

IELTS Task 2 Sample:

Too much money is spent on repairing old buildings. Instead of repairing old buildings, the money should be spent on knocking them down and building new ones. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Sample 2 (Band 8-9)

The struggle between modernity and tradition always leads to formation of two distinct and opposite groups, namely contemporary art admirers and the so-called old-fashioned conventionalists; hardly ever have debaters adopted a middle-ground position, but this is what exactly I would advocate, for several reasons such as the value of conservation, the vision of futuristic dynamism, and the upholding of equilibrium.

Conservation of vintage buildings has long been practiced in certain parts of the world that attract an enormous number of visitors, and hence, a significant amount of capital, year in year out. Consider London; each year, a few million tourists travel to England to just lay an eye on Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace or Big Ben. During their voyage, tourists merrily spend exorbitant amounts of money on their stay and lavish themselves with expensive food and souvenirs before they leave for home. And of course, they will remember the visit for years to come, and share their memories and photographs with their friends, children, and even grandchildren over and over. The earnings from such visits remarkably outweigh the maintenance costs of these edifices, even though it is sometimes the façade that would be conserved.

However, modern architecture, as a symbol of the City's zestfulness, is considered a mandatory provision for the inclusion of the City in the category of nobility; a sense of civilisation is induced with even a brief glance over the modern high rises or unique artistic structures throughout the City. Sailing through London and browsing the Thames's embankment, one would not fail but to notice 'Gherkin' in relatively close proximity to St Paul's dome; despite the English taste for conservation, this amalgamate of modern and traditional architecture reflects the aspirations of the nation to boast of their futuristic trends, as well as their commitment to maintaining their traditional image.

In the meantime, the composed vision of promoting a shared concept that encourages and respects all people, with all different tastes, may sound like Utopia, but it does indeed exist in the City, where diversity speaks the loudest and egalitarian values dominate the majority. All dwellers in the City observe the same idea that conservation of the traditional treasures would not essentially antagonise modernity or undermine progress, but in fact, it will help to promote and uphold a unique identity. That is why there are so many visitors to London.

In short, I would, by no means, favour a vernacular architecture, to transfer a sense of homely simplicity; nor would I commend post-modern installations attempting to induce a sense of sophistication. Different nations have, nowadays, matured enough to decide how they wish to pursue their lives, and it is probably more prudent to leave them to make their own choice. In my opinion, like it or not, we shall see both traditional and modern buildings for years to come; so, I would say, "let it be!"