

PRACTICE 12 – V2 – 2023

II. LEXICO-GRAMMAR (2,0 points)

Part 1. For questions 26-40, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D to each of the following questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

26. These days everybody wants to get on TV as an expert. Even scientists and doctors have jumped on the
 A. buckboard B. hackney cab C. bandwagon D. stagecoach
27. I advise you to.....clear of the casinos.
 A. stray B. steer C. stick D. veer
28. She wasn't allowed into the country,because her papers aren't in order that can be used because it is all correct and legal.
 A. subsequently B. presumably C. paradoxically D. admittedly
29. Not witnesses to the murder have comeand the police are struggling to solve the crime.
 A. around B. forward C. back D. across
30. My watch seems to beseveral minutes a day.
 A. forwarding B. gaining C. progressing D. moving on
31. This iniquitous system of taxation is unlikely to change in thefuture.
 A. far B. close C. predictable D. foreseeable
32. The music increases intowards the end of the movement.
 A. tempo B. time C. rhythm D. beat
33. The prospects of picking up any survivors are now.....
 A. thin B. narrow C. slim D. restricted
34. Hopes areof finding the missing boat.
 A. darkening B. going C. fading D. draining
35. I suppose he could.....have reached the summit on his own, but I doubt it.
 A. conceivably B. credibly C. imaginatively D. believably
36. All particulars should be carefully checked. Nothing could be.....
 A. taken into consideration B. taken delight in
 C. taken for granted D. taken notice of
37. Would you please tell me which product is more competitive.....quality and cost?
 A. by means of B. in place of C. in terms of D. by way of
38. She may win and surprise us all but I wouldn'ton it.
 A. guess B. back C. stake D. bet
39. I parked in a restricted area and the police.....my car.
 A. imprisoned B. impounded C. impaled D. interned
40. A good newspaper story must come rightand save the details for late.
 A. to date B. to the good C. to the point D. to the bone

Your answers

26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.
34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	

Part 2. For questions 41-45, write the correct form of each bracketed word in the numbered space provided.

Example: (0) PERSONALITY

SLEEPING: NOT AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS

It seems our 0 *personality* (PERSON) is affected by many things, including the position we sleep in! This is because our sleeping position partly determines how we feel when we wake up. To _____ (41. CLEAR), people who sleep on their backs with their arms stretched out typically awake feeling _____ (42. VITAL) and eager for the day ahead. Conversely, those who sleep face down with arms outstretched awake feeling fatigued, as this position seems to generate a sense of losing control. _____ (43. APPEAR), those who sleep lying straight tend to show signs of **stubbornness**, although whether this is simply because they feel stiff in the morning is **debatable**! Most people appear to sleep on their side with their knees drawn up, often described as 'the foetal position'. Actually, this is _____ (44. SURPRISE) because although the position is often said to denote stress, people who sleep like this awake feeling _____ (45. FRESH), having somehow worked through their problems. It's unclear what it means if you are a **restless** sleeper and change your position frequently!

Your answers

41.	42.	43.	44.	45.
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III. READING (5,0 points)

Part 1. For questions 46-55, read the passage and fill each of the following numbered blanks with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Example: (0) BETWEEN

DANCERS OR ATHLETES?

Are dancers really just athletes? There are similarities (0) *between* them and it has long been acknowledged that their level of fitness is remarkably similar. In fact, experiments where footballers took (46) _____ in training sessions with dancers showed that (47) _____ was the players who got tired first!

Many people already view dancers as elite athletes. Unfortunately, (48) _____ is also apparent is that while dancers possess an enviable range of flexibility, (49) _____ to mention amazing muscular strength, they are also highly susceptible (50) _____ injury. And (51) _____ from those who are lucky enough to dance at the highest level, they may have (52) _____ real support when something serious occurs, so careers can be cut short.

