

LAYERED

PERSONALISED SKINCARE REVIEW

Skincare Clarity Review

Prepared for Alex Morgan (fictional)

Primary concern	Dry or dehydrated skin
Also considered	Dullness

Illustrative example - fictional customer.

Your own review will reflect your products, priorities and circumstances.

29 October 2026 | Illustrative example
United Kingdom

Review Summary

Your question is whether two hydrating serums earn their place. The clearest first step is to remove one overlapping layer.

Your starting point

Your age	36
Current comfort	Comfortable; no irritation
Your preference	Few steps; lighter texture
Spending preference	Use what you own

What you want this review to solve

- Decide whether both serums are needed.
- Reduce morning steps without losing comfort.
- Keep useful products and avoid extra purchases.

Layered's read on the routine

You already have cleansing, moisturising and daytime sun protection in place. You told us all five products feel comfortable; this review does not identify a product reaction.

Your two The Ordinary Hyaluronic Acid 2% + B5 serums serve overlapping hydration roles. Keep the with-Ceramides version you prefer and pause the Original Formulation as your only initial change.

Recommended direction

Keep the useful core. Pause the original serum; keep the preferred serum at its existing morning frequency.

Certainty note

Illustrative example - fictional customer and circumstances. Real product roles were checked against manufacturer pages on 29 October 2026; comfort is part of the fictional record. This is not a compatibility guarantee or advice for every reader.

Shelf Analysis

Both HA + B5 serums below are from The Ordinary. Original and with Ceramides identify the two different versions.

Use these as steady anchors

Cleanse and moisturise

CeraVe Hydrating Cleanser each evening; CeraVe Moisturising Lotion morning and evening.

Keep daytime protection

Altruist Dermatologist Sunscreen SPF50 stays last in your morning skincare. Follow its label.

PRODUCT / ROLE	CURRENT USE	STATUS	CLARITY ASSESSMENT
CeraVe Cleanser	Every evening	Comfortable	Your rinse-off cleansing anchor.
HA + B5: original	Every morning	Comfortable	Overlaps with your preferred serum.
HA + B5: ceramides	Every morning	Preferred texture	Keep while testing one fewer layer.
CeraVe Lotion	Morning + evening	Comfortable	Your existing moisturiser.
Altruist SPF50	Every morning	Comfortable	Your daytime protection step.

What stands out

The overlap is between two optional serum layers, not between sunscreen and moisturiser. Pausing one serum tests a simpler routine; it does not mean that product is unsafe.

Product Decisions

Make one preference-led reduction. No new purchase or exfoliating treatment is needed to answer your main question.

Pause one overlapping serum before considering any further change.

KEEP

CeraVe Hydrating Cleanser, CeraVe Moisturising Lotion and Altruist SPF50: keep the established cleansing, moisture and protection roles.

The Ordinary HA + B5 with Ceramides: keep at your current morning frequency while testing the reduction. Your preference, not a claim of universal superiority, guides this choice.

PAUSE

The Ordinary HA + B5 Original Formulation: leave out this overlapping morning layer for one to two weeks. This is a simplification test, not a finding of harm or incompatibility.

REASSESS

Review comfort, morning effort and the finish under sunscreen after the observation period. If comfort changes, reassess before making another change.

CONSIDER LATER

Only if a clear unmet need remains, consider a separate future adjustment. Dullness alone does not justify adding acids, a second serum or a new moisturiser now.

Your Simplified Shelf

Keep the preferred serum while you test removing the original. Leave your cleansing, moisturiser and sunscreen habits unchanged.

Morning		Evening	
FIRST	Your usual rinse Keep your comfortable lukewarm-water rinse.	CLEANSE	CeraVe Cleanser Use your existing evening cleansing step. Rinse as directed.
HYDRATE	HA + B5 with Ceramides Keep once each morning, before lotion. Follow the product directions.	MOISTURISE	CeraVe Lotion Keep your usual comfortable evening application.
MOISTURISE	CeraVe Lotion Keep your existing morning application.	The original HA + B5 serum stays paused. Do not move it to evenings as an extra step.	
PROTECT	Altruist SPF50 Last skincare step. Apply and reapply according to the label.		

Before buying more

Your core roles are present and you report comfort. More hydration products would add overlap before you know whether fewer layers already suit you.

The priority order

Now: Pause the Original Formulation serum only.

Next: Keep the other steps steady for one to two weeks and notice comfort and ease.

Later: Reassess only if a specific need remains. A second serum or exfoliant is not an automatic next step.

Duplication & Missing Functions

Overlapping functions can be useful alternatives. They do not always need to be separate layers in the same routine.

Two similar hydration roles

Both HA + B5 versions support hydration. You have not described a separate need that requires both each morning.

Your preference decides

The with-Ceramides version feels lighter to you. Keep it steady while pausing the original, rather than changing both together.

Moisturiser stays

CeraVe Lotion remains your moisturising step. A serum does not automatically replace its role.

Protection stays

Altruist SPF50 has a distinct protection role. Do not remove or dilute it to reduce the number of layers.

Your main routine gap

There is no clear missing core product role. The practical gap is knowing which optional layer you can leave out while keeping your skin comfortable.

What this means for future purchases

The highest-value focus is moisture and comfort using what you own. If dryness becomes persistent or troublesome, reassess the moisturiser and seek appropriate support before adding more serums.

Buy for a demonstrated need, not to complete a longer routine.

What To Do Next

Start with a simple observation period. You do not need named treatment days or a new active ingredient.

Example weekly structure

Across the first week, keep the same morning steps and two-step evening. The original serum remains paused; no scheduled active nights are needed.

EVERY MORNING Preferred serum, lotion, SPF	EVERY EVENING Cleanser, then lotion	THROUGHOUT THE WEEK Original serum stays paused
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Your next decisions

Use these answers to keep the first change clear.

1. What changes first?

Pause only the original HA + B5 serum.

2. Which serum remains?

The with-Ceramides version, once each morning.

3. Do I add an exfoliant?

No. Observe the simpler routine first.

4. Do I buy anything?

No new purchase is needed for this step.

5. Does the original cause harm?

That is not established; you reported comfort.

6. How long do I observe?

One to two weeks, without changing other steps.

7. What do I notice?

Comfort, ease and the finish under sunscreen.

8. What if symptoms develop?

Follow product warnings and seek support if needed.

Final Guidance

The most useful routine is usually the one you can repeat consistently.

Your clearest version

- Pause the Original Formulation serum as your single first change.
- Keep the with-Ceramides serum once each morning for now.
- Retain the CeraVe cleanser and lotion, plus Altruist SPF50.
- Compare comfort and ease after one to two weeks; no result is promised.
- No new product or exfoliant is needed for this first step.
- This fictional example illustrates the format. Your own review depends on your information.

Evidence note

Layered uses peer-reviewed dermatology and skincare research together with patient and clinical guidance from sources including the NHS, NICE, the British Association of Dermatologists and the American Academy of Dermatology. This review translates that evidence into practical routine structure.

Professional support

This review is educational routine guidance. It does not diagnose, prescribe, assess photographs, promise a particular result, or replace professional medical advice. Do not use it to start, stop or alter prescribed medication. If you develop severe, painful, rapidly worsening, infected or unexplained symptoms, seek appropriate professional support.

Bespoke Routine Review

Want fuller product-by-product reasoning and a phased plan?

A Bespoke Routine Review adds more detailed AM/PM guidance, a weekly structure and longer-term adjustment planning.

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Where precise formulation information was not supplied, this review avoids assuming ingredient strengths, delivery systems or compatibility beyond the routine information you provided. Product labels and professional advice take priority where relevant.