

- 5 Read the **WRITING FOCUS**. Find examples for the points below in the review on page 82.

WRITING FOCUS

A review of a book/film

Introduction

- Catch the reader's attention in the opening sentences.
- Indicate the aim and structure of your review (this could include the title or type of book/film).
- Start the comparison you will continue throughout the review (if you are reviewing two things, e.g. a book and its film adaptation).
Whereas ... is, ... is ...
Compare this to ... which is ...

Main paragraphs

- Describe the plot briefly (the main aim is evaluation).
Set in ... , the film/book tells the story of/focuses on ...
The opening chapter sets the scene.
- Give a detailed evaluation. (It may be positive or negative, or it may balance both positive and negative points.)
A possible criticism is that ...
Although ...
However, ...
Admittedly, ...
Even so, ...

Conclusion

- State your overall impression.
All in all, ...
In short, ...
- Express a recommendation (for or against) with your reasons.
If you like ... , you have to ...
I can't recommend ... highly enough ...

- 6 In pairs, put the following paragraphs from a book review in a logical order. Use the **WRITING FOCUS** to help you.

- The first book in Veronica Roth's bestselling trilogy, the novel is set in a post-apocalyptic world where society is divided into five factions each based on one core value. Teenager Beatrice (Tris) does not fit into any group and so is labelled as 'Divergent'. Tris learns what it means to live a life of solitude.
- In short, this was a heart-pounding and dramatic debut. *Divergent* is a haunting young-adult novel that will leave you craving more. I couldn't stop reading. You shouldn't stop either!
- For someone who reads as many dystopian future novels as I do, this novel had a lot to live up to. However, I was absolutely hooked from the start. *Divergent* has everything a dystopian novel needs: a feisty heroine, love interests and survival in a harsh world.
- Roth maintains a gripping pace throughout the book, with plot twists around every corner. Tris is a genuinely convincing heroine. However, be warned as there is a lot of bloodshed, which is rather shocking. The book has been labelled 'the next *Hunger Games*' and while there are similarities, the overall storyline is different and completely original.

- 7 Read the **LANGUAGE FOCUS** and answer the questions in your notebook.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Intensifying adverbs

You can make your review more interesting by using adverbs to intensify adjectives. However, not all adverbs and adjectives collocate.

- **very** cannot usually collocate with strong adjectives to make them stronger:
absolutely/truly spectacular NOT ~~*very spectacular*~~
- **really/extremely** can collocate with both strong and weak adjectives:
really good/fantastic, extremely bad/wicked
- **deeply/profoundly** usually collocate with adjectives describing emotions:
profoundly moving, deeply disturbing
- **hugely/vastly** intensify the extent or amount of something:
hugely successful, vastly overrated
- **quite** means a *bit/a little* when used with a weak adjective:
The film was quite interesting.
but it means *extremely* when used with a strong adjective:
The film was quite compelling.
- **rather/pretty** mean to a *certain or significant degree*:
The film was rather good. He's a pretty good actor.
- negative adverbs collocate with negative adjectives:
painfully slow, tediously repetitive

- 1 Which of the adverbs can be replaced by *very*?

absolutely amazing highly entertaining
really terrifying refreshingly different
totally dull utterly spine-chilling

- 2 What does *quite* mean in each of the pairs?

- quite frightening/quite terrifying
- quite surprising/quite shocking

- 8 Look through the reviews in Exercises 4 and 6. Find more adverb–adjective combinations.

- 9 In pairs, choose the appropriate adverbs. Use the **LANGUAGE FOCUS** and the reviews to help you.

- While it doesn't compare with the original version, the latest *Karate Kid* is *surprisingly* / *highly* good.
- True, the plot is *pretty* / *deeply* far-fetched and predictable, but *Interstellar* is a *very* / *totally* riveting balance of visual spectacle and thought-provoking ideas.
- Weightless* is a *rather* / *truly* amazing read. It's best suited to older readers as it tackles some *refreshingly* / *deeply* distressing content.
- The best thing about *The Dream Thieves* is the character development: the characters are all *boringly* / *convincingly* real and *vastly* / *deeply* different from each other.

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

- 10  In your notebook, complete the writing task in Exercise 4. Use the **WRITING FOCUS** and **LANGUAGE FOCUS** to help you. Write a composition following the conventions of the genre indicated in the topic. Use between 300 and 350 words.