Review

Describe, evaluate and recommend: a film, a book, a restaurant, an app — anything the task asks.

Plantilla para escribir una review en los exámenes Cambridge: estructura, frases para valorar y recomendar, y modelo.

1 Where will you write it?

En qué examen aparece

A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
A2 Key	B1 Preliminary	B2 First	C1 Advanced	C2 Proficiency
Not in this exam	Not in this exam	140–190	220–260	280–320
		Part 2 · option	Part 2 · option	Part 2 · option

Reviews are not part of A2 Key or B1 Preliminary, but the language is useful at B1.

2 Know your reader

Lector, registro y objetivo

WHO READS IT?
Readers of a magazine, blog or website.

REGISTER
Semi-formal. Personal opinion is expected, but stay clear and balanced.

YOUR GOAL
Describe something and help the reader decide whether to try it.

3 Structure

Estructura párrafo a párrafo

Title Título	The name of what you review, or a catchy line.	
Introduction Introducción	What is it? Where/when? Grab interest.	**30** words
Description Párrafo 2	Key details: plot, place, features. No spoilers!	**50** words
Evaluation Párrafo 3	What was good and what was not so good.	**50** words
Recommendation Final	Who would enjoy it? Your overall verdict.	**30** words

Word guide based on a B2 First review (140–190 words). Adjust for your level.

4 Plan your time

Cómo repartir el tiempo

2–3 min	5 min	25–30 min	5 min
Read	**Plan**	**Write**	**Check**
Underline every point.	Paragraphs + key phrases.	Follow your plan.	Use the checklist.

One task at B2–C2 ≈ 40–45 minutes. B1 Preliminary ≈ 20 minutes per task: same four steps, shorter.

5 Useful language

Frases útiles por nivel

Function	B1 B2 Good	C1 C2 Even better
Introducing Presentar	If you're looking for... · Last week I went to...	...is the latest... from... · ...has been getting rave reviews.
Describing Describir	It is set in... · It tells the story of... · It offers...	The plot revolves around... · What sets it apart is...
Praising Elogiar	The best thing about it is... · I loved...	...is outstanding / superb. · ...really stands out.
Criticising Criticar	The only problem is... · It was a bit...	My one criticism would be... · ...fell short of expectations.
Recommending Recomendar	I'd recommend it to... · It's worth seeing.	It's a must-see for... · I wouldn't hesitate to recommend...

6 What the examiner checks

Los 4 criterios de corrección

Content
Contenido
Cover everything the task asks: usually describe, evaluate and recommend.

Communicative Achievement
Registro y efecto
Engaging, personal tone. The reader should know clearly if you liked it.

Organisation
Organización
Description first, then evaluation, then recommendation.

Language
Lengua
Precise adjectives (gripping, overpriced, cosy) rather than good/bad.

B1 Preliminary to C2 Proficiency writing is marked on these four criteria, each out of 5.

7 Spanish speakers' traps

Errores típicos

✗ ~~The film was very interesting and very good.~~
✓ **The film was gripping.**
precise adjectives

✗ ~~I recommend it for everybody.~~
✓ **I'd recommend it to anyone who...**
recommend **to**

✗ ~~The argument of the film...~~
✓ **The plot of the film...**
argumento = **plot**

✗ ~~The actors were very good, they acted good.~~
✓ **The actors were excellent.**
good (adj) / well (adv)

✗ ~~It is worth to see it.~~
✓ **It is worth seeing.**
worth + **-ing**

✗ ~~I liked it a lot of.~~
✓ **I liked it a lot.**
no "of"

8 Level up a sentence

Sube de nivel

B1	The film was very good. The actors were good too.	Repetitive adjectives.
B2	The film was **gripping**, and the acting was **excellent**.	Precise adjectives.
C1	The film is gripping **from start to finish**, with **outstanding performances** from the whole cast.	Collocations + "with" phrase.
C2	**Gripping from the opening scene**, the film is carried by a cast **at the very top of their game**.	Participle clause + idiom.

9 Model answer

Respuesta modelo · B2 First

161 words

Task: A website wants reviews of a café or restaurant. Describe it, say what was good or bad, and say who it would suit.

Café Azahar: small place, big flavour

1 If you're looking for a cosy place for brunch in the city centre, Café Azahar might be exactly what you need.

2 The café is tiny, with only eight tables, but it's bright and beautifully decorated with plants. The menu offers homemade cakes, fresh juices and a wonderful avocado toast. What sets it apart is that everything is made with local ingredients, and the menu changes with the seasons.

3 The food was outstanding: the lemon cake alone is worth the visit. The staff were friendly and helpful, and nobody rushed us to leave. My one criticism would be the waiting time: at weekends, you may have to queue for twenty minutes. It is also slightly overpriced, especially the drinks.

4 All in all, I'd recommend it to anyone who enjoys good coffee and a relaxed atmosphere. It's perfect for a catch-up with friends or a quiet morning with a book. Just try to go on a weekday!

1 Introduce + attract the reader.
2 Description with useful detail.
3 Balanced evaluation: good and bad.
4 Clear recommendation + tip.

10 Before you hand it in

Revisa antes de entregar

- [ ] I described what I reviewed.
- [ ] My recommendation is clear.
- [ ] I included a title.
- [ ] No spoilers (for films/books).
- [ ] I gave positive AND negative points.
- [ ] I used precise adjectives, not just good/bad.
- [ ] I said who would enjoy it.
- [ ] I checked the word count.

11 Now you try

Ahora te toca a ti

B2 Review a series or film you have watched recently for an English-language website. Describe it and say whether you would recommend it.

Title

Introduction

Description

Evaluation

Recommendation

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