

A Review

What is a review?

A review is usually written for a magazine, newspaper or website. It should be both informative and entertaining to read.

What is the purpose?

To express an opinion and make a recommendation about something you have experienced. For a C2 level exam, a review would typically be about a book, a film, a TV show, a concert, or media event.

Structure

Eye-Catching Heading	
What is the review about	<p><i>Make your review more interesting with personal comments</i> <i>Mention the title, the type of the book/ play/ film/etc, the setting (when/where), the theme, the main characters, etc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This well-written/ informative / fascinating/ thought-provoking book is... ▪ The film/ book/ play/ etc. is set in..... / tells the story of...../ is based on..... ▪ The film/ play starts/ is directed by...../ is the sequel to....
Opinion Positive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What I liked most was ▪ The thing I liked most was ▪ I was pleasantly surprised by ▪ would appeal to ▪ If you get a chance to ...
Negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What I disliked most was ▪ I was disappointed by/with ...
Extra details	<p><i>Give an explanation for your opinion and extra information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The script seemed rather conventional/predictable to me. ▪ The plot struck me as completely bizarre/absurd/incomprehensible ▪ The characters are appealing and true to life ▪ The dancers were quite brilliant/amateurish
Summarize and make a recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judging from this CD / show ... ▪ Overall, if you like ..., you'll love / you should ... ▪ Although some of ... he/she/it's still a great... ▪ You really must/should buy/see/read/visit ... ▪ I would definitely recommend seeing/visiting/reading/having a look at ...

Book Reviews	Film Reviews	Hotel and Restaurant Reviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ main character ▪ is set in ▪ Fiction: science fiction / thriller / fantasy / mystery / historical / romance ... ▪ Non-fiction: cook book / travel book / textbook / manual / coffee-table book ... ▪ atmosphere / plot ▪ author ▪ written by ▪ chapter ▪ factual ▪ unbelievable ▪ bestseller ▪ ending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ lead role ▪ star role ▪ star ▪ star actor/actress ▪ starring ▪ secondary role ▪ He plays a ▪ written by ▪ cast / director / producer ▪ is set in ▪ based on a true story ▪ believable ▪ true to life ▪ not very believable ▪ far-fetched ▪ (As for fiction books +): animation / adaptation / comedy ▪ Costumes / design / photography / script / special effects / soundtrack ▪ ending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ location ▪ service ▪ setting ▪ attractive / disappointing setting ▪ owned by ▪ run by ▪ head chef (restaurant) ▪ waiters (restaurant) ▪ staff ▪ staff at reception(hotel) ▪ hotel facilities ▪ reasonable prices ▪ good/excellent/poor value for money ▪ (a bit/somehow) expensive ▪ overpriced ▪ not worth the money ▪ always fully booked ▪ book in advance

Sample Question

You have seen this announcement in an international magazine.

Series reviews wanted

Have you seen a series recently with a story that has held your attention? Write a review of the series, explaining what the story is about and whether the characters are convincing. Tell us whether or not you would recommend it both to younger and older viewers.

The best reviews will be published in the magazine.

Write your **review** in **140-190 words** in an appropriate style

Plan

Heading:

What is the review about?:

Opinion:

Extra details and criticism: 1)
2)

Recommendation:

Language

- Use a personal or neutral style, depending on the reader.
- Include descriptive language
- Show a range of structures
- Think! Who is going to read this?