

Writing a Review

IGCSE English ■ Topic 7

IGCSE English



What we will cover

- 1 Describe & judge
- 2 Support your opinions
- 3 Structure
- 4 End with a recommendation



1

Approach

Describe and judge

- **describe** 描述: what the film, book or place **is** like
- **judge**: your **opinion** 观点 – **balance** both

Support every judgement with a concrete detail.



Review: describe, judge, and recommend

Describing and judging are two different jobs

describing

answers “*What is it like?*” – the facts of the thing

judging

answers “*Is it any good?*” – your opinion of it

the technique

move between the two **sentence by sentence**, not paragraph by paragraph

why

a description with no judgement is a summary; a judgement with no description is an unsupported opinion

be fair 公正

give the weaknesses as well as the strengths – a review that only praises is not trusted

“The story is simple, *but* the flying scenes are **brehtaking** 惊人” does both jobs in one sentence. That is the pattern to copy.

Support your opinions



Give reasons & examples from your experience to make your view believable.

Useful language

- **To describe:** *It is set in... / The story follows... / The dish combines... / What stands out is...*
- **To praise:** *The best part is... / I was impressed by... / It really succeeds in...*
- **To criticise 批评 (gently):** *The one weakness is... / It could have been better if... / At times it feels slow.*
- **To recommend:** *I would recommend it to... / It is well worth... / Don't miss...*

Phrases for each job in a review

to describe

The film tells the story of.../ It is set in.../ The main character is...

to praise

What works best is.../ The strongest part is.../ I was impressed by...

to criticise

The weakest part is.../ It would be better if.../ At times it feels...

to recommend

I would recommend it to.../ It is worth seeing if you enjoy...

the tone 语气

confident but fair – you are helping the reader **decide** 决定, not settling a score

Learn a few phrases for each job and the review builds itself. The marks are for the balance, not for finding new words.

Structure and recommendation

What I'm reviewing

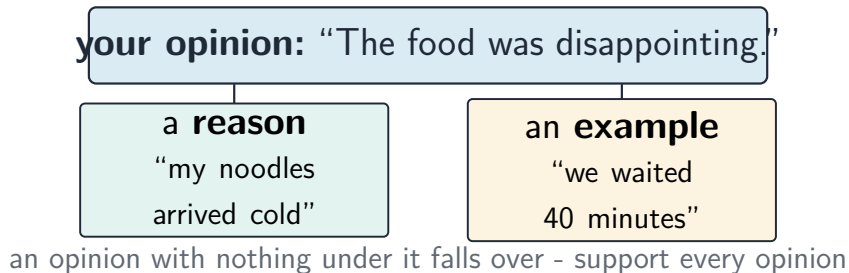
Describe & evaluate 评价

Recommendation 建议

Write in a friendly but clear style for a general reader.

End with a clear recommendation:
"I'd recommend this to anyone who likes adventure."

Describe and judge, continued



An opinion stands on a reason and an example

Exam tips

- Name what you are reviewing and your overall feeling in the first paragraph; do not keep it secret.
- Do both jobs: describe it (what it is) and judge it (what is strong, what is weak).
- Strong adjectives are the fuel of a review: gripping, delicious, disappointing, unforgettable.
- Mention one weakness even in a good review; pure praise sounds like an advert.
- Finish with a clear recommendation: who should try it, who should not, and why.

2

Recap

Worked example – a balanced review

Improve this review line: “The film was good. I liked it. You should watch it.”

- “Good” and “liked” give **no information** – a review must say **why**.
- A good review is **balanced**: praise **and** criticism make it trustworthy.
- “The acting is superb – Chen makes every silence count – though the ending is rushed and left me unconvinced.”
- Finish with a clear **recommendation**, and say **who** would enjoy it.

Replace every “good” with a **reason** and an **example**. A review that praises everything reads like an advert; **one honest criticism** makes the praise believable.

A review describes and judges

Last week I tried the new Star Café...

★★★★☆

describe what it is like _____ _____ _____	judge your opinion + reasons _____ _____ _____
recommendation "I would recommend it to anyone who ..."	

start by saying **what**
you are reviewing

balance the two: facts
about it, then what you
think, with reasons and
examples

end with clear **advice**:
try it, or not?

A review describes and judges, then ends with clear advice

A model review

Notice how each sentence either
or .

Skyward is an adventure film about a girl who builds her own aircraft. (describes)

*The story is simple, but the flying scenes are **breathhtaking** 惊人 and the music suits them perfectly.* (judges)

The main character is played by a young actor in her first film. (describes)

She is convincing in the quiet scenes, though less so when the plot asks for anger. (judges)

I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a story about not giving up.

Readers want a **clear, helpful** review. Learn a few phrases for each job – describe, praise, criticise, recommend – and you never stare at a blank page.

Topic 7 – key takeaways

1

Two jobs

describe the thing & judge it

2

Support

back opinions with reasons & examples

3

Structure

name it, describe & evaluate, recommend

4

End

a clear recommendation

Check yourself

- 1 What two things does a review do?
- 2 How do you make your opinion believable?
- 3 What style suits a review?
- 4 How should a review end?



Answers 1. describe & judge it 2. give reasons & examples 3. friendly but clear
4. with a clear recommendation