



Arts, Music and Entertainment

Review: reviewing a school film night

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a film night enjoyable for students?
2. Would you rather watch a comedy, drama or adventure film? Why?
3. What can make an event like this less successful?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write a review, often for a student magazine.
Use an engaging title.
Describe key features clearly.
Evaluate positives and negatives.
Make a clear recommendation.

2. Exam-style task

Your school recently held a film night in the hall. Your English teacher has asked you to write a review of the film night for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the school film night to help you:

'The film choice was brilliant.'

'The sound was not clear at the back.'

'The snacks made it feel special.'

'It started a bit late.'

Now write a review of the school film night for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model review

Popcorn, Plot Twists and a Late Start

Can a school hall really feel like a cinema for one evening? Last Friday, I went to our school film night, where students watched *The Lost City* after lessons.

The hall had been set up with rows of chairs, a large screen and a small snack table near the entrance. The atmosphere was relaxed, and it felt more like a proper event than a normal after-school activity.

The best part was the film choice. The story was fast-paced, funny and easy to follow, so most students stayed interested until the end. I also liked the snacks because they made the evening feel more special.

However, there were a couple of problems. The sound was not clear at the back, and the event started nearly fifteen minutes late, which meant the ending felt a little rushed.

Overall, I would recommend the next film night to students who enjoy a relaxed evening with friends. With better speakers and a sharper start time, it could be even better.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and tone

Work with the model review. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Review structure	Find the title, hook, key facts, description, opinion and recommendation.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer describe the event and key facts?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer balance the review with drawbacks or limitations?	
Audience and tone	Find two places where the review sounds lively or suitable for the reader.	
Development	Find one extra detail, example or personal reaction that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
what the event was like	descriptive detail + atmosphere	You are helping the reader picture the event clearly.	school hall / atmosphere was relaxed
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	The best part was... / However...
recommendation	recommendation + improvement	You are saying who would enjoy it and why.	I would recommend... / it could be even better

6. Build a clear review

Notice how review phrases help you move from the opening to the final recommendation.

Job	Useful review phrases
open with key details	Can a school hall really feel like a cinema? / Last Friday, I went to... / after lessons / set up with... / felt more like...
evaluate positives	The best part was... / I also liked...
balance negatives	However... / a couple of problems
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who... / With better...

7. Vocabulary and useful review phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this review. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe the event	film night / school hall / large screen / snack table / after lessons	
describe positives	film choice / fast-paced / funny / easy to follow / special	
describe negatives	sound was not clear / started late / ending felt rushed	
sound review-like	Can...? / The best part was... / However... / Overall...	
recommend	would recommend / relaxed evening / with friends / could be even better	

8. Plan your own review

Use the same task, or change the details to a similar event, place, service or activity.

Prompt	My idea	Useful language
title and opening		
description / atmosphere		
positive points		
negative points		
recommendation		

9. Write your own review

Write a review for the task. Cover all the prompts, develop your ideas and make your opinion clear.

Review title _____

[illegible]

10. Self-check and peer-check

Success criteria	What to check	Self	Peer
Content	All task points are covered and developed with relevant details or examples.		
Review structure	The answer has an engaging title, clear opening, description, evaluation and recommendation.		
Audience and tone	It sounds lively, clear and suitable for the audience in the task.		
Prompt-led language	Language fits the task, such as descriptive detail, evaluative language, contrast and recommendation language for a specific audience.		
Cohesion	Ideas connect naturally with linkers such as however, overall, because, so and though.		
Vocabulary	Useful chunks, topic words and precise review phrases improve the review.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			