

Writing tasks and text types of the B2 and C1 exams

4

Practice and exam preparation tips

Review

In the world of web 2.0, it is perfectly natural that we are instantly notified of every single, political development, personal event, music, book or film release. The interactive nature of the internet also enables us to read thousands of reviews and opinions about these on websites, news sites, Facebook, twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn or blogs.

What this means for the world of culture is that for the first time in history, most reviews come not from professional critics, but from ordinary people, whose opinion is even more important and useful than that of a professional. If so many people use the opportunity to share their opinion freely, it is easy to see that the review is by far one of the most real-life tasks in a language exam.



Choosing a topic

In the exam context, a review is usually the written account and critical report of a film, concert, theatre or book experience written for a student magazine or for the local online or printed media. The instructions in the exam paper specify the genre only, which means that you can decide what film, book, theatrical performance, concert or exhibition you want to write about. It is advisable to choose one you know very well, since in this case you are aware of the most important information regarding the author/director, main characters/actors, scenes etc. If you cannot remember the exact details, feel free to make them up. Don't worry, the assessors will believe you and are not assessing or interested in your cultural knowledge.

Opening paragraph

Make sure you start with a strong, attention-grabbing line. Apart from this, you also have to refer to the film/book/event that your review will be about. This means the title, the date of release, the book author or film director, main characters/actors, name of theatre/exhibition (you can also add more about these in the **Main body**). The reader will need all this in order to be able to identify what the review is trying to persuade readers about or dissuade them from. You can also summarise your opinion in one brief, clear sentence. All other thoughts that come later in the review should support this sentence.

One of the most common mistakes that candidates make is to write about something 'in general', i.e. they do not specify the title or any other detail.

E.g. 'I saw a brilliant performance in the theatre. The actors were amazing, the director did a great job at interpreting the play and the acoustics were amazing as well'.

Main body (2-3 paragraphs)

If you are writing about a film, book or theatrical performance, you can start the main body by writing about the plot, the protagonists and conflicts without going into too much detail. Remember that a review is more than just the plot. Avoid spoilers (don't give away the twist at the end). Your main goal is to stimulate the reader's interest in either a positive or a negative way.

In these paragraphs you are expected to support your opinion presented in the opening paragraph. E.g. how well/badly the creators of the specific work of art did their job (author, director, actors, costume designer, architect etc.); what made the most positive or negative impression on you. You can also provide some background information – if you have some time left to do it – by comparing the current film/ book etc. with a previous one created by the same author/director etc.

Only include information that you consider important in the assessment of a piece of work and its creators.

Closing paragraph

Finally, you can summarise whether you would recommend the piece of work or not, in view of the points presented above. You can also specify whether there are group of people who would definitely enjoy

it or others who would definitely not cherish it. Do not repeat the main points word for word, instead, show the reader that you can use a variety of expressions. Finally, unlike in the essay, here you can finish off with a snappy line even if it means including some new, previously not mentioned information.

The style and level of formality of reviews

Just like in all other genres, before writing anything down, it is crucial that you bear in mind who your readers might be. If they are the readers of a student magazine or a local newspaper are not entirely strangers to the writer, the style requires less formality than in a national newspaper or cultural magazine. However, it is not entirely informal either as the readers are not the writer's friends, thus it is advisable to avoid being too personal (e.g. '~~You know, folks, that thingy...~~'). Yet, here contractions are allowed, even welcome (e.g. '*...she can't...*').

It is important to use 'punchy' adjectives instead of the boring, nondescript adjectives like 'good', 'bad', 'interesting', 'nice' or 'boring'. If you don't know enough synonyms, find some here in this Thesaurus.

Useful links

You can find hundreds of examples for all kinds of reviews on The Guardian online:

Films: The Guardian

Music: The Guardian

Books: The Guardian

The widest selection of film reviews is available on Rottentomatoes.

Format requirements in the Euroexam writing test

Recommended length: B2 – approx. 150 words; C1 – approx. 200 words. This word count is a recommendation only and normally we do not penalise deviation from it (being overlong is the most common one). However, it is in your own interest to keep yourself to the instructions of the task. Incidentally, counting words is time-consuming and it distracts you from the task. Anyway, before starting the letter, we suggest that you jot down a few keywords and ideas to help yourself decide what to include in the letter and what to leave out.

