



Shopping and Consumer Life

Review: reviewing a second-hand uniform shop

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Would you buy second-hand school items? Why?
2. What makes a shop feel easy to use?
3. What problems can happen when people shop for clothes?

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 opened a second-hand uniform shop. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the shop for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the second-hand uniform shop to help you:

'The prices are really fair.'

'Some sizes sell out quickly.'

'It helps reduce waste.'

'The opening hours are limited.'

Now write a review of the second-hand uniform shop 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

A Smart Way to Save Money

Can a uniform shop be useful, affordable and environmentally friendly? Our new second-hand uniform shop comes surprisingly close.

The shop is open twice a week near the school office and sells shirts, skirts, trousers, PE kits and blazers. Items are checked before sale, so the quality is better than some students might expect from second-hand clothes.

The prices are really fair, which is helpful for families who need to replace uniform during the year. The shop also helps reduce waste because clothes are reused instead of being thrown away after only a few months. However, some popular sizes sell out quickly, especially at the start of term. The opening hours are limited too, so students may not be able to visit when they need to.

Overall, I would recommend the shop to families who want to save money and make a greener choice. More opening times and a clearer stock list would make it even more convenient.

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 shop and what it sells? | |
| Content point 2 | Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments? | |
| Content point 3 | Where does the writer balance the review with availability or timing 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 shop is like | descriptive list + passive | You are explaining what is sold and how quality is checked. | sells shirts... / Items are checked... |
| evaluation of comments | evaluative language + contrast | You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks. | really fair / However... |
| recommendation | recommendation + audience | You are saying who would find the shop useful. | I would recommend... / families who want... |

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 uniform shop be...? / second-hand uniform shop |
| evaluate positives | really fair / helps reduce waste |
| balance negatives | However... / opening hours are limited |
| recommend clearly | Overall, I would recommend... / to families who want... |

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 shop | second-hand uniform shop / shirts / PE kits / blazers | |
| describe positives | fair prices / reduce waste / reused / quality checked | |
| describe negatives | sizes sell out / limited opening hours / start of term | |
| sound review-like | smart way to save / surprisingly close / However... | |
| recommend | save money / greener choice / stock list / convenient | |

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 / products | | |
| positive points | | |
| problems or limits | | |
| recommendation | | |