To return to the original question, many would argue that dancers are more than athletes. (53) _____ training equally hard, they have the added pressure of looking beautiful and (54) _____ everything appear effortless. So it is not only the physical capabilities of the dancers that is admirable but the grace and artistry with (55) _____ they perform.

Your answers:

46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
51.	52.	53.	54.	55.

Part 2. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

THE BITE THAT HEALS

Scientists are unlocking the medical potential of venom.

A Michael decided to go for a swim. He was on vacation with his family in Guerrero, Mexico, and it was hotter than blazes. He grabbed his swimming trunks from where they'd been drying on a chair, slid them on, and jumped into the pool. Instead of cool relief, a burning pain ripped through the back of his thigh. Tearing off his trunks, he leaped naked from the pool, his leg on fire. Behind him a small, ugly, yellow creature was treading water. He scooped it into a Tupperware container, and the caretaker of the house rushed him to the local Red Cross facility, where doctors immediately identified his attacker: a bark scorpion, *Centruroides sculpturatus*, one of the most venomous species in North America. The fierce pain from a sting is typically followed by what feels like electric shocks racking the body. Occasionally victims die.

B Luckily for Michael (who asked me not to give his full name), the bark scorpion is common in the area, and antivenom was readily available. He had an injection and was released a few hours later. In about 30 hours the pain was gone. What happened next could not have been predicted. For eight years Michael had endured a condition called ankylosing spondylitis, a chronic autoimmune disease of the skeleton, a sort of spinal arthritis. No one knows what triggers it. In the worst cases the spine may fuse, leaving the patient forever stooped and in anguish. "My back hurt every morning, and during bad flare-ups it was so horrible I couldn't even walk," he says.

C But days after the scorpion sting, the pain went away, and now, two years later, he remains essentially pain free and off most of his medications. As a doctor himself, Michael is cautious about overstating the role of the scorpion's venom in his remission. Still, he says, "if my pain came back, I'd let that scorpion sting me again." Venom—the stuff that drips from the fangs and stingers of creatures lurking on the hiking trail or hiding in the cellar or under the woodpile—is nature's most efficient killer. Venom is exquisitely honed to stop a body in its tracks. The complex soup swirls with toxic proteins and peptides—short strings of amino acids similar to proteins. The molecules may have different targets and effects, but they work synergistically for the mightiest punch. Some go for the nervous system, paralyzing by blocking messages between nerves and muscle. Some eat away at molecules so that cells and tissues collapse. Venom can kill by clotting blood and stopping the heart or by preventing clotting and triggering a killer bleed.

D All venom is multifaceted and multitasking. (The difference between venom and poison is that venom is injected, or dibbled, into victims by way of specialized body parts, and poison is ingested.) Dozens, even hundreds, of toxins can be delivered in a single bite, some with redundant jobs and others with unique ones. In the evolutionary arms race between predator and prey, weapons and defenses are constantly tweaked. Drastically potent concoctions can result: Imagine administering poison to an adversary, then jabbing him with a knife, then finishing him off with a bullet to the head. That's venom at work.

E Ironically, the properties that make venom deadly are also what make it so valuable for medicine. Many venom toxins target the same molecules that need to be controlled to treat diseases. Venom works fast and is highly specific. Its active components—those peptides and proteins, working as toxins diabetes have been derived from venom. New treatments for autoimmune diseases, cancer, and pain could be available within a decade.

F “We aren’t talking just a few novel drugs but entire classes of drugs,” says National Geographic Society Emerging Explorer Zoltan Takacs, a toxinologist and herpetologist. So far, fewer than a thousand toxins have been scrutinized for medicinal value, and a dozen or so major drugs have made it to market. “There could be upwards of 20 million venom toxins out there waiting to be screened,” Takacs says. “It’s huge. Venom has opened up whole new avenues of pharmacology.” Toxins from venom and poison sources are also giving us a clearer picture of how proteins that control many of the body’s crucial cellular functions work. Studies of the deadly poison tetrodotoxin (TTX) from puffer fish, for instance, have revealed intricate details about the way nerve cells communicate.

