

7.2 Review — structure and recommendation

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 15 marks

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **structure and recommendation of a review** 结构与推荐 — ordering a review and ending it usefully.

You must be able to:

- structure a review so description, judgement and recommendation are distinct
- write a title that carries an opinion
- end with a recommendation aimed at a specific reader

1 Worked examples

■ The four-paragraph review

1. **Opening** — what it is, and a hook that hints at your view
2. **Description** — enough to orient, no spoilers
3. **Judgement** — what works, what does not, with reasons
4. **Recommendation** — who should try it, and who should not

■ A title that does work

- **Flat:** *A review of The Lighthouse Keeper*
- **Better:** *The Lighthouse Keeper — worth the slow start*

The second tells the reader your verdict and one reservation before they have read a word. That is what a title is for.

■ The recommendation

Name the reader:

I would recommend this to anyone who liked quiet, character-driven stories, and warn anyone hoping for a thriller that the first fifty pages are a test.

Two clauses. One says who will enjoy it, the other who will not. This is more persuasive than any amount of praise.

■ Register

A review sits between an article and a report: personal and readable, but not chatty. Use *I* freely — a review with no *I* in it is a description, not a review.

2 Practice

2.1 Write a title with a verdict in it for a review of: [2]

(a) a restaurant that is expensive but excellent

(b) a film with brilliant acting and a weak story

2.2 Write a two-clause recommendation for a long historical novel. [2]

2.3 Put these in the correct order for a review: judgement, recommendation, opening, description. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A new café has opened near your school. Write a review for the school magazine. Describe it, give your judgement with reasons, and end with a recommendation. Write about 180 words. [8]

3.2 Read this review ending and explain **two** weaknesses.

[2]

Overall it was very good and I liked it a lot. Everyone should watch it because it is amazing.

Solutions

2.1 (a) e.g. “The Blue Door — you will pay for it, and you will go back”. (b) e.g. “Brilliant people, nowhere to go”.

2.2 Any two-clause recommendation naming who would and would not enjoy it, e.g. “I would recommend it to readers who enjoy being immersed in a period rather than hurried through a plot, and I would warn anyone looking for a fast story that the first hundred pages are almost entirely setting.”

2.3 opening, description, judgement, recommendation.

3.1 Content (4): what the café is and where, description without a list, a judgement with reasons including at least one criticism, and a targeted recommendation. Language (4): appropriate register, precise vocabulary, varied sentences, roughly within the limit.

3.2 Any two: “very good” and “amazing” are empty evaluations with no reason attached; “everyone should watch it” targets nobody and cannot be true; the ending repeats the same judgement three times instead of adding anything; there is no reservation, so the praise is less credible.