfarne did not call themselves "Vikings".
4. The Vikings had never raided the British Isles before the attack on Lindisfarne.
5. Present-day York became the Viking capital in northern England.
6. Archaeologists have found very few objects dating back to the Viking Age.
7. Viking rule in Britain declined after 1066.
8. In Britain, there are still some place names of Viking origin.

### C – Read and answer

Read the introductory article and answer the questions.

1. Where was the monastery of Lindisfarne situated?

2. What gradually happened to the Vikings after their early raids on the British Isles?
3. What did the word viking mean in Old Norse?
4. What happened to Scandinavia as a result of the widespread movement of people?
5. What was Danelaw?
6. Who was Cnut?
7. How have archaeologists been able to gain an insight into the mentality of the Vikings?
8. When were the earliest sources on the Vikings written?

### 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 Neil Price, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).*

1. Neil Price is an English professor of archaeology who teaches at a Norwegian university.
2. Price says that most reports about the Vikings came from their victims, so they are unreliable.
3. Ash and Elm were two important Viking gods.
4. Britain was one of the first places the Vikings migrated to in large numbers.
5. In an age of great exploration, the Vikings were the people who travelled the furthest.
6. Price is very critical of Marvel films about Norse gods or other fantasy films about Vikings.
7. He says that Viking society was warlike and violent because their gods were too.
8. In his book, he shows how the Vikings treated their children differently from other societies.

### 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 – Write about 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. The word \_\_\_\_\_ means "sailor". It's a literary term, not usually used in everyday English.
2. I got a flat near my office because I was tired of travelling \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by train.
3. Amy and Tim's son doesn't go to nursery school yet. He's still a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I would say a phone like that one costs \_\_\_\_\_ 250 euros if you buy it online.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are better than gloves for skiing because they keep your hands warmer.
6. We invited them to our barbecue but they \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ when it was nearly over.

### G – Ready for the FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

*Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.*

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

During <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*which/that/what/this*) we refer to as the Viking Age, it is calculated that about 200,000 people left Scandinavia (*modern Denmark, Sweden and Norway*). Travelling by boat, they crossed oceans, sailed <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*up/through/over/to*) rivers and reached places as far <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*distant/gone/along/away*) as North America and the Middle East. Many settled in Iceland, the British Isles and Russia. In France and Sicily they became <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*called/known/named/described*) as Normans.

They were explorers, craftsmen and traders, as well as <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*be/to be/being/been*) fierce warriors and even mercenaries, but they left <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*no/some/many/any*) written accounts of their own deeds. <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*Also/However/Anyway/Therefore*), most of the information we have about them is obtained from the writings of the many different peoples they <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (*were/came/became/went*) into contact with on their travels.

### H – Write about it

*Write about an important historic battle that took place in your country. Mention:*

- when/where it took place;

- who it was fought by;
- why it was fought;
- who won it;
- what the consequences were.

## South Dakota (C1 -Advanced)

### A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Have you ever been to the United States?
2. If so, which parts did you visit?
3. Do you know anything about South Dakota? (landscape, wildlife, monuments, national parks)

### B – Listen and answer

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

1. The terrain of South Dakota is not very diverse.
2. The graves of some famous figures can be found at a cemetery in Deadwood.
3. Katlyn Svendsen works for a travel agency in Pierre, the state capital.
4. Svendsen describes the landscape of the Badlands National Park as very lush and green.
5. Svendsen says the most popular time to visit South Dakota is early spring.
6. On buffalo safari jeep rides, the vehicles aren't allowed to get up close to the bison.
7. South Dakota's tourism industry encourages travellers to stop and explore along the way.
8. Katlyn Svendsen advises visitors to chat with local people.

### C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Where is South Dakota?
2. What geographical features do the National Parks of Badlands and Wind Cave have?
3. What sports can you practise in North Dakota?
4. Why do you think people are surprised to discover that the state has so much shoreline?
5. Why is autumn a good time to visit the Black Hills?
6. What animals can you see in South Dakota's national parks apart from bison?
7. What do many people visit on their way to Badlands National park and Mount Rushmore?
8. What are the people of South Dakota like, according to Katlyn Svendsen?

### 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 subject, or change from singular to plural.)

1. The parents of the lost child found him \_\_\_\_\_ around a toy shop, playing with the toys.
2. The traffic on this country road is often held up while \_\_\_\_\_ of cows cross the road.
3. Don't leave that glass on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the shelf. It's likely to get knocked off.
4. You said we were running out of eggs, but there are \_\_\_\_\_ in the fridge.
5. I woke up at 5 in the morning because the birds in the garden were \_\_\_\_\_ loudly.
6. The car in front of ours suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ to pick up a hitchhiker.

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

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

In the USA, a drugstore is a pharmacy that also sells drinks and snacks, as well as some household goods. When Ted and Dorothy Husted took <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the only drugstore in Wall, South Dakota in 1931, Wall was a town of only 326 people, mostly poor farmers who had <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ ruined by drought or the Depression. Very few of the drivers passing through stopped in Wall,

and <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ any went into the drugstore for coffee. For five years the Husteads waited for customers that never showed <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

By the summer of 1936, large <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of motorists were driving by to get to the newly-built monument at Mount Rushmore, but none of them drove into Wall. Then one scorching hot afternoon, Dorothy <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a brainwave. They could put up posters along the road offering free ice water to travellers who came to the drugstore. The idea was so successful that the store was soon <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of customers.