G “We’re motivated to look for new compounds to lessen human suffering,” Angel Yanagihara of the University of Hawaii told me. “But while doing that, you may uncover things you don’t expect.” Driven in part out of revenge for a box jellyfish sting she endured 15 years ago, Yanagihara discovered a potential wound-healing agent within the tubules that contain jellyfish venom. “It had nothing to do with the venom itself,” she said. “By getting intimate with a noxious animal, I’ve been informed way beyond my expectations.”

H More than 100,000 animals have evolved to produce venom, along with the glands to house it and the apparatuses to expel it: snakes, scorpions, spiders, a few lizards, bees, sea creatures such as octopuses, numerous species of fish, and cone snails. The male duck-billed platypus, which carries venom inside ankle spurs, is one of the few venomous mammals. Venom and its components emerged independently, again and again, in different animal groups. The composition of the venom of a single snake species varies from place to place and between adults and their young. An individual snake’s venom may even change with its diet.

I Although evolution has been fine-tuning these compounds for more than a hundred million years, venom’s molecular architecture has been in place much longer. Nature repurposes key molecules from around the body—the blood, brain, digestive tract, and elsewhere—to serve animals for predation or protection. “It makes sense for nature to steal the scaffolds already in place,” Takacs says. “To make a toxin to wreck the nervous system, it’s most efficient to take a template from the brain that already works in that system, make some tiny changes, and there you have it: Now it’s a toxin.” Not all venom kills, of course—bees have it as a nonlethal defense, and the male platypus uses it to show rival males who’s boss during mating season. But mostly it’s for killing, or at least immobilizing, an animal’s next meal. Humans are often accidental victims. The World Health Organization estimates that every year some five million bites kill 100,000 people, although the actual number is presumed to be much higher. In rural areas of developing countries, where most bites occur, victims may not be able to get treatment or may instead choose traditional therapies and are therefore not counted.

For questions 56-63, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- 56. Michael was unluckily hit by electric shocks and nearly lost his life during his vacation.
- 57. The disease Michael had suffered from for eight years was caused by an accident
- 58. Michael is grateful for the bark scorpion bite because it helped him recover from the ankylosing spondylitis.
- 59. No venom is just responsible for one job.
- 60. There is no difference between venom and poison.
- 61. Venom can kill while it can also be used as medicine to save.
- 62. New treatments for cancer are now available in the market.
- 63. The majority of mammals carry venom inside their bodies.

Your answers:

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.	61.	62.	63.
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

For questions 64-68, read the following sentences and fill in each blank with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS taken from the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- 64. The way how venom works is compared to that of
- 65. A venom source such as..... has helped to present complex facts about how nerve cells convey information to each other.
- 66. Tens of thousands of animals have developed and..... which are respectively responsible for storing and letting out venom.
- 67. The makeup of venom of a snake may change with places, ages and
- 68. Some animals use venom to warn of its exclusive power during the mating season.

Part 3. You are going to read an extract from an article. Seven paragraphs have been removed from the extract. Choose from the paragraphs A – H the one which fits each gap (69 – 75). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The fog catcher's forest
A bare, dusty island where the rain never falls could soon be covered with trees. Fred Pearce reports.

When Spanish sailors landed in the Canary Islands in the 15th century, they were amazed to discover an aboriginal population with extensive agriculture which they had somehow managed to sustain with virtually no rainfall. Legend has it that the Guanche people derived all their water from a single large tree, which stripped moisture out of passing fogs and dripped enough water from its leaves to support a thousand people. However true the story may be, there is no doubt that the only thing stopping the Canaries from resembling the Sahara desert, just 70 kilometres to the east, is the moisture-rich fog that drifts in from the Atlantic Ocean.

