



Sports and Leisure

Review: reviewing a new sports centre

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a sports centre enjoyable for teenagers?
2. Would you rather use a gym, pool or courts? Why?
3. What can make a busy leisure facility frustrating?

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

A new sports centre has recently opened in your town. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the sports centre for your school magazine.

Here are some comments about the new sports centre to help you:

'There are loads of activities to try.'

'It gets packed after school.'

'The staff helped us get started.'

'The membership is quite expensive.'

Now write a review of the new sports centre 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

Sweat, Smiles and Long Queues?

What if your next favourite after-school hangout was a sports centre? Last Friday, I visited ActiveZone, the new sports centre near the bus station, to see whether it lives up to the hype.

The centre is bright and modern, with a gym, climbing wall, five-a-side pitch and small cafe. You can borrow basic equipment, so you do not need to bring much with you, which makes it easy to try something new.

The best thing is the range of activities. There are loads to try, and the staff are friendly enough to help beginners get stuck in. I especially liked the climbing wall because it felt challenging but safe.

However, it is not perfect. After school, the reception area gets packed, so booking a court can take ages. The monthly membership is also quite expensive, especially if you only want to go once a week.

Overall, I would recommend ActiveZone to students who enjoy sport and want somewhere lively to meet friends. Try it on a weekday, though, unless you love queues.

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 sports centre and its main features?	
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 place is like	descriptive phrases + key facts	You are helping the reader picture the place clearly.	bright and modern / with a gym...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	The best thing is... / However...
recommendation	recommendation + audience	You are saying who would enjoy the place.	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	What if your next favourite...? / new sports centre / near the bus station / bright and modern / with a gym...
evaluate positives	The best thing is... / I especially liked...
balance negatives	However... / can take ages
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who...

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 centre	sports centre / gym / climbing wall / five-a-side pitch / cafe	
describe positives	range of activities / beginners / get stuck in / challenging but safe	
describe negatives	gets packed / booking a court / takes ages / expensive	
sound review-like	lives up to the hype / The best thing is... / However...	
recommend	students who enjoy sport / lively / meet friends / weekday	

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 / key features		
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 _____

[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 phrases, evaluative language, 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:			