**TASK:**

You will write a detailed review of the 2004 version of *The Merchant of Venice* (Sony Pictures, Michael Radform – Director). Your review will include detailed information of the film, a comparison with the play’s text, commentary on the acting, and your own opinion of the film.

Use the guide below and the Success Criteria to help you write a successful and   
informative Movie Review.

**HOW TO WRITE A FILM REVIEW:**

1. ***Introduction*** - In the opening of your review, provide some basic information about the film. You may include film’s name, year, director, screenwriter, and major actors. - Your introduction, which may be longer than one paragraph, should also begin to evaluate the film, and it should allude to the central concept of the review. A film review does not have to contain a thesis or main claim, but it should focus on a central analysis and assessment.
2. ***Plot Summary*** - Remember that many readers of film reviews have not yet seen the film. While you want to provide some plot summary, keep this brief and avoid specific details that would spoil the viewing for others. Since we have all read the play, you can give away some spoilers.
3. ***Description*** - While the plot summary will give the reader a general sense of what the film is about, also include a more detailed description of your particular cinematic experience watching the film. This may include your personal impression of what the film looks, feels, and sounds like. In other words, what stands out in your mind when you think about this particular film? Be sure to provide examples. What parts evoked feeling? What about characters? Also consider costumes, the setting, and anything else you pick up through your senses.
4. ***Analysis*** - In order to explain your impression of the film, consider how well the film utilizes formal techniques and thematic content. How do the film’s formal techniques (such as cinematography, editing, overall design, lighting, sound, genre, or narrative) affect the way the film looks, feels, and sounds to you? How does the thematic content (such as history, race, gender, sexuality, class, or the environment) affect your experience and interpretation? Also, do the formal techniques work to forward the thematic content?
5. ***Conclusion/Evaluation*** - The closing of your film review should remind the reader of your general thoughts and impressions of the film. You may also implicitly or explicitly state whether or not you recommend the film. Make sure to remind the reader of why the film is or is not worth seeing

**SUCCESS CRITERIA:**

[ ] I will demonstrate knowledge of the *Merchant of Venice* play.

[ ] I will demonstrate knowledge of the *Merchant of Venice* film.

[ ] I will ensure my review includes all necessary parts of an effective film review

[ ] I will ensure that clear examples and explanations are included in my review

[ ] I will organize my review into different sections with clear subtitles

[ ] I will edit for spelling, grammar, and clear ideas

[ ] I will include the required film information, (e.g. title, director, length, etc.) – See [www.imdb.org](http://www.imdb.org)

**MARKING:**

Knowledge of *Merchant of Venice*0 2 4 6 8 10

Information in Review 0 2 4 6 8 10

Spelling/Grammar/Clear Ideas 0 2 4 6 8 10

**TOTAL MARKS: /30**