69	
----	--

Sometime in the last century, the last of the trees on high ground were cut down and the land began to dry out. This meant that across much of the north of the island, agriculture went into decline. Now David Riebold, a forestry scientist-turned schoolteacher who owns a home on the island, has a plan to reverse the trend. He wants to use artificial fog harvesting to bring back the cloud forest, in what promises to be the largest reforestation project ever attempted using the technology.

70	
----	--

For years Riebold watched these failed efforts by local foresters. Then he read about a successful research project in Chile which harvested the fogs that regularly rolled in from the Atacama desert. Nets erected on a ridge facing the ocean provided enough water for a small town. Realising that Lanzarote's climate was very similar to Chile's, Riebold began to wonder whether fog harvesting could be used to keep the saplings alive.

71	
----	--

On paper, fog harvesting looked like a solution to the island's reforestation problems, but convincing the authorities to give it a try wasn't easy. For many years Riebold tried and failed to convince anyone to back his idea. It took the arrival of a new mayor to finally get his scheme approved. 'Proyecto David', as the locals call it, got under way, and the town authorities erected eight modest fog-collecting devices on three of Lanzarote's mountains.

72	
----	--

This summer, having declared the initial experiment a success, the island council plans to install eight much larger devices which will discharge water into a pumped drip irrigation network designed to keep the saplings watered. Riebold hopes that this will form the pilot phase of a full-scale reforestation of the mountains of northern Lanzarote.

73	
----	--

If the initial results scale up, a new cloud forest could restore the island to its former glory. The Lanzarote government has targeted an area of about 20 square kilometres in the north of the island, though Riebold believes that the potential area for reforestation using fog collectors could stretch to 50 square kilometres.

74

But the knock-on effects of reviving the forests go beyond restoring the wildlife. Eventually, the forests should capture enough moisture to help recharge the area's underground aquifers, many of which have remained empty since the forests disappeared. If this happens, wells down in the valleys could also refill, reducing the island's growing dependence on desalination, especially during the summer tourist season.

75

Whether or not fog harvesting will prompt a largescale return to agriculture on the island remains to be seen, but the lessons learned from harvesting fog on the island's hilltops may be adapted for people living not far away, and with a greater need to see their landscape green and watered. If Lanzarote can catch moisture from the air and convert it to forests and farmland, then perhaps its famine-prone neighbours in West Africa could do the same.

Missing paragraphs

A This more ambitious scheme could be managed in one of two ways, he says. Either the hilltops could be covered with nets to grow new forests all at the same time, or this could be done in stages with a smaller number of nets being moved around to reforest each area in turn. After perhaps two years of water from the fog collectors, saplings would be tall enough to collect the fog water themselves.

B The results look promising. A litre a day should be enough to support one seedling, and Riebold has found that on some sites, a square metre of net catches an average of two litres of water each day. One site averaged five litres a day even at the hottest time of year.

C Centuries ago, the island's inhabitants carved tunnels up the mountainside and into underground aquifers. These drained into collecting areas lower down. Once the island's main source of water, they could be brought back to life by reinstating the cloud forest.

D In times gone by, all seven of the islands had rich cloud forests that trapped moisture from the trade winds and quenched an otherwise dry region. More recently, though, much of the islands' forest has been lost – removed for firewood, construction and to make way for farmland. Most of the islands still have some degree of forest cover, but one, Lanzarote, is all but bare.

E Marciano Acuna, the local town councilor in charge of the environment, says he hopes the trees will trigger a more widespread greening of northern Lanzarote and have an impact on the whole ecology of the region. Once the trees are back, the quality of the soil will improve, and a long-lost forest ecosystem will have a chance to return, providing habitat for species long since confined to other islands in the Canaries.

F Even in the hottest months, clouds form over the mountains of northern Lanzarote. As the trade winds blow over the island the mountains force moisture-rich vapour into droplets. The surface of the mountain is too hot for this to happen at ground level, so the fog rarely touches the ground. 'That's why the saplings died,' says Riebold. 'They never got tall enough to touch the fog and capture the moisture on their leaves.'

