Part 2: Review

See pages 84–85 for work on reviews.

Question 1

You recently saw this notice in an English-language magazine.

Reviews needed!
We are hoping to add a travel section to our college magazine, designed by the students. We would like you to write a review about a town or a city anywhere in the world that you have recently visited. The best review will win a mini-break in London! Describe the place you visited, and say why you liked it.

Write your review. (Write your answer in 120–180 words in an appropriate style.)

Model answer

Seville, a wonderful city!

What a place! I recently spent a long weekend in Seville in the south of Spain. It was the best mini-break I’ve ever had!

The best thing about Seville is that it’s compact so many of its main tourist attractions are close to the city centre. I headed straight to the world-famous cathedral and then on to one of the many art galleries. I discovered so many famous monuments and museums as I walked around in the glorious sunshine.

I loved Seville because it was very relaxing and there was plenty to do for free. When I was hungry I had a choice from hundreds of cafés or restaurants, all at good prices, serving delicious Spanish food. On my second evening there, I went to a fantastic flamenco dancing show.

So, with all its attractions I recommend that you go to Seville! In the end, it’s the people who make a place, and the locals certainly made me feel welcome!

(161 words)

Question 2

You recently saw this notice in an English-language magazine.

Reviews needed!
We are hoping to create new section in our newspaper about dining out. To help us some ideas for this, can you write a review of a restaurant you have visited recently? Describe the type of restaurant and the food you tried, and say if you would recommend it to others.

Write your review. (Write your answer in 120–180 words in an appropriate style.)
A Work in pairs. Have you ever been to Fez in Morocco? If not, say what you imagine it to be like. Then read the guidebook to see if your ideas were correct. If you have been there, read the guidebook and say whether it describes Fez as you know it.

Fez, founded around 790 AD, is located in the geographical heart of Morocco and is also considered by many to be the cultural heart of the country. The main attraction in this ancient settlement is the medieval medina, the old village at the centre of the city. It has been inhabited since the 10th century and still bustles with crowds of people involved in everything from the spice trade to selling street food. The medina of Fez is an important archeological site and is the most complete medieval town still in existence. In fact, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Fez medina forms a working model of daily life from when civilisation was still young.

A guided tour is the easiest way to tackle Fez, but the brave can take on the narrow alleys, risking getting lost and having to haggle with a local to be guided back out. The noise of buying and selling is often interrupted by the cries of mule drivers pushing heavy carts that warm shoppers to get out of the way. The most stunning views over the ancient walled city are from the ruin of Merenid tombs on a hilltop. From here, it is possible to see some of the magnificent palaces, green-roofed holy places and the Karawine Mosque. Fez is secretive and shadowy, but captivating and colourful at the same time. It is an important part of world heritage, as well as of the national heritage of Morocco.

B VOCABULARY: DESCRIBING PLACES
Match the nouns in bold in the text with the definitions (1–8).

1 the things you can see from a particular place: __________
2 the art, buildings or traditions that are important to a country and its history: __________
3 the central part of something: __________
4 a place where something interesting happened; an important building or other construction: __________
5 the activity of buying and selling things: __________
6 a very small town: __________
7 a place where people have come to live: __________
8 small passages between buildings: __________

C VOCABULARY: DESCRIBING PLACES
Complete the noun collocations (1–8) with words from Exercise B. Look back at the text in Exercise A to check. There may be more than one correct answer.

1 old / historic / tiny __________
2 coastal / mountain / ancient __________
3 narrow / dark / old __________
4 religious / mystical / archeological __________
5 waterfront / rooftop / stunning __________
6 religious / cultural / national / world __________
7 spice / golfe / cloth __________
8 cultural / commercial / geographical __________

D Work in groups. Take turns describing a city you know for your group to guess.
Use words and phrases from Exercise C where possible.

A: This is an ancient city on an island near here.
B: Is it ...?
A: No. It's a coastal city, and it has an important archeological site.