

## Downloadable resource 10:

# School text book review

This resource corresponds to **Chapter 19: Personalisation**.

## Content

This resource contains a number of criteria which you can use to guide your students in their writing of a school text book review. The schematic diagram contains simplified prompts. Beneath that, the prompts are given in full question forms.

## Rationale

During their journeys as students of English, our learners will be asked to write various reviews. By reviewing something they experience on a daily basis they can:

- ▶ practise language that is personally relevant to them
- ▶ work on an area where they have plenty to say and, hopefully, not struggle for ideas
- ▶ voice their opinions, in a constructively critical way, on things that affect them.

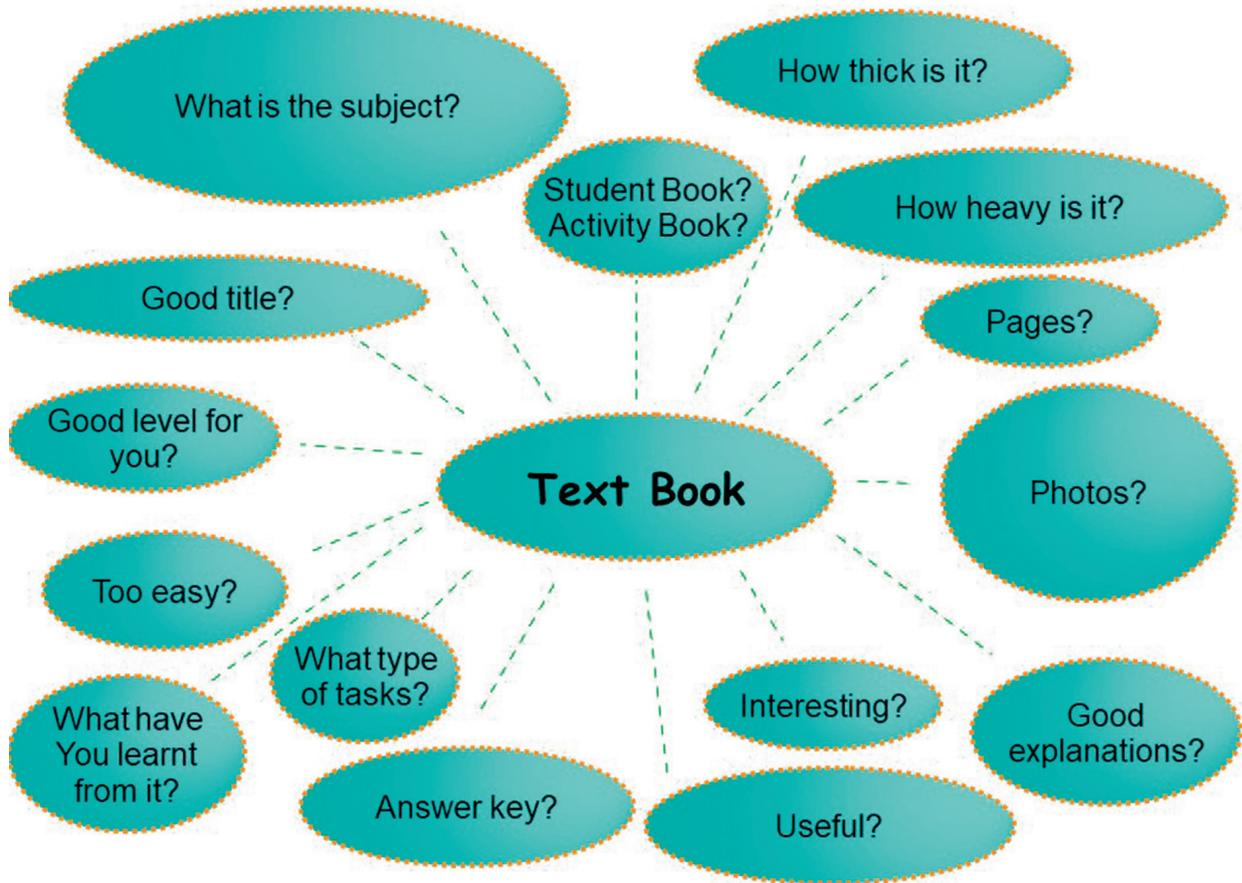
## Procedure

While the end product of a review is traditionally a written assignment, this set of criteria and schema also lends itself to a speaking activity which can act as a primer for the writing.

Students form into groups of 4-6. Each student takes it in turn to be interviewed by all the others together. That student gives the name of a text book they would like to talk about and answers questions one by one from the rest of the group, who work their way round the diagram.

To set this up, the teacher can model the activity with the whole class by projecting or distributing the prompts/diagram then assuming the role of the interviewed student, taking questions from the class on a book he or she has chosen. This will also allow the teacher to explain any questions or prompts that the students do not understand as you go.

- What subject is the book you are going to talk about for?
- Is it a student book or activity book?
- How thick is the book?
- How heavy is it?
- How many pages has it got (approximately or precisely)?
- Are there any photographs in it? Are they interesting? What are they of?
- Is the book interesting in general?
- Does it give clear explanations?



- Is it useful? Has it helped you? How?
- What type of tasks or exercises does it have in it?
- Is there an answer key at the back?
- What have you learnt from it?
- Are any parts of the book too easy (or too difficult)?
- Is the book at a good level for you personally?
- What is the title of the book and do you think it is a good title?