

FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

Stuart Hazeldine's high-concept Brit thriller *Exam* will test you — in the best possible way...

➔ I LIKED THE IDEA THAT LIFE IS A BLANK PAGE," SAYS STUART

Hazeldine, writer and director of *Exam*, "I thought that was interesting, that nobody really knows what life is about..."

A low-budget Brit-flick with a high concept — eight people locked in one room for 80 minutes for the mother of all job interviews — *Exam* is a thought-provoking and stylish thriller that Hazeldine — a lifelong *Empire* reader — financed, and is distributing, out of his own pocket. "I wanted to have some control over it," he explains. "If I screw up, I want to make sure that I know I screwed it up. Thankfully, it's turned out okay..."

It has indeed. More than enough, in fact, for *Empire* to reunite Hazeldine and two of his key cast members, Jimi Mistry (the gambler, Brown) and Luke Mably (would-be alpha male, White) in a school museum on a freezing December morning. "I'd never shot a film like this before," admits Mistry, referring to the film's 28-day, single-location, 99 per cent chronological shoot. "We started going stir crazy. We went absolutely bonkers!"

Speaking of which, Mably, whose White is a prime bastard, insists that none of that rubbed off on his affable personality. "No, but I know that type," he says. "You see a lot of that type on reality TV shows. Would I go on a show like that? No way! The only bit I like is watching them eat shit and suffer on *I'm A Celebrity*. I want something to go *really* wrong..." Okay, make that *usually* affable...

In the spirit of the movie, we gave Mistry, Mably and Hazeldine a fiendish exam of our own devising. Turn over for some of their best answers...



Exam's key subjects: Jimi Mistry, director Stuart Hazeldine and Luke Mably.



"I'D NEVER SHOT A FILM THIS WAY BEFORE. WE STARTED GOING BONKERS!" JIMI MISTRY

➔ VAMP-COM TRANSYLMANIA BREAKS RECORD FOR LOWEST-GROSSING OPENING IN THE STATES

➔ DANNY McBRIDE, JODY HILL & DAVID GORDON GREEN LAUNCH NEW PRODUCTION COMPANY ➔



Exam completed by:
Luke Mably

→ **FOR A MAN WHO REGARDED HIS EXAM PAPER WITH THE SUSPICION A** gourmet chef might regard a TV dinner, Mably came through, adding doodles and even answering our questions with more questions...

Section A, Question 1 Johnny and Katie set off to see Exam at a cinema 49 miles away on a train that travels at 98mph. How long does it take them?

How far is the train station from their home? How far is the cinema from the station?

Section B, Question 4 With whom did Luke Mably star in 2004 rom-com The Prince & Me?

Jules Julia Stiles.

Section C, Question 6 Brown holds a coin throughout the movie. What is it?

\$1 dollar coin???

Section C, Question 7 How frickin' cool is Exam co-star Colin Salmon?

He is an ice cube in a fridge in the North Pole.

Section D, Question 1 What is 'The Question'? Ask the director...

Exam completed by:
Stuart Hazeldine



→ **HAZELDINE CLEARLY THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT HIS EXAM PAPER —** the tell-tale blotch of spilled tea on the front page suggests a dark night of the soul. Or time spent on Google looking up answers about Jimi Mistry's CV.

Section A, Question 2 Johnny and Katie decide to buy some popcorn. Johnny pays with a £5 note, and gets 89p in change. How much was the popcorn?

£4.11 — weird price for a snack.

Section B, Question 3 Jimi Mistry and Luke Mably have both appeared on EastEnders. True or false?

True. Sadly.

Section B, Question 6 Stuart Hazeldine rewrote which Nicolas Cage sci-fi thriller?

I have no way of Knowing the answer to that.

Section C, Question 4

Why should people see Exam?

1. We shot it 2:35 widescreen, not 1:85 TV! 2.

It rewards concentration. 3. Get out and support a half-decent British film, dammit!

Exam completed by:
Jimi Mistry

→ **MISTRY ATTACKED HIS PAPER WITH A NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE. "I HATED** exams," he laughs. "I still have nightmares about sitting in front of a paper and turning it over and not having a clue what I'm supposed to do..."

Section A, Question 1 Johnny and Katie set off to see Exam at a cinema 49 miles away. They take a train that travels at 98mph. How long does it take them?

Half an hour.

Section C, Question 5 The eight candidates in Exam are meant to represent different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. Yet nobody with ginger hair was included. Why do you think that is?

Damian Lewis wasn't available.

Section C, Question 7 How frickin' cool is Colin Salmon?

Like refrigerated ice.

Section D, Question 1 What is 'The Question'?

To be or not to be. That is...

→EXAM IS OUT ON JANUARY 15 AND IS REVIEWED ON PAGE 60. FOR THE FULL EXAM PAPERS, GO TO WWW.EMPIREONLINE.COM

→ **TONY KAYE ANNOUNCES TWO NEW MOVIES — ZERO POINT AND STEPS — WHILE DRIVING A CAR** →