

ESOL Higher Writing: Everyday Life

Restaurant Review

Overall, this reads like an authentic restaurant review, for which the candidate should be given credit. Vocabulary is appropriate to the task, with some more advanced items included. Spelling, punctuation and layout are generally good. However, some uncertainty over sentence structure, together with grammar that can fall short of optimum prevent it from entering the top band. **Mark awarded 11.**

The task is achieved although would have been improved if the candidate had managed to mention the previous reviews and contradict or show disagreement. The candidate refers to the restaurant's five-star rating then deals with the four bulleted points of atmosphere, staff, menu and food in turn, giving an opinion on each and including some original material. Not everything written is negative; there are some aspects where the restaurant is given credit and result is a review that reads naturally. After all, it is unlikely that a totally awful restaurant would have gained a five-star review in the first place – unless this was by friend of the manager.

The analysis of each aspect is detailed and comes across as realistic. "From dish descriptions it was obvious that they were really plain and simple." (paragraph 3) and attention is paid to practical details: "not any vegan options" and "for vegetarians only a plain salad...". In general, the writing is coherent and cohesive with a positive impact on the reader. Paragraphs are consistent and layout is appropriate.

There are no spelling mistakes, with the exception of "esteticly" for aesthetically in paragraph 2. Given the abstruse nature of the word, this is forgivable, and forms part of a wide range of vocabulary used by the candidate. The text is slightly short but not unduly so.

Grammar shows some advanced touches, such as "given that ..." in paragraphs 1 and 5 and when asked about a dish "they take their time while checking on it" in paragraph 4. However, this has to be offset against some uncertainty about time and tense, such as take rather than took in the previous quote and "The menu has not had a big selection" in paragraph 3. Punctuation is mostly accurate but paragraph 4 shows uncertainty over sentences.