



Digital Life and Technology

Review: reviewing a revision app

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a study app genuinely useful?
2. Which app features help you revise without wasting time?
3. What problems can happen when you rely on technology?

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 class recently tried a new revision app. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the app for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the revision app to help you:

'The quiz reminders kept me on track.'

'It froze twice during practice.'

'The short videos were really clear.'

'Some explanations were too basic.'

Now write a review of the revision app 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

StudySprint: Helpful or Overhyped?

Would you trust an app to organise your revision? I tried StudySprint for a week, and it was more useful than I expected.

The app includes short topic videos, flashcards, quizzes and reminders. It is simple to navigate, so even students who are not very confident with technology can get started quickly without feeling lost.

The quiz reminders were the most helpful feature because they kept popping up at sensible times. I also liked the short videos, which explained difficult ideas clearly without going on for ages or feeling like another full lesson.

However, the app still needs work. It froze twice during practice quizzes, which was annoying when I was trying to check my progress. Some explanations were also too basic for students aiming for higher grades.

Overall, I would recommend StudySprint to students who need structure and quick review tasks. It is not perfect, but it could help you stay on track before exams.

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 what the app does?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer balance the review with technical or content problems?	
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 app does	feature list + relative clause	You are describing the app clearly and adding detail.	includes... / which explained...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	the most helpful feature / However...
recommendation	recommendation + audience	You are saying who the app would help.	I would recommend... / students who need...

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	Would you trust...? / more useful than I expected / I tried... / for a week / includes... / simple to navigate
evaluate positives	the most helpful feature / I also liked...
balance negatives	However... / still needs work
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who... / It is not perfect, but...

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 app	revision app / flashcards / quizzes / reminders / short topic videos	
describe positives	kept me on track / sensible times / explained clearly	
describe negatives	froze twice / annoying / too basic / higher grades	
sound review-like	Helpful or overhyped? / more useful than I expected / However...	
recommend	students who need structure / quick review tasks / stay on track	

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		
features / key facts		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