Using a dictionary in the Euroexam writing test

Although a dictionary is permitted throughout the entire writing test, we recommend that you primarily use your active vocabulary and grammatical knowledge. Remember that looking up words in a dictionary is time-consuming and therefore only resort to it if it is absolutely necessary in order to express yourself. The dictionary will probably prove more useful when proofreading your finished letter.

3 a) Read the book review and label each paragraph with the headings below.

- recommendation
- general comments
- main points of plot
- background information



The Hound of the Baskervilles

Introduction

Main Body

Conclusion

The Hound of Baskervilles, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is an excellent story that takes place in London and Dartmoor. This fascinating book is about the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, who with his trusted assistant, Watson, tries to solve the mysterious death of Sir Charles Baskerville.

The mystery begins when Dr. Mortimer, Sir Charles' personal doctor, relates the circumstances surrounding his patient's death to Holmes and Watson. The doctor believes that his death has something to do with the legend of the hound, which is an enormous, evil, hunting dog that terrorises the people of Baskerville. Soon, it becomes clear that Sir Henry, who is Sir Charles' nephew, and the only surviving heir to the Baskerville fortune, is also in danger. Holmes and Watson have to move quickly in order to protect Sir Henry's life and to solve the mystery.

The book is full of thrilling moments as the author creates tension with unexpected twists and vivid descriptions. What gives the book its dark atmosphere, however, is the silent, evil presence of the legendary hound which dominates the story throughout.

I thoroughly recommend The Hound of the Baskervilles. Readers will have a difficult time putting this masterpiece down as they are kept in suspense until the very end of the book.

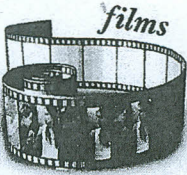
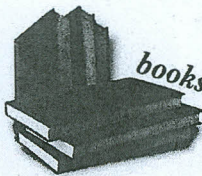
Para 1

Para 2

Para 3

Para 4

4 a) Read the useful vocabulary box below. Which phrases refer to books? Which refer to films? Which refer to both?



USEFUL VOCABULARY

Background:

The film/book tells the story of ...
The film/story is set in ...
The book/novel was written by ...
The film is directed by ...
It is a comedy/horror film/love story.

Main points of the plot:

The story concerns/is about/begins ...
The plot is (rather) boring/thrilling.
The plot has an unexpected twist.

General Comments:

It is rather long/boring/confusing/slow.
The cast is excellent/awful/unconvincing.
The script is dull/exciting.
It is beautifully/poorly/badly written.
It has a tragic/dramatic end.

Recommendations:

Don't miss it. It is well worth seeing.
I wouldn't recommend it because ...
I highly/thoroughly recommend it.
It's bound to be a box-office hit.
Wait until it comes out on video.
It is a highly entertaining read.
It's a bore to read.

WRITING

D. Read the book review, and put the paragraphs in the correct order.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

- ☐ This book is suitable for adolescents and young adults alike because it focuses on the problems, concerns and thoughts / thinkings of these agegroups. Emphasis is placed on the value of one of the most important relationships we experience during this period in our life – friendship.
- ☐ Ann Brashares' delightful / suitable novel, The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, is a(n) vivid / informative account of the lives of four girls who are loyal friends. It was first published / described in 2001 and is sure to remain timeless in its appeal.
- ☐ If you haven't read The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, make sure you get a copy. You are sure to find it hard to put down / come down.
- ☐ The book tells / writes us their story as they go their separate ways for the summer holidays. It describes the happenings / experiences they have during this time and how each girl grows and matures over the summer. At the centre of the story is a pair of second-hand jeans which the girls decide to share. Each girl wears the pair of jeans for a couple of weeks and afterwards sends it to one of the other girls. The interesting events that occur in their lives while wearing the jeans contribute to the story that lies behind it. The descriptions of the characters / chapters and their experiences are so captivating that you end up feeling as if you know them.

E. Read the table below with phrases/expressions you can use in a book review and then complete the book review on *The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* with words from the box.

