Film Studies Film Review

As you have just finished watching a key film for course, it's a good idea to consolidate the experience in writing. Use the points below to inform your response.

A film review should have a number of purposes:

- To **inform**. The review needs to tell people who is in the film, who it is by, other films by the director and any wards it has won.
- To **describe**. The review should sum up the story, describe key characters and some of the action. Do not write more than 150 words of a story outline. Highlight and discuss *themes* of the narrative rather than a blow by blow account.
- To **advise**. Finally, the review should tell the reader whether or not to go and see the film.
- To **analyse**. A good review gives an opinion on whether the film is good or not and why.

Checklist. Refer to **all** of the following *Core Study Areas:*	
Ensure that you use **at least** 10 key terms. <mark>Highlight</mark> them so that the are easily recognised.	
Give specific examples of how the **key elements of film form** are used to communicate.	
Cinematography (camera and lighting)	
Mise-en-scene	
Editing	
Sound	
Performance	
Meaning and Response	
Representations You can refer to groups or single characters. Consider looking for representations of gender, ethnicity and age etc. Are characters stereotypical or individual? How is the representation constructed? It is always important to remember that representation includes what is left out of a film, as well as what it contains.	
Aesthetics What is the the overall look and mood of the film. How the key elements of film form work together to create the aesthetic. For stills analysis - use THESE questions	
Personal Response What did you think of the film. How did it relate to your preconceptions? Did the plot make sense to you? Did you relate to any of the characters in any way?	
The contexts of film	
What social, cultural, political (either current or historical) or institutional pressures have shaped the film? Often the politics, attitudes or development of technology will be reflected in some way from the screen.	