Now Wall Drug is a shopping mall that draws two million visitors a year to its cowboy-themed souvenir and clothes shops, restaurants and art gallery. It still <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ away free ice water, too.

### **F – Write about it**

*Write about one of the regions in your country. Include information about:*

- its location
- its landscape(s)
- the climate;
- the attractions;
- the best time to visit.

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## **Answers: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (B2 - Upper Intermediate)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. T 2. F – It was simple. 3. F – The reviews were mixed. 4. F – The film only had some elements of the story of the 1950s serial killer. 5. T 6. T

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It shocked people around the world and influenced the genre for decades to come. 2. The victims are a group of hippies who go to an old farmhouse. The killers are a group of sadistic, grave-robbing cannibals who live nearby. 3. It made \$150 million. 4. It creates a claustrophobic atmosphere of madness, threat and imminent violence. 5. They used animal bones and remains, latex and blood from the local abattoir. 6. Because they had to film for over twenty-six hours in their costumes with a temperature of 46° and with the foul smell of themselves, dead animal parts and fetid cheese. 7. He also co-wrote it. 8. The new elements were the use of power tools as murder weapons, the killer as a large, silent, masked figure without a personality, and the sadistic killing of victims.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. trespasser 2. devoid 3. lamb 4. chainsaw 5. foul-smelling 6. screen

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

1. scariest 2. confusing 3. masterpiece 4. suggested 5. insanity 6. unknowns 7. faulty 8. enormously

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## **Answers: Isambard Kingdom Brunel (B2 - Upper Intermediate)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1806 2. Thames Tunnel 3. two-hundred-metre 4. Bristol 5. Great Western  
6. 15/fifteen 7. 40/forty cigars 8. 53/fifty-three

### **C – Read and answer**

1. He was short./only 1.52 metres tall. 2. Because his father, Marc Brunel, was also an engineer and he wanted his son to follow in his footsteps. 3. To protect the workers from the river's dangerous raw sewage and methane gas. 4. It goes over the River Avon, near Bristol, and it's used by four million vehicles a year. 5. It was the largest passenger ship in the world at that time. 6. It was an iron-hulled, propeller-driven steamship that set new standards in engineering, reliability, speed and size. 7. It was used to lay telegraph cables across the

floors of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. 8. He died of a stroke.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. laid 2. ocean liners 3. iron 4. sailed 5. propellers 6. drag

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

1. most 2. built/made 3. could 4. with 5. which 6. had 7. because 8. managed

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## **Answers: The Vikings in Britain (B2 - Upper Intermediate)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. F – The monks were murdered. 2. F – They ruled Britain for almost a thousand years. 3. T 4. F – The raid on Lindisfarne was not the first raid on the British Isles. 5. T 6. F – They have plenty of evidence of the Viking Age: objects obtained from battlefields and Viking settlements. 7. T 8. T

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It was in Northumbria, on a tidal island off the northeast coast of Britain. 2. They became part of British civilisation. 3. It meant “pirate”. 4. It was opened up to new peoples and cultures. 5. It was a large region of England ruled by Viking laws and customs. 6. He was a king who ruled both the English and Danish kingdoms. 7. By studying the monuments and objects found in their burial sites. 8. They were written a few centuries after the events.

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

1. F – He teaches at a Swedish university. 2. T 3. F – They were the first human couple, according to the Vikings’ religion. 4. T 5. T 6. F – He says that Viking movies are entertainment, not documentaries, and he’s pleased that other people (besides academics) are interested in the Vikings. 7. T 8. F – He shows how the lives of Viking children were similar to those of children all over the world.

### **F – Learn it! Use it!**

1. seafarer 2. back – forth 3. toddler 4. roughly 5. Mittens 6. turned up

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

1. what 2. up 3. away 4. known 5. being 6. no 7. Therefore 8. came

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## **Answers: South Dakota (C1 - Advanced)**

### **B – Listen and answer**

1. F – South Dakota is known as a land of infinite variety. 2. T 3. F – She works for the South Dakota Tourism Industry. 4. F – She says it feels like you’ve landed on the moon. 5. F – She says most tourists like to come between May and October. 6. F – The bison are often against the vehicle. 7. T 8. T

### **C – Read and answer**

1. It’s in the North Central region of the United States. 2. Badlands has a maze of buttes, canyons and pinnacles. Wind Cave has a dense cave system with boxwork formations. 3. You can practise hiking, rock climbing and water sports, like boating. 4. Because it is a land-locked state, so it has no coastal regions. The large amount of shoreline is the result of the dams on the Missouri which have created large lakes. 5. Because the weather’s warm but it’s less crowded and the leaves are changing colours. 6. You can see deer, antelope, pronghorn, prairie dogs, elk, coyotes, bears and wolves. 7. Many visit Wall Drug Store. 8. Svendsen says they love to have fun and are laid-back, friendly and known for their hospitality.

### **D – Learn it! Use it!**

1. roaming 2. herds 3. edge 4. plenty 5. chirping 6. pulled over

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

1. over 2. been 3. hardly 4. up 5. numbers 6. had 7. full 8. gives

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