Introduction/Plot	This book is a best seller / timeless novel. The book is written by ... The book is set / takes place ... It is a novel / a classic / an adventure story / a mystery, etc. It came out in ... It was published in/by ... The book tells the story of ... The main character is ...
Comments	This book is badly/well written. The opening chapters are so appealing that you want to keep on reading. The book contains detailed/vivid descriptions of the characters. The book is very descriptive and informative. The book is well-known for ...
Conclusion	You will find it hard to put down. It is (not) worth reading. If you haven't read it, make sure you get a copy. There is no question why ...

adventures descriptions characters
 bestselling hard to put down published
 novel detective story informative
 appeals to all ages written by heroine
 well written

The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is the

(1) _____ book (2) _____ the author Alexander McCall Smith. The book was first (3) _____ in 1999 and it still remains hugely popular with readers around the world.

It tells of the (4) _____ of Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's only female detective. Ramotswe is the (5) _____ of the (6) _____ who goes about solving all kinds of problems. With the help of her eager secretary and her loyal friend Mr J.L.B. Matekoni, owner of the Speedy Motors garage, she helps bring justice to those that do wrong to others.

The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is not a conventional (7) _____; it is a lighthearted glimpse into life in Botswana. The book is (8) _____ and (9) _____ as well. It is full of vivid (10) _____ of both the (11) _____ in the book and the country of Botswana.

This is a book that (12) _____ and is so enjoyable that you will find it (13) _____.

F. When you are writing a book review follow the outline below.

INTRODUCTION

- Give some general information about the book (title, author, what type of book it is, what it is about).

MAIN PART (2-3 paragraphs)

- Give a brief summary of the plot.
- Comment on significant aspects of the book (style of writing, symbolism, etc).

CONCLUSION

- State your opinion.
- Make a recommendation.

WRITING TASK

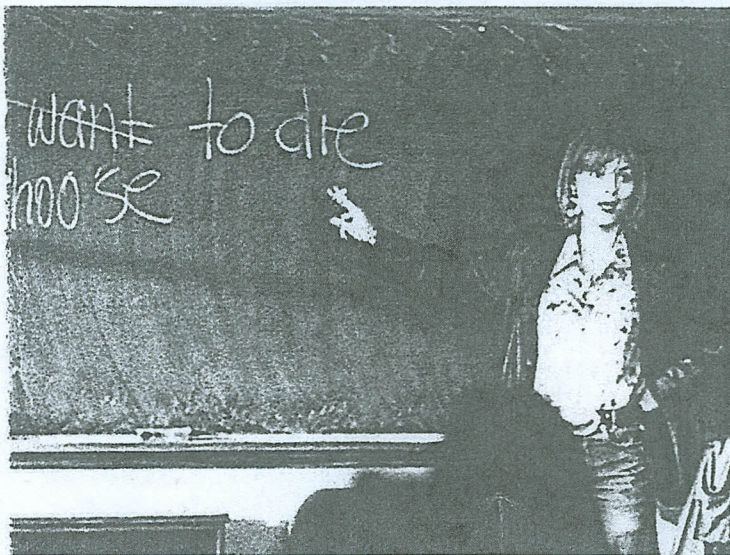
Your English teacher has asked you to write a review of a book you have read recently for the English Club magazine. Write the review describing the book and saying whether you would recommend it or not (100-150 words).



When you are writing a book review:

- mention the main events in the book in one paragraph; give a general idea of the plot and don't include too many details about it.
- do not give away the ending of the story.
- include comments on other aspects of the book in another paragraph.
- justify your opinion by referring to specific aspects of the book.
- pay attention to tenses. Use the Present Simple to describe the plot.

Dangerous Minds, directed by John N. Smith, is set in a poor inner city area high school. The main character is a trainee teacher, played by Michelle Pfeiffer, who also happens to be an ex-Marine. The hit song "Gangsta's Paradise" from the film's soundtrack gives the impression that the film is a powerful drama. However, it actually turns out to be a story of hope and optimism.

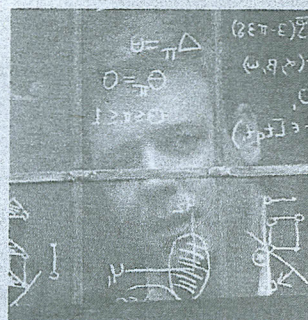


The film centres on Miss Johnson (Michelle Pfeiffer) who is put in charge of a class made up of the city's toughest and most troubled adolescents. She soon realises that by treating the youths with the respect and understanding that human beings deserve, she can maintain order; moreover, she wins the trust of her class while actually helping them to enjoy learning and to realise that they control their own lives.

