

Writing Review

PAPER 2, PART 3
(20 marks)



What is REVIEW ?



- ♥ giving your opinion
- ♥ *to talk about **a topic** in detail, assessing **the pros and cons**, and making appropriate **recommendations**.*
- ♥ the **tone** is **persuasive** and a review is **to persuade or dissuade** someone about something



Common Topics



Restaurants

Books



Music



Films / Movies



Events

Others





SAMPLE QUESTIONS

You see this notice in the school newsletter.

Reviews Required!

Have you watched any interesting **films**? Send us your review.
Tell your friends why you enjoy watching the film.
Do you want to recommend it to others? Be our guest!

Your review will be published in the next school newsletter.

Write your review.

A FILM

You see this notice in a newspaper.

Reviews Needed!

Have you eaten someplace nice? Send us a review of **a restaurant** that you have
been to.
Say what you like about the restaurant.
Would you like to recommend the restaurant to your friends?

Your review will be published in our newspaper.

Write your review.

A RESTAURANT

How to write a REVIEW ?

| Title | State the name of the film, play, restaurant, place, concert, etc |
|-------------|---|
| Paragraph 1 | Introduce the topic of the review. |
| Paragraph 2 | Give the positive features. |
| Paragraph 3 | Give the negative features. |
| Paragraph 4 | Finish with a final recommendation. |

LOVE

ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE

Adjectives for Describing the Product/ Service

| FILMS | | BOOKS | | PLACES | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| POSITIVE | NEGATIVE | POSITIVE | NEGATIVE | POSITIVE | NEGATIVE |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ enjoyable ✓ insightful ✓ inspiring ✓ powerful ✓ unforgettable ✓ spectacular ✓ superb ✓ original ✓ riveting ✓ fascinating ✓ thought provoking ✓ intriguing ✓ pleasant ✓ imaginative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ boring ✓ dull ✓ unrealistic ✓ disappointing ✓ predictable ✓ violent ✓ distasteful ✓ cliché ✓ bland ✓ ordinary ✓ uninteresting ✓ dreadful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ interesting ✓ enjoyable ✓ articulate ✓ crisp ✓ eloquent ✓ emphatic ✓ flowery ✓ fluent ✓ coherent ✓ poetic ✓ readable ✓ stylistic ✓ punchy ✓ pithy ✓ depth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ boring ✓ dull ✓ average ✓ cliché ✓ confusing ✓ crude ✓ dated ✓ drab ✓ dreadful ✓ dry ✓ poorly-written ✓ predictable ✓ rambling ✓ wordy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ attractive ✓ breath-taking ✓ appealing ✓ bustling ✓ charming ✓ enchanting ✓ fascinating ✓ fresh ✓ lively ✓ peaceful ✓ vibrant ✓ clean ✓ magical ✓ well-mannered staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ boring ✓ bleak ✓ creepy ✓ crowded ✓ noisy ✓ deserted ✓ desolate ✓ expensive ✓ polluted ✓ rundown ✓ ugly ✓ dangerous ✓ disappointing ✓ forgettable |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face-paced • suspenseful • sentimental • romantic • fantasy • dramatic • horror | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ornate language • lines are lyrical • romance • fantasy • imaginative • detailed • different | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient • contemporary • modern • mystical • traditional • huge/massive • small/ tiny/ little | |

USEFUL PHRASES

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Describe what you are reviewing | The (film, book...etc) I would like to review is.... The last film I saw / book I read was.... |
| Giving background | This movie stars.... The play is directed by... The genre of the film is comedy. The film is about... It is set in 1970... The story is based on (a book)... It is about... There are many memorable characters including... The main theme of the film is.... What the film is saying is.... |
| Expression which introduce a contrast | On the plus side,.... On the down side,... On the one hand,... On the other hand,... |
| Recommendation | Overall, I would recommend.... All in all, the film was.... I wouldn't hesitate to recommend... I wouldn't encourage anyone to ... I would recommend this film to anyone... Although I enjoyed it, I would not recommend it for... It's one of the best (shows) I have ever seen. Although I am not normally keen on (musicals), I am glad that I decided to go. The (film) lifts you out of your everyday life. |



Part 3

Write an answer to **one** of the question **3 - 5** in this part. Write your answer in **200 - 250**

words in an appropriate style on this question paper. Put the question number in the box at the top of the answer space.

Question 4

You have found the following advertisement online.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS WANTED

Have you been to a great restaurant lately? If so, send us an honest review of the restaurant explaining what you liked and disliked of the place as well as its location, staff and how it looks on the inside.

We will publish the first 20 decent reviews.

Write your review.

A RESTAURANT

SAMPLE 1



California Café

Being a huge fan of traditional American fast food and restaurant styles, it's no wonder that my favourite restaurant in Malaysia is California Cafe. This restaurant is rather special and it is one of its largest chain outlet and has a superior touch to it.

Located smack in the middle of the city, this fast food chain serves a wide variety of mouth-watering, American dishes at a reasonable price. These range from typical nachos or French fries to more **elaborate meals** like homemade steak. If you are hungry, it's the place to fill your stomach as their servings are absolutely generous and **sumptuous**.

Another plus point is the ambience. This place is quipped with magnificent decor. If you are a film buff, you will quickly fall in love with this place since all the walls are covered with famous movie posters. It has a spacious hall, super friendly waitress and an outdoor terrace which is absolutely fantastic!

The only negative thing is that right beside of this restaurant, is a gym. It makes me feel guilty for eating so much! Nevertheless, California Cafe offers delicious meals in a unbeatable atmosphere, so you should give it a try. I promise you won't regret it ! Besides, you won't **burn a hole in your pocket**, that's for sure.



(228 words)

Vocabulary

Smack : exactly, precisely

Elaborate meals : meals prepared and arranged, ie : a table spread with food"

ANSWER SAMPLE 1

Part 3

Write an answer to **one** of the question **3 - 5** in this part. Write your answer in **200 - 250**

words in an appropriate style on this question paper. Put the question number in the box at the top of the answer space.

Question 4

Your recently saw this notice in a magazine.

Book Reviews

Have you read any books recently? If so, please write and tell us about one of them. Say what you liked or didn't like about the story and the characters.

Send us your review and stand a chance to win RM500 book vouchers from Famous Bookstore !

Write your book review.

A BOOK

SAMPLE 2



The Phantom Of The Opera



I recently read the Phantom of the Opera, a novel written in 1910 by Gaston Leroux. It has been adapted a number of times for the cinema and also into an immensely successful musical.

It is set in Paris and is a story about the phantom "Erik". He portrays a menacing figure who lives hidden away in the basement of the opera house. He is in love with Christine, an opera singer, but she does not like him. She loves a young aristocrat called Raoul. As you would expect in a "gothic" novel, the plot is very intricate with lots of twists and turns, which keep the reader turning the pages.

My main criticism of the book is the characterization. The characters are unmemorable and rather two-dimensional. It is often difficult to understand what motivates them. For example, when Christine chooses to have a conversation with Raoul on the roof of the opera house.

To sum up, I enjoyed this "gothic" horror story despite my reservations about the characterization. However, I would only recommend it to people who really enjoy horror or ghost stories. Personally, I like this novel very much as it contains a lot of values inside.

(206 words)

ANSWER SAMPLE 2