Science and Innovation

Review: reviewing a robotics demonstration

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a technology demonstration exciting?
2. Would you enjoy watching or controlling a robot?
3. What can make a science event hard to follow?

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 hosted a robotics demonstration. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the demonstration for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the robotics demonstration to help you:

'The robot football match was brilliant.' 'Some explanations were too technical.'

'We could ask the engineers questions.' 'Not everyone could see the small robots.'

Now write a review of the robotics demonstration 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

Robots, Questions and a Tiny Football Pitch

Can a small robot make a whole room lean forward and pay attention? During the robotics demonstration last week, the answer was definitely yes.

The demonstration was run by a local engineering team and included robot football, a short talk about sensors and a question session with the engineers. It felt modern, noisy and genuinely exciting from the first minute.

The robot football match was brilliant because it showed the technology in action rather than just explaining it. I also liked being able to ask the engineers questions about how the robots were programmed and tested.

However, some explanations were too technical for younger students. Not everyone could see the small robots clearly either, especially from the back of the room.

Overall, I would recommend the demonstration to students who enjoy science, coding or design, even if they are complete beginners. Larger screens and simpler explanations would make it easier for everyone to follow.

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 demonstration and its activities?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer balance the review with access or explanation 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 demonstration was like	passive + activity list	You are explaining who ran it and what happened.	was run by... / included...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	was brilliant because... / However...
recommendation	recommendation + audience	You are saying who would enjoy the demonstration.	I would recommend... / students who enjoy...

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 small robot make...? / included robot football
evaluate positives	brilliant because... / I also liked...
balance negatives	However... / too technical
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who enjoy...

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 demonstration	robotics demonstration / engineering team / sensors / robot football	
describe positives	brilliant / technology in action / ask questions / programmed	
describe negatives	too technical / small robots / hard to see	
sound review-like	whole room lean forward / genuinely exciting / However...	
recommend	science / coding / design / larger screens / simpler explanations	

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 / activities		
positive points		
problems or limits		
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 _____

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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 passive description, evaluative language, rather than, contrast and recommendation language, and a clear recommendation for a suitable reader.		
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:			