G Farmers would certainly benefit, as water in Lanzarote has become very expensive, and there are tight restrictions on the irrigation of farmland. This has made agriculture increasingly difficult and, combined with the rise of tourism as a source of revenue, has turned it into a weekend occupation at best for many residents.

H The bare hills in this region have been of increasing concern to the island's authorities. Despite numerous attempts in the past decade, all replanting schemes have so far been unsuccessful. With limited water supplies on the island, the newly planted trees dried out and died, leaving the hilltops littered with hundreds of dead saplings.

Your answers:

69.	70	71.	72.	73.	74.	75.
-----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Part 4. For questions 76-85, read the following passage and choose the answer A, B, C or D which fits best according to the text. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BRAZILIAN INDEPENDENCE

In contrast to the political **anarchy**, economic dislocation, and military destruction in Spanish America, Brazil's drive toward independence from Portugal proceeded as a relatively bloodless transition between 1808 and 1822. The idea of Brazilian independence first arose in the late eighteenth century as a Brazilian reaction to the Portuguese policy of tightening political and economic control over the colony in the interests of the mother country. The first significant conspiracy against Portuguese rule was organized from 1788-1799 in the province of Minas Gerais, where rigid governmental control over the production and prices of gold and diamonds, as well as heavy taxes, caused much discontent. But this conspiracy never went beyond the stage of discussion and was easily discovered and crushed. Other conspiracies in the late eighteenth century as well as a brief revolt in 1817 reflected the influence of republican ideas over sections of the elite and even the lower strata of urban society. All proved abortive or were soon crushed. Were it not for an accident of European history, the independence of Brazil might have been long delayed.

The French invasion of Portugal in 1807 followed by the flight of the Portuguese court (sovereign and government officers) to Rio de Janeiro brought large benefits to Brazil. Indeed, the transfer of the court in effect signified achievement of Brazilian independence. The Portuguese prince and future King João VI opened Brazil's ports to the trade of friendly nations, permitted the rise of local industries, and founded the Bank of Brazil. [A] In 1815 he elevated Brazil to the legal status of a kingdom coequal with Portugal. [B] In one sense, however, Brazil's new status signified the substitution of one dependence for another. [C] Freed from Portuguese control, Brazil came under the economic dominance of England, which obtained major tariff concessions and other privileges by the Strangford Treaty of 1810 between Portugal and Great Britain. [D] The treaty provided for the importation of British manufactures into Brazil and the export of Brazilian agricultural produce to Great Britain. One result was an influx of cheap machine-made goods that swamped the handicrafts industry of the country.

Brazilian elites took satisfaction in Brazil's new role and the growth of educational, cultural, and economic opportunities for their class. But the feeling was mixed with resentment toward the thousands of Portuguese courtiers (officials) and hangers-on who came with the court and who competed with Brazilians for jobs and favors. Thus, the change in the status of Brazil sharpened the conflict between Portuguese elites born in Brazil and elites born in Portugal and loyal to the Portuguese crown.

The event that **precipitated** the break with the mother country was the revolution of 1820 in Portugal. The Portuguese revolutionaries framed a liberal constitution for the kingdom, but they were conservative or reactionary in relation to Brazil. They demanded the immediate return of King João to Lisbon, an end to the system of dual monarchy that he had devised, and the restoration of the Portuguese commercial monopoly. **Timid** and vacillating, King João did not know which way to turn. Under the pressure of his courtiers, who **hungered to return to Portugal and their lost estates**, he finally approved the new constitution and sailed for Portugal. He left behind him, however, his son and heir, Pedro, and in a private letter advised him that in the event the Brazilians should demand independence, he should assume leadership of the movement and set the crown of Brazil on his head.