Dangerous Minds covers many of the problems young people face in society today, something made possible by the fact that it is not just a film about a teacher but also about the disturbing problems faced by members of the class. This is all done in a realistic way with which most of us can identify. Pfeiffer is brilliant in her role, and convincing in the emotions she portrays throughout.

If you like to see good triumph over evil and are fond of happy endings, then you should definitely see this film. Although it is probably not the most fascinating film you will ever watch, Pfeiffer's performance is outstanding.

A Beautiful Mind



This 2001 drama starring Russell Crowe was loosely based on

the book of the same name about the life of the remarkable American mathematician, John Forbes Nash. Nash has one of the most brilliant minds ever to emerge from the United States, but during his life he has had to battle with serious mental illness.

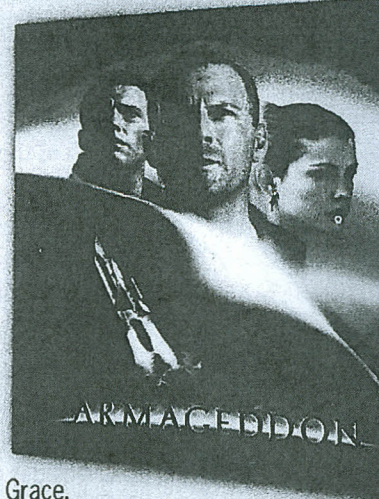
From an early age, Nash was interested in science, and by the age of twelve he was already carrying out scientific experiments alone in his room. He spent very little time with his classmates, who rejected him because of his superior attitude. When the Second World War broke out, other boys of his age were imagining themselves as soldiers while Nash was inventing secret codes.

After graduating in mathematics, Nash went on to develop his games theory at Princeton University where he did his doctorate. This theory became known as the 'Nash equilibrium', and it explains business arrangements between competitors. The 'Nash equilibrium' has been applied in the world of business since the 1950s.

From Princeton University, Nash moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to teach mathematics. Here he met and married one of his students, Alicia López, but it was also here that he began to experience symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. He soon became unable to teach or do research and he was admitted to psychiatric hospitals for treatment several times. Alicia divorced him and he spent the next twenty years wandering around the campus at Princeton.

However, over the years his mental condition improved, until in the late 1980s, he began to make contact with other mathematicians who realised that his new work had value. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1994 and he and Alicia remarried soon afterwards. He is still at Princeton, where he has a post in mathematics.

ARMAGEDDON



Introduction

1 Armageddon is an action packed adventure about an enormous asteroid and the desperate efforts of mankind to stop it from destroying the world. Directed by Jerry Bruckheimer, the cast includes Bruce Willis as Harry Stamper, an oil rig owner, Liv Tyler as his daughter, Grace, and Ben Affleck as Stamper's employee, A.J., who is in love with Grace.

Main Body

2 The story begins when NASA discovers that the gigantic asteroid is only eighteen days away from destroying the Earth. NASA asks Harry to prevent the deadly asteroid from reaching our planet. Harry and his oil rig crew are given intensive training by NASA astronauts before they travel to space.

3 The film is filled with suspense as the men race against time to save the planet. The special effects and computer graphics are so spectacular that the audience will be amazed. The actors give a brilliant performance and the directing is superb. What is more, the soundtrack, mostly by Aerosmith, is fantastic.

Conclusion

4 I thoroughly recommend this film. If you like excitement, it will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat. Don't miss it!

Your teacher has asked you to write a film review for the school magazine. Write your **review** for the magazine, mentioning the main points of the plot, general comments about the acting, the directing, the plot, etc, as well as your recommendation(120-180 words).

- 1 Who is going to read your review? What tenses should you use?
- 2 Which of the following should you use? Tick (✓).
passive voice ____; variety of adjectives ____; colloquial language ____;
complex sentences ____; abbreviations ____;
- 3 a) What type of film is it? b) Who directed it? c) Who stars in it?
d) What characters do they play? e) What is the film about?
- 4 What are the main points of the plot? What general comments would you make? How would you recommend the film?

