

BOOK / FILM REVIEW

A critical appraisal of a book, play, film, etc. written to be published in a newspaper or magazine is called a review. It is an opinionated account of the facts about a work. Often, review contains a rating of the work.

A Review:

- is formal in register
- provides facts about the work (author / director, themes, plot, genre,..)
- gives assessment of the writer on the work.
- does not summarise or reveal the story. It doesn't spoil the suspense.

How to write

Your review in response to the examination question is expected to be in four or five paragraphs.

Read the question and the comments in the speech bubbles and identify the problem to be discussed.

Your review is basically a response to the problem to be discussed from your point of view. Consider the facts about the work as required to develop and discuss your opinion.

You are expected to respond to the alternative opinion from your own stand point.

Sample question-

Students of your class went to watch a movie as part of your magazine activity. Here are two comments from your friends on film.

I felt it gives us ideas for life.

I don't like action films

Write a review of the film for your school magazine giving your view.

Sample format

Paragraph	Description	Details: suggestions
1	Introduction	Start with a generalised statement, Give one or two sentences of basic facts (including basic line of plot and theme) of the work and give a review statement (your opinion on the discussion problem set by speech bubble)- 3 or 4 sentences
2	Outline the work	Give an outline of the work in a way that supports your review statement. State the basic thread of plot, characters and themes. (Don't reveal the climax or catastrophe.)
3	Develops additional supporting point	Explain additional points to support your review statement. Start with a topic sentence, justify that point with facts or logic in two sentences and summarise the point in last sentence of the paragraph.
4	Responds to the alternative opinion	State the alternative opinion and its reason. Then give your response to it, not changing your view.
5	Conclusion	Give a brief summary of the discussion above and repeat your review statement in modified vocabulary or in paraphrase.