Soon it became clear that the Portuguese parliament intended to set the clock back by abrogating all the liberties and concessions won by Brazil since 1808. One of its decrees insisted on the immediate return of Pedro from Brazil. The pace of events moved more rapidly in 1822. On January 9, urged on by Brazilian advisers who perceived a golden opportunity to make an orderly transition to independence without the intervention of the masses, Pedro refused an order from the parliament to return to Portugal, saying famously, "I remain." On September 7, regarded by all Brazilians as Independence Day, he issued the even more celebrated proclamation, "Independence or death!" In December 1822, having overcome slight resistance by Portuguese troops, Dom Pedro was formally proclaimed constitutional Emperor of Brazil.

76. The word "**anarchy**" in the passage is closest in meaning to
A. uncertainty B. disorder C. powerlessness D. violence
77. According to paragraph 1, what first caused Brazilians to think seriously about trying to achieve independence from Portugal?
A. Portugal's declining interest in having overseas colonies
B. Portugal's moves to gain political and economic control of Brazil for its own advantage
C. The drive toward independence going on at the time in parts of Spanish America
D. The Portuguese reaction to Brazil's efforts to gain control over its economy
78. According to paragraph 2, King João did each of the following for Brazil EXCEPT

- A. establish a national bank
 B. support Brazilian industries
 C. obtain important tariff concessions from England
 D. encourage trade with a wider range of nations
79. The word “**precipitated**” in the passage is closest in meaning to
 A. came before B. brought about C. resulted from D. slowed down
80. According to paragraph 4, the Portuguese revolutionaries insisted on each of the following EXCEPT
 A. King João’s immediate return to Portugal
 B. the creation of a liberal constitution for Brazil
 C. an end to Brazil’s status as a kingdom
 D. Portuguese control over the Brazilian economy
81. In paragraph 4, why does the author mention that King João’s courtiers “**hungered to return to Portugal and their lost estates**”?
 A. To illustrate how conservative the courtiers were
 B. To help explain the position taken by the courtiers
 C. To give an example of the effects produced by the revolution
 D. To show why King João advised his son the way he did
82. Paragraphs 4 and 5 support the idea that Brazil’s move to declare independence in 1822 was primarily the result of

 A. the revolutionaries’ demand that King João return to Portugal
 B. Portugal’s apparent intention to return Brazil to the status of a colony
 C. King João’s decision to leave his son Pedro in Brazil
 D. the growing threat of intervention by the Brazilian masses
83. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the paragraph 5? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
 A. On January 9, 1822, Brazil achieved independence without any involvement by the masses when Pedro, despite the urging of his Brazilian advisers, defied a parliamentary order to return to Portugal.
 B. Following the urging of Brazilian advisers, on January 9, 1822, the Portuguese parliament ordered Pedro to return, but, hoping to avoid conflict with the masses, Pedro declared, “I remain.”
 C. The best opportunity for Brazil to achieve independence without involving the masses came on January 9, 1822, but Pedro, saying, “I remain,” refused an order to return to Portugal.
 D. Seeing the possibility of an orderly transition to independence, Pedro’s Brazilian advisers urged him to refuse to return to Portugal, and on January 9, 1822, Pedro did refuse, declaring, “I remain.”
84. According to paragraph 5, Independence Day in Brazil is the date on which
 A. Brazil made Dom Pedro its constitutional Emperor
 B. Dom Pedro refused to comply with the Portuguese parliament’s demand that he return to Portugal
 C. the Portuguese parliament officially withdrew all formal connection to Brazil
 D. Dom Pedro publicly declared his position by saying, “Independence or death!”
85. Which of the following square brackets [A], [B], [C], [D] best indicates where the following sentence could be added to the passage.
Therefore, although still closely linked to Portugal, Brazil was no longer formally considered a colony.
 A. [A] B. [B] C. [C] D. [D]

Your answers:

76.	77.	78.	79.	80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Part 5. You are going to read four movie series reviews. For questions 86-95, choose from the sections of the article (A-D). The sections may be chosen more than once. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Which reviewer(s) ...