- 1 *Mission Impossible III* (2006) stars Tom Cruise as agent Ethan Hunt in the third spy thriller in the series. With a different director from the first two films, J J Abrams, the movie ¹*also/as well* stars Michelle Monaghan as Hunt's girlfriend and Phillip Seymour Hoffman as the enemy.
- 2 Ethan Hunt is a trainer of spies. One of his old pupils is captured by an evil arms dealer (Phillip Seymour Hoffman). Hunt's mission in this film is to rescue her. ²*Although/However*, the mission goes wrong and Hunt's girlfriend (Michelle Monaghan) is put in danger.
- 3 There are a lot of exciting scenes in the film ³*like/as* explosions and a helicopter chase. The special effects, ⁴*such as/ such like* the jump from a Shanghai skyscraper, are also good. ⁵*However/ Although*, the plot is a bit silly. ⁶*As well/ Also*, the acting isn't very convincing. The star of the show is the arms dealer played by Hoffman ⁷*although/however* he isn't used enough in the film.
- 4 I don't really recommend *Mission Impossible III*. If you really like spy films, then go to see it. ⁸*Plus/However*, don't expect a brilliant story.

Super Size Me



Super Size Me is a 2004 film by Morgan Spurlock, in which he documents his experiment to eat only McDonald's fast food three times a day, every day, for thirty days.

Spurlock made himself a short list of rules for the experiment, including an obligation to eat all of the three meals he ordered. He also had to 'Super Size', which means accepting a giant portion every time the option was offered to him. He ended up vomiting after the first Super Size meal he finished, after taking nearly twenty minutes to consume it.

After five days Spurlock put on almost 5kg, and he soon found himself feeling depressed, with no energy. The only

thing that got rid of his headaches and made him feel better was another McDonald's meal, so his doctors told him he was addicted. More seriously, around day twenty, he started experiencing heart palpitations and one of the doctors detected liver problems. However, in spite of his doctor's advice, Spurlock continued to the end of the month and achieved a total weight gain of 11kg. His body mass index also increased from a healthy 23.2 to an overweight 27.

It took Spurlock fifteen months to recover from his experiment and return to his original weight, but the film also had a wider impact. Just after its showing in 2004, McDonald's phased out the Super Size option and healthier options like salads appeared on the menu. Unfortunately, McDonald's deny the connection between the film and the changes, but it is interesting to note how closely they coincided with the release of the film.

REVIEW 1 - MODEL QUESTION**TASK**

You have seen this announcement in your college English-language magazine.

Music reviews wanted

Have you been to a great music concert recently?

Write us a review of the concert, telling us about the band or singer and their performance. Say whether you would recommend seeing them perform live.

We will publish the best reviews next month.

Write your review in 140-190 words in an appropriate style.

REVIEW 1 - MODEL ANSWERA GIG TO REMEMBER

Without doubt, the British rock band Arctic Monkeys have given this year's best live show. As teenagers a few years ago, they made the fastest selling album ever but seemed shy and awkward on stage. Now they have matured and become an amazing live act.

Since the frontman Alex decided to cut his hair and dress like a skinny rock star of the 1950s, he moves confidently around the stage, waving his arms and encouraging us to shake our hips. The crowd were ecstatic!

The set began with their hit, Do you wanna know. The guitar playing was tight, as always, and the rhythm supported by Matt's powerful drumming. The band were on top form throughout, winning fans with a list that combined older with new hits.

My only reservation is that although the songs have clever lyrics and great melodies and sound fresh every time, some lack the emotional and poetic force of their best.

But this is a minor criticism. Overall, it was a performance to remember and all fans should try and catch them while they're on tour.

[+/- 185 words]

REVIEW 2 - MODEL QUESTION**TASK**

You have seen this announcement in an international magazine.

Book reviews wanted

Have you read a book recently with a story that has held your attention? Write a review of the book, explaining what the story is about and whether the characters are convincing. Tell us whether or not you would recommend it both to younger and older readers

The best reviews will be published in the magazine.

Write your review in 140-190 words in an appropriate style.

