

WRITING PART 2: A REVIEW

1 Read about the review in Part 2 of the Writing paper.

In Part 2 of the Writing paper, you choose a task from three possible ones. One of the tasks might be a review. The task will give details about what you should review and what aspects of it you should discuss. It will also say where people will read your review, e.g. on a website or in a magazine or newspaper.

You should make sure you cover all the points in the task, and structure your review in a suitable way. You should talk about your personal experience of a product or experience, give your own opinion of it clearly, and make a recommendation for your reader. You should write 140–190 words.

2 Read the exam task. What should you write a review of? What points should you include? Where will people read your review?

You see this notice in an English-language magazine.

Film reviews wanted

What films have you seen recently? Write a review of a film you have seen, explaining what it was about and whether you enjoyed it or not. Tell us whether or not you think other people would enjoy it.

The best reviews will be published in next month's magazine.

Write your **review**.

3 Study the model answer and answer the questions.

- 1 Does the review cover all the points in the task?
- 2 Did the writer enjoy the film?
- 3 Who does the writer think will enjoy the film?
- 4 Is the language in the review formal and neutral, or informal and friendly?

MODEL ANSWER

¹*Black Panther*

I watched the film *Black Panther* for the first time last week. ²*It's a superhero film*, in the same genre as *Superman* and *Spider-Man*, and has been extremely popular around the world.

³*Although I am not usually a big fan of superhero films, I was really impressed* with this one. The story is fairly traditional, with the hero T'Challa (Black Panther) defeating the evil Killmonger, who is trying to gain power over the whole world. ⁵*But the action is gripping and the special effects are spectacular.* Chadwick Boseman, who plays T'Challa, acts superbly, and really brings the comic-book character to life. The brilliant costumes and music also really help make the film a real spectacle.

³*On the negative side, I felt that there was sometimes a bit too much violence*, which makes it unsuitable for young children, and of course you have to accept that the plot is slightly predictable because the good guy will always win.

In spite of this, ⁷*I loved the film* and ⁸*anyone who enjoys fantasy movies will definitely like it.*

¹ includes the name of the film as the title

² briefly describes the film in the introduction

³ is organised into clear paragraphs, which focus on positive and negative aspects

⁴ uses a range of phrases to express a personal opinion

⁵ praises positive features and says why the film is good

⁶ includes some negative features, to give a balanced view

⁷ clearly states the writer's opinion in the conclusion

⁸ includes a recommendation, saying who would enjoy the film

4 Read the tips.

Remember, to get a good mark for your review:

- you must include all the points in the input
- your ideas should be organised into clear paragraphs, which each focus on a different point
- you should state clearly whether you liked or didn't like the product or experience
- you should include a recommendation
- you should use descriptive language to make your review interesting
- you should use an informal, friendly style.

5 Read the review task. Then look at the two student plans. Which plan is better? Why?

Reviews wanted!

What shopping websites have you used recently? Write a review of a shopping website that you have used. Say what you bought, how pleased you were with the product, and talk about any problems you experienced. Say whether you would recommend the site to others.

A

Introduction

name of website TechWorld, and basic information (what they sell).

What I bought (a new tablet)

My experience

The website - why I like it (easy to use - good prices)

The product - why I was pleased with it (good quality)

A few problems

slow delivery, missing case, but they dealt with this quickly

Recommendation

great website for anyone who is looking for a low-priced tablet or other device

B

Introduction

why I chose to use this website (looking for a cheap tablet, easier to buy online than go into town)

The website

how I found out about it, how I chose my tablet, problem of slow delivery

Games

why I like it (I needed a new tablet for playing games)

Conclusion

I'm very pleased with my new tablet and it was very cheap

6 Using descriptive adjectives and adverbs in a review makes it interesting to read. Choose the best adverbs to go with the descriptive adjectives.

- 1 The action scenes in the film were *a little* / *incredibly* gripping.
- 2 The food in the restaurant is lovely, but it is *absolutely* / *ridiculously* expensive.
- 3 The basic plot of the book is *rather* / *mildly* predictable.
- 4 This is a *completely* / *brilliantly* entertaining show.
- 5 The device that I bought is *totally* / *extremely* useful.
- 6 The holiday flat is small but *very* / *highly* well-equipped.
- 7 Our hotel room was *absolutely* / *very* perfect.
- 8 All the staff were *a bit* / *really* welcoming.

7 We often use adjectives or phrases to give our opinion about something in an indirect way. Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 I was disappointed to | a my new camera. |
| 2 We were delighted that | b seats around the pool for all the guests. |
| 3 I'm absolutely thrilled with | c find that the screen was cracked. |
| 4 The tent isn't as big | d than I expected. |
| 5 The food was even better | e as it looked on the website. |
| 6 There weren't enough | f we had a room with a view of the sea. |

8 In a review we often use words to express contrast. Complete the sentences with words from the box.

although despite however spite though

- 1 The weather was terrible, but in of that, we thoroughly enjoyed our stay at the resort.
- 2 Even it was rather expensive, we really enjoyed our time at the museum.
- 3 I would advise anyone to check out this website, the problems that I experienced.
- 4 the service was quick and friendly, the food was a little disappointing.
- 5 The website stated that the bag was made of leather., when it arrived, it was clear that it was not genuine leather.

9 Study the words and expressions in the *Key language* box.

KEY LANGUAGE FOR REVIEWS

Praising something:

*It is one of the best ... I have ever ...
the ... was absolutely perfect
the ... was even better than I expected
I was pleased/delighted to find that ...
It was a nice surprise to find that ...*

Criticising:

*The ... was rather disappointing
The advertisement said ..., but in fact ...
I was a little disappointed to find ...
There weren't enough ...*

Recommending:

*Anyone who likes ... will really enjoy ...
Don't miss the chance/opportunity to ...
I'm sure everyone will really enjoy ...
If you get the chance to see/buy/try ..., you should definitely do it
I would advise anyone to ...*

Advising someone against something:

*I would suggest finding a better ... than this.
I would strongly advise against eating/reading/watching/
buying this ...
My advice is to avoid this ...*

paragraphs	ideas	useful phrases
Description of the resort		
Why I enjoyed/didn't enjoy it		
Good value for money?		
Recommendation		

10 Choose the correct words in the sentences.

- 1 This show was even better *than* / *as* I expected.
- 2 The dessert was rather *disappointed* / *disappointing*.
- 3 Anyone who enjoys crime novels *will* / *can* love this book.
- 4 Don't *lose* / *miss* the opportunity to visit this theme park.
- 5 I would suggest *using* / *to use* a different website.
- 6 I would strongly *advise* / *suggest* against staying at this campsite.

11 Read the exam task and plan your review.

You see this advertisement on a travel website.

Reviews wanted!

What holiday resorts have you been to recently?
Write a review describing the resort, explaining why you did or didn't enjoy your stay there and saying if you would recommend it
The best reviews will be published on our website.

Write your **review**.