- 86 states the film he liked least?
 87 mentions the difficulty in following the story plot?
 88 criticises how one of the directors managed the film production?
 89 gives importance to how the characters respond to some tragic events?
 90 supports a venue’s decision to run the film?
 91 implies that the film will not appeal to a certain group of people?
 92 liked the acting?
 93 wouldn’t have noticed that the trilogy was meant for TV viewers?

- 94 suggests how some people may find it difficult to understand?
 95 says one film is good thanks to the feelings of one of the characters?

RED RIDING TRILOGY

A

The “Red Riding” films all come across as great, gritty tales of police corruption and human failing, but it’s the first film that has the most impact, mainly because the young reporter Dunford is such a mix of romantic notions — he’s going to solve the crime and save the girl. Such optimism runs dead against reality in these films. Mix the best episodes of the superb British crime series “Prime Suspect” with the current real-feel cinema (“Fish Tank”) coming out of England and you’ve got a sense of what “Red Riding” is about. The key isn’t the murders; the key is the reactions to the murders on a breadth of levels, and those reactions lay bare gray and grave souls. Each film works well separately, although 1983 is necessarily dependent on 1974, but taken as one great sweep of a dark hand, “Red Riding” stands as a wrenching tale of power abused and lives discarded. It is powerful stuff.

B

Red Riding is a challenge. The convoluted story is not easily summarized and it demands constant viewer attention. A two-minute trip to the lavatory or snack bar can be deadly. For American audiences, there is an additional problem: some of the accents are so thick that it can be difficult to decipher dialogue and entire passages may be missed. I’m generally not in favor of subtitling English movies in English, but this is one occasion when such an approach might have been helpful. There are times when the movie is slow going. Patience is rewarded not only in the second half of this film, when the violence mounts and secrets are revealed, but during the subsequent productions, when a degree of familiarity with the initial narrative bears fruit. Red Riding: 1974 is the weakest of the three Red Riding films, but it is effective at setting the stage, introducing some of the characters, and capturing the attention of those who love gritty, uncompromising dramas about police corruption and the dark side of human nature.

C

There’s a good reason the indie-minded Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center has turned over its programming for the next three weeks to the superb and ambitious “Red Riding” film trilogy: because “Red Riding” isn’t so much a film series as it is a film event, and it deserves to be treated as such. Inspired by author David Peace’s neo-noir “Red Riding Quartet” novels, it is ambitious, it is gripping and it is dark. It’s also entirely irresistible cinema, an uncompromising and hard-to-turn-away-from nightmare in three acts. With its muted colours but unmuted violence, the beautifully shot “Red Riding” is similar both tonally and texturally to David Fincher’s superb 2007 thriller “Zodiac” about another 1970s serial killer. It’s also just as disturbing. “Red Riding” is so richly produced, in fact, and so cinematic, that it’s easy to forget it and its sister films were produced for British television, airing on England’s Channel 4 last spring. This is movie that deserves to be seen in a theatre.

D

Buoyed by very strong performances and a deliberate, grim style, the first installment in the acclaimed Red Riding Trilogy, Red Riding 1974 sets the tone for the movies to come and makes clear that these are not sunny days for the faint of heart. These are gloomy times; films not merely about the seedy underbelly of society but the fact that the seedy underbelly keeps things moving. They have been compared to Zodiac but they are more realistically grim than David Fincher’s masterpiece. The film can be a bit too self-serious at times, director Julian Jarrold (Brideshead Revisited) would have been wise to focus on the procedural a bit more than the lead’s dream sequences or moments of reflection, and the film’s television roots show on a production level, but Red Riding 1974 is a well-made, expertly performed mystery with the added bonus that there are two more films to watch when the first one’s over.

Your answers:

86.	87.	88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.	95.
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----