REVIEW 2 - MODEL ANSWERANIMAL FARM, BY GEORGE ORWELL

This is an unusual book, set on a farm. The characters, led by the pigs, are mainly animals, who get rid of the cruel, drunken human owner and take over the farm. They set up a government of their own.

The story isn't exciting but it's clever. At first, after the revolution, the animals are equal but later the pigs become more powerful and start to change everything. By the end of the novel, the animals realise they have gone back to where they started.

In one way, the story is obviously not a true story but in another way, it is meant to tell the story of communism from a satirical point of view.

The characters are very convincing. Napoleon, the leader of the pigs, is strong and corrupt. Other animals are honest but weak. They all represent people and the events in Russia in the 1920s and 30s.

Although I enjoyed this book, I can imagine older people who were brought up when communism was still strong in the world and have probably read a lot about the Russian Revolution, would enjoy it even more.

[+/- 190 words]

Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate word from the list. Not all the words are needed.

INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom is a 1984 American action- 1) _____ film directed by Steven Spielberg. It is the second instalment in the Indiana Jones franchise and a prequel to the 1981 film Raiders of the Lost Ark, featuring Harrison Ford reprising his role as the title 2) _____. 3) After _____ in North India, Indiana Jones is asked by desperate villagers to 4) _____ a mystical stone and rescue 5) _____ children from a Thuggee cult practicing child slavery, black magic, and ritual human sacrifice in honour of the goddess Kali.

Producer and co-writer George Lucas decided to 6) _____ the film a prequel as he did not want the Nazis to be the villains again. After three rejected plot devices, Lucas wrote a film treatment that resembled the film's final storyline. Lawrence Kasdan, Lucas's collaborator on Raiders of the Lost Ark, turned 7) _____ the offer to 8) _____ the script, and Willard Huyck and Gloria Katz were hired as his replacements, with the resultant screenplay partly based upon the 1939 film Gunga Din.

The film 9) _____ released to financial success but mixed reviews, which criticized its violence, later contributing to the creation of the PG-13 rating. However, critical opinion has improved since 1984, citing the film's intensity and imagination. 10) _____ of the film's cast and crew, including Spielberg, retrospectively view the film in a negative light, partly due to the film being the most overtly violent Indiana Jones film. The film has also 11) _____ the subject of controversy due to its portrayal of India and 12) _____.

been	their	was	as	adventure	Hinduism	arriving
some	make	being	write	find	down	when

Key "INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM"

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Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate word from the list. Not all the words are needed.

THE HUNGER GAMES

The Hunger Games is a series of three 1) _____ novels 2) _____ by the American author Suzanne Collins. The series is 3) _____ in The Hunger Games universe, and follows 4) _____ characters Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark. The novels 5) _____ all been 6) _____ into films, with the film adaptation of Mockingjay 7) _____ into two parts, the second of which was 8) _____ on November 20, 2015. Soundtracks have also 9) _____ released for each film.

The first two books in the series 10) _____ both New York Times bestsellers, and Mockingjay 11) _____ all US 12) _____ lists upon its release. By the time the film adaptation of The Hunger Games 13) _____ released in 2012, the publisher 14) _____ reported over 26 million Hunger Games 15) _____ books in print, 16) _____ movie tie-in books. The Hunger Games universe is a dystopia 17) _____ in „Panem“, a country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and twelve 18) _____ in varying states of poverty. Every year, children are 19) _____ to participate in a compulsory annual televised death match 20) _____ The Hunger Games.

called	trilogy	bestseller	written	adventure	districts	have	set	play	topped	games
been	split	developed	was	however	been	including	had	were	operator	released

Key “THE HUNGER GAMES”

The Hunger Games is a series of three **adventure** novels **written** by the American author Suzanne Collins. The series is **set** in The Hunger Games universe, and follows **young** characters Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark. The novels **have** all been **developed** into films, with the film adaptation of Mockingjay **split** into two parts, the second of which was **released** on November 20, 2015. Soundtracks have also **been** released for each film.

The first two books in the series **were** both New York Times bestsellers, and Mockingjay **topped** all US **bestseller** lists upon its release. By the time the film adaptation of The Hunger Games **was** released in 2012, the publisher **had** reported over 26 million Hunger Games **trilogy** books in print, **including** movie tie-in books. The Hunger Games universe is a dystopia **set** in „Panem“, a country consisting of the wealthy Capitol and twelve **districts** in varying states of poverty. Every year, children are **chosen** to participate in a compulsory annual televised death match **called** The Hunger Games.

