



Try to apply what you have learnt to the mock writing topic below.

As opposed to the rapid modernisation of urban areas, some countries are beginning to consider the long-term societal benefits of heritage preservation and are willing to put more resources into it. As a student reporter, you are preparing for the upcoming school magazine:

- Write an argumentative essay
- Argue either for OR against the need to preserve heritage in Hong Kong

The Silent Crisis: Hong Kong's Vanishing Heritage

Hong Kong, a city celebrated for its vibrant modernity, often overlooks a silent crisis: the gradual erosion of our cultural heritage. *Hong Kong is always celebrated and remembered for its beautiful skyscrapers; however, what I want to shed light on in this writing is its less glamorous side. I can make a direct comparison here by using inversion.* Beneath the gleaming facades of skyscrapers lie remnants of a

I am really trying to evoke a sense of responsibility among Hong Kong citizens with these rhetorical questions. rich past, slowly fading from memory. How can we, as citizens of this dynamic metropolis, stand

idly by as the tangible links to our history crumble around us? Isn't it our duty to preserve these irreplaceable treasures for future generations?

Hong Kong economic prowess is impressive but it should not make up the entirety of our identity. Let me explain... What truly defines a city's identity is not just its economic prowess, but also its cultural heritage.

These three elements are crucial to maintaining a sense of belonging. It is through the preservation of historic buildings, traditional customs, and local dialects that

we maintain a sense of belonging and continuity. Had our city planners prioritised heritage conservation, perhaps our urban landscape would be a more harmonious blend of old and new.

Heritage preservation is important for multiple reasons. Hear me out... Not only do historic buildings offer a glimpse into our past, but they also contribute to the unique character and charm of our city. Imagine strolling through streets lined with beautifully restored historical architecture, interspersed with vibrant local markets and traditional tea houses.

→ Haven't I successfully convinced you on my point now that I have painted a full picture of what Hong Kong could look like?
Isn't this a vision worth striving for?

→ I have identified one main reason. Let me tell you all about it.
What often hinders effective heritage conservation is the perceived conflict between development

and preservation. It is argued that preserving old buildings stifles progress and economic growth.

→ I believe there's a way to have the ~~both~~ best of both worlds. This is how...
However, this is a false dichotomy. It is through sensitive urban planning and adaptive reuse

of historic structures that we can achieve both progress and preservation. So compelling are

→ There are so many successful renewal projects around the world! This is not just a wild dream!
the examples of successful heritage conservation projects worldwide that many cities are now

integrating heritage into their urban development strategies. The economic benefits of heritage

tourism are undeniable, attracting visitors from all corners of the globe and generating revenue for

→ There is great potential to boost tourism, wouldn't you agree?
local communities. Who wouldn't want to explore the hidden gems of our city's past?

→ Yes, I have come up with the solution but it is the government that needs to take action. By comparison, my role here is very minor. Let's put the focus on the government instead.

The government's role in heritage conservation cannot be overstated. More resources should

→ You know who I am referring to... I should avoid repeating myself.
be allocated to the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings. Clearer regulations and

stricter enforcement are needed to prevent illegal demolition and unauthorized alterations.

Public awareness campaigns should be launched to educate citizens about the importance of

heritage conservation, fostering a sense of shared responsibility. Imagine schools incorporating

local history and heritage into their curriculum, inspiring a new generation of heritage advocates.

Wouldn't such initiatives contribute to a greater appreciation of our city's rich cultural tapestry?

In conclusion, the preservation of Hong Kong's cultural heritage is not merely a matter of

nostalgia, but a crucial investment in our city's future. It is a testament to our identity, a source of

→ I'm telling you, this is URGENT!
inspiration, and a vital component of our sustainable development. Never before has the need for

proactive heritage conservation been more urgent. Let us not allow the silent crisis to continue.

→ I don't know about you but the answer is very clear to me...
The time to act is now, isn't it?