

Review

What to expect in a Part 2 review

- In a review you are normally asked to describe something you have experienced, e.g. a film, a visit to a tourist attraction or restaurant, a book, etc., and to give your opinion of it. You are asked to consider specific aspects of what you are reviewing.
- You might also be asked whether you would recommend it to other people.
- The question specifies where the review is to be published, for example, an English-language newspaper, magazine or website.
- The target reader is made clear, so you should write in an appropriate style and include appropriate information.

How to do a Part 2 review

- Make sure you read a wide range of reviews online, in newspapers and in magazines before the exam.
- Make notes of ways to express reservations, and how to move from positive to negative comments, or vice versa.
- Before starting to write a review, decide whether the overall impression you want to give is positive, negative or mixed. Keep this in mind, and make sure it is clear to the reader.
- Think about your experience, or simply use your imagination: you can invent the film, book, etc. that you write about.
- Think about your readers and what they will be interested in being told.
- Make sure the level of formality is appropriate for the people who will read your review.
- Make notes, and put them in a logical order using headings for your own use: reviews do not normally include headings.

Practice task and model answer

1 Read the Part 2 task and answer the questions.

- 1 What is being reviewed?
- 2 Where will the review be published and who are the intended readers?
- 3 What two things do you have to do as part of your review?

You see the announcement below in a local magazine called *Eating out*.

Improving the eating out experience

We have numerous restaurants in this area, so it can be hard for people to decide where to eat. That's why we want to publish reviews of restaurants. We're particularly interested in why you had certain expectations of a restaurant, and whether your experience in the restaurant was better – or worse – than you had expected.

Send us your review of a restaurant where you've eaten, explain what your expectations were, and give your reasons for your opinions.

2 Read this model review. In which paragraph(s) can you find the following?

- 1 a summary of the writer's intentions regarding returning to the restaurant
- 2 a description of the writer's expectations of the evening
- 3 an explanation of why the writer had certain expectations

Review of 'Lanterns'

'Lanterns' is the most expensive restaurant in this area and its advertising stresses its upmarket characteristics, with photos of well-dressed guests, candles and linen napkins on the tables, for instance.

You can hardly blame me for expecting everything to be first class: the venue itself, the food and of course the service.

I took my parents to 'Lanterns' to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, intending it to be not just a meal, but a special occasion that we would all look back on with pleasure for years to come.

Unfortunately, our evening was **nothing of the sort**. **Admittedly** the atmosphere of the restaurant seemed very welcoming when we arrived, as was the waiter who greeted us, but we stood waiting for several minutes before being shown to our table. And 'waiting' was the keynote of the evening: a long pause before we were given menus, and a long enough wait for each course to make us think somebody had been sent out to buy the ingredients.

The food itself was pleasant enough, but bland. I know not everyone wants salt in their food, but some pepper, herbs or spices wouldn't have gone amiss.

As I paid the extremely large bill, the waiter asked if we'd enjoyed the evening. I said the service had been slow, expecting an apology. Instead he tried to justify it, saying that most guests are not in a rush. **Well**, neither were we, but we still felt we'd been forced to stay considerably longer than we wanted to. 'Lanterns' certainly won't be seeing me again.

Introduces the restaurant, giving readers who don't know it a clear idea of what it is like.

Addresses the reader directly, to make them feel involved.

The first person 'I' emphasises the personal nature of the review. Makes it less formal.

Informal phrase

Linking expression (*Admittedly*) to indicate that what follows contrasts with what is said in the previous sentence.

Informal word suitable for the personal tone of the review.