EXAM TIPS

- 1 At the beginning, provide the basic information about the work you are reviewing, such as the title and the author's name, the genre, perhaps the awards it has won.
- 2 A common error in writing a review is to summarise the entire plot of a book or film. This has two effects: firstly, it makes the review boring and secondly, there is not enough space to analyse and evaluate the work. The plot summary should be concise and should never reveal the ending. It should be written in the Present Simple tense.
- 3 Analyse and evaluate various aspects of the work, for example the plot, the characters, the acting, the directing, the moral dimension. Notice whether the rubric requires you to focus on a particular aspect.
- 4 To get high marks, you should use some vocabulary appropriate to the art form you are writing about. If you do not know any, it may be better to choose a different topic.
- 5 The style of the review may be more or less formal depending on the reader you are writing for, but it should be consistent.

examTASK

- 1 Write a review of a film which combines interesting action with the presentation of some element of the culture of an English-speaking country.

Inside Man by Spike Lee

Inside Man is a thriller, which is perhaps surprising from Spike Lee, a director known for more serious films depicting the experiences of African Americans. However, this first attempt at cinema as entertainment is a great success, and an attentive viewer will also discover in it a wealth of cultural background.

The movie tells the story of a bank robbery. Masked attackers hold up a bank in Manhattan, taking all the staff and customers hostage. Detective Keith Frazier, brilliantly played by Denzel Washington, negotiates with the robbers, while at the same time trying to work out what they are really up to. The director guides us through a maze of confusing clues to a surprise ending.

The film is exciting, with fast action and many unexpected twists and turns. Denzel Washington gives a spectacular performance, as do Clive Owen as the leader of the gang and all of the supporting cast.

But in addition to being a first-rate thriller, the movie offers a picture of life in New York. Apart from beautiful shots of Manhattan, the viewer sees a gallery of minor characters of many races, nationalities and languages. Their interactions, whether marked by prejudice, resentment, tolerance, or friendship, give a real sense of both the tensions and the richness of life in the most cosmopolitan city on Earth.

I sincerely recommend this movie to everyone who likes a good and not necessarily brutal thriller, but also to those interested in getting an insight into life in multicultural New York.

INTRODUCTION: BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE FILM

PLOT SUMMARY, WRITTEN IN THE PRESENT SIMPLE

ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE FILM, USING VOCABULARY APPROPRIATE TO THIS GENRE

CULTURAL CONTENT

CONCLUSION: RECOMMENDATION

TASK ANALYSIS

- 2 Read the sample review and underline the sentences in which the writer refers to the aspects of the film required by the exam task: a) interesting action, b) an element of the culture of an English-speaking country.
- 3 Underline the phrases used to analyse and assess the following aspects of the film: the plot, the acting, the cinematography, the educational value.

CSI: NY

CSI:NY is a **crime series about** a team of New York City crime scene investigators, **created by** Anthony E. Zuiker, Ann Donahue and Carol Mendelsohn. **The first episode was shown in** September 2004 and it ran for a total of **nine seasons** as a **great success**.

The plot follows the investigations of a team of NYPD forensic scientists as they attempt to solve various crimes. **The cast consists of** talented actors such as **Gary Sinise, who stars as** the head of the NYC crime lab, and **Stella Ward, who brilliantly plays the role of** detective Jo Danville. **Set in** New York, there is the added drama of the interaction between many different cultures.

CSI:NY **owes its popularity to** a convincing cast and the viewers see a **gallery of minor characters** of many races, nationalities and languages. **The director splendidly guides the audience into** the enjoyment of the spectacular special effects and into understanding cutting-edge technology. The mysteries and suspense are thrilling and are sure to **keep everyone's eyes glued to the screen**.

CSI:NY is an excellent crime series that will **fascinate even the most choosy or scrupulous viewers**. This is a crime series that is **undeniably worth watching** it as there is a lot more to it than just subtleties, suspense and puzzle. However, **the series is not suitable for young or under-aged children** as some scenes may be disconcerting, provoking and disturbing.