

Task 1

You should spend 20 minutes on the following task.

There are insufficient sports facilities in your hometown for people your age. Write a letter to the local council. In your letter

- Tell them where you live
- Describe the problem
- Explain what you would like them to do about it

Write at least 150 words.

Model Answer

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to about the current lack of sporting facilities for young adults in Somecity.

Although there are many options available for children and retired people in our city, if you are a young working adult there is a dearth of facilities, and those that are available are only open during office hours when we are unable to partake of them. For example, while the council does have tennis courts, they have no lights so cannot be used at night, and during the weekend they are only open for competitions. This severely limits who can use the courts.

I would request that the council invest in upgrading the current facilities by installing lights so that they can be used at night and by investing in building some multipurpose courts so that we can play games such as badminton, basketball, futsal, and netball on these courts. Some of the monies to pay for these initiatives could be raised through fundraising and I expect the rest would soon be recouped from the fees charged by the council for the use of the facilities.

I look forward to hearing from you soon about these suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith

Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that restoration of old buildings costs too much; we should demolish them and build new ones instead.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer

Although it appears more sensible to demolish old buildings and erect new ones, retaining old historically significant buildings is important for several reasons and need not be a financial burden to the country.

Keeping and restoring old buildings is important to give knowledge of the past and important historical events to future generations. These buildings immerse visitors in history in a way that is not attainable from books or videos. The sheer beauty, of what are often the last example of their kind, is another compelling reason for retaining and restoring these buildings. Conservation also makes financial sense as when the site is fully restored, it can earn income for the country from school tours and tourists, often quite substantial amounts.

However, modern cities simply do not have the land available to preserve all historical buildings. One way around this issue is to repurpose the old building while retaining the façade, and often much of the original layout. In this way the sense of history given by the streetscape is maintained while not losing any modern functionality. For example, old churches, hospitals, and factories have been successfully converted into schools, office buildings, shopping centres and apartments. Plaques explaining the history of the buildings are erected on the site as well. In this way, the built heritage is maintained, and the government can earn income from the sale of the properties while not incurring any expenses.

While it would be nice to conserve and restore all our built heritage sites, this is not feasible in a modern city. Instead, refurbishing only the most important and recycling or demolishing the rest is a more realistic option.