## Language of Film Review

A review should include:

### An introduction
- Facts and background information concerning the film, such as
  - the title
  - the name of the artists or actors and actresses
  - the name of the director
  - the type of movie
  - the place where the story in the film happens (i.e. the setting)

### A main body
- Usually make up of 2 paragraphs:
  1. describing the main features of the plot (or summary of the story in the film)
  2. general comments and opinions on
     - the acting
     - the music
     - the photography
     - the colour/animation (if it is a cartoon)
     - the setting
     - the costumes
     - special effects (e.g. sci-fi movies)

### A conclusion
- Include a recommendation and reasons why you recommend the film

Reviews are normally found in newspapers, magazines or as part of a letter. The style used depends on the intended readers. Therefore, it can be semi-formal or formal. Present tenses are normally used. A variety of adjectives are used to make the review more interesting to readers. Formal film reviews should see a frequent use of passive voice. In a formal review, there should be no short forms of words.
Useful Language : vocabulary / phrases / expressions

**Background**
- The film is set in ...
- This fascinating film is...
- This film originates from a novel named ...
- The film is directed by...
- The film is based on a novel / a real life story of a...
- This is a comedy / horror film / love story / cartoon / science fiction movie / war film / Kung Fu film / an action film / a thriller / a spy movie /

**Main points of the plot**
- The plot focuses on...
- The story begins / concerns about / is about...
- The plot / story has a twist in ...
- The film reaches a climax when...
- The plot is absolutely thrilling / exciting / fascinating / touching / romantic / surprising...

**General comments and opinions**
- It is rather confusing / long / slow / boring
- The cast is excellent / weak / awful / unconvincing
- The script/ story is dull / clever / exciting
- It has a tragic / surprising / dramatic ending
- It does not come across as true / convincing
- The music / sound effect is dull / rich
- It is a catchy tune as backing music
- The theme song is powerful / weak / satisfying
- The colour in the photography is natural / spectacular / dull / dark and frightening
- The acting is true to life / powerful / natural

**Useful recommendations**
- Don’t miss it!
- It is well worth seeing!
- It will change the way you see ( e.g. young people) after watching this film.
- It is bound to be a box-office hit.
- I highly / thoroughly / strongly recommend it.
- It is highly entertaining.
- It is certainly at the top of my list of good movies.
- Fans of ... will no doubt be thrilled with this.
- It’s a must!
- I would not recommend this because...
- Wait until it comes out on video.
- It’s a boring movie. Don’t bother with this one.
- Only watch this film if you have plenty of time to spare.
Sample sentences
- ‘Star Wars’ has got spectacular special effects.
- It is worth watching for the dramatic scenery / acting of ... alone.
- Thanks to the special effects, the action is totally believable.
- The film has such a tragic ending that you will leave the cinema in tears.
- Most of the film is rather boring, but it did have an interesting twist in the end.
- ‘Elizabeth’ is a film based on the life of Queen Elizabeth I.
- The film ‘Gladiator’ has a large cast and spectacular costumes.
- The film is worth watching. It will touch the hearts of many.

Sample Film Review

‘Erin Brockovich’ is a true story about one woman’s courageous (adj) fight against the whole society. The film’s director is Steven Soderbergh, and the cast includes Julia Roberts as Erin Brockovich, a single mother of three, and Albert Finney as Ed Masry, her sympathetic (adj) lawyer and later her boss.

Set in a small California town, the story begins when, after a car accident leaves her with no money and no job, Erin begs Ed to let her work at his law firm. While working there, she accidentally (adv) comes across some medical files. Sensing that something is not right, she convinces Ed to let her look into the matter. Soon, Erin discovers that a power company has been polluting the city’s water supply, causing many of its residents to develop serious (adj) illness.

The film is full of emotional (adj) moments as Erin wins the trust (n.) of the suspicious (adj) but frightened (adj) local citizens. The actors, especially Julia Roberts, who won the Oscar award for Best Actress, give moving (adj.) and believable (adj) performances, and the directing is excellent (adj.).

This film is well worth (adj) seeing. It will touch your heart and make you cheer for ordinary (adj) people like Erin. Don’t miss it!

An introduction
Facts and background information concerning the film, such as the title, the name of the artists or actors and actresses, the name of the director, the type of movie the place where the story in the film happens (i.e. the setting)

Main body
1st – describing the main features of the plot (or summary of the story in the film)

2nd – general comments and opinions on the acting

A conclusion
Include a recommendation and reasons why you recommend the film