

Writing a Review

IGCSE English ▪ Topic 7

IGCSE English



Writing a Review

What we will cover

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



1 Approach

Writing a Review

└─ 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

Writing a Review

└─ Approach

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 **breathhtaking** 惊人" does both jobs in one sentence. That is the pattern to copy.

Writing a Review

└─ Approach

Support your opinions



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

Writing a Review

└ Approach

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...*

Writing a Review

└ Approach

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.

Writing a Review

└ Approach

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."

Writing a Review

└ Approach

Describe and judge, continued

your opinion: "The food was disappointing!"

a reason

"my noodles arrived cold"

an example

"we waited 40 minutes"

an opinion with nothing under it falls over - support every opinion

An opinion stands on a reason and an example

Writing a Review

└ Approach

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

Writing a Review
↳ 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.

Writing a Review
↳ Recap

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

Writing a Review
↳ Recap

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 breathtaking 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.

Writing a Review
↳ Recap

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

Writing a Review
↳ Recap

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