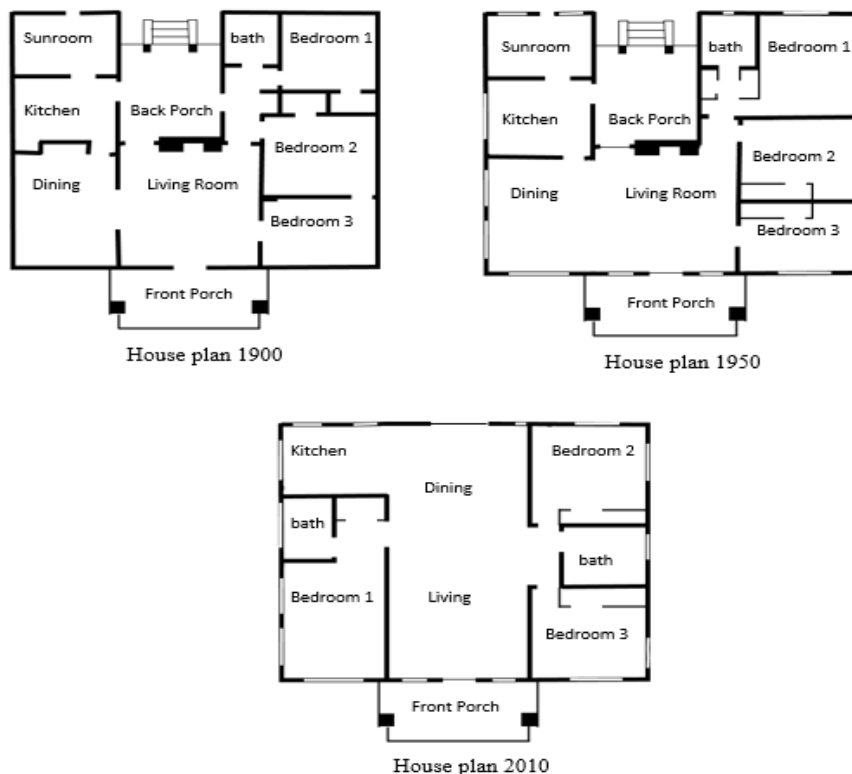


Academic Task 1

The changes made to a house over the last century is shown in the diagram.



Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words

The diagram illustrates alterations made over the last 100 years in a family home. Generally, the trend is towards a simpler floor plan.

The floorplan in 1900 shows a house of various distinct rooms. The entry is via a front porch, directly into the living area, and through to a back porch. To the right hand side are all the bedrooms, and the house's only bathroom. On the left hand side is the dining room, kitchen and a small sunroom.

By 1950 the living and dining areas have been opened up, and the closets in the bedrooms have been moved, with one being added into bedroom three. The bath is now part of the first bedroom but still the only bath in the whole house. Overall not a lot has changed.

However, by 2010 only the front porch remains the same as in previous eras. The sunroom is now the kitchen, the back porch the dining area and only the living room is in its original position in the new open plan arrangement. The old dining area is now a master bedroom with ensuite, allowing for 2 larger bedrooms and a shared bathroom on the right hand side of the house.

Academic task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In recent times, traditional cultures have been slowly disappearing as lifestyles in the world's nations become more similar to one another.

What reasons could be driving this trend and is this a positive or negative development?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

With globalisation and increasing technology civilisations worldwide are becoming increasingly alike. While maintaining a country's inherent culture is important, commonalities are also and lessen global tensions via travel, education and trade which I see as a positive trend.

Firstly, nowadays foreign travel is ubiquitous, and tourism has become one of the mainstays of many a developing nation's economy. Although the destination's unique culture is the drawcard, these nations also understand that tourists want a secure environment, and this is facilitated by the globalisation of hotel chains and restaurants like McDonalds which make the newcomer feel less uncomfortable. The ability to communicate using translation tools and online travel guides also helps make the individual learn more about the local culture and increases tolerance of different cultures.

Education has been another area where countries have become comparable, most systems of education are analogous which enables the movement of students from one country to another with ease. Via obtaining an education overseas, an appreciation of the host country's culture is gained, and the student's culture often imparted to the locals, especially if there is a large influx of undergraduates from one country or place.

At the level of countries, trade is important. In order to facilitate trade, countries tend to cooperate rather than resort to hostilities which is why there are now global standards for manufacturing and logistics. Also, as many companies are now multinational in nature, people are able to be transferred across the globe and still understand the workplace they end up in while being immersed in a new culture.

In conclusion, although it seems counterintuitive, by becoming more similar, people and governments actually become more tolerant of differences, resulting in a more peaceful and stable society which is of benefit to all.