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Conserving and revitalising heritage DSE

Level: 
Level: 



Let's think!

1. What are some of the top historical buildings in Hong Kong?
2. Why are historical buildings important?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



Tai Kwun:

The big station is open as a living heritage

1 Tai Kwun, the Cantonese equivalent of 'big station', is the colloquial name used to refer to the former police headquarters. There are 16 structures within the Tai Kwun compound built between 1841 and 1937. They include the former Central Police Station, the former Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison. 5

2 In 2004, the Central Police Station was closed permanently. Two years later, Victoria Prison was shut down as well. After emptying the entire site, the government decided to revitalise the whole area. The project cost over HKD3.7 billion, making it one of the largest and most expensive revitalisation projects in Hong Kong. It involved restoring the walls and floors, upgrading the structures to accommodate new functions, and constructing two new buildings. However, the Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts faced massive delays and was eventually opened to the public with an inaugural exhibition titled '100 Faces of Tai Kwun' in 2018. 10

3 Visiting Tai Kwun is a way to learn about the heritage of Hong Kong. There are guided tours that explore the compound's history. In addition, there is a variety of cultural and artistic programmes, such as visual art exhibitions, music and theatre performances, film screenings, educational talks, and free lunchtime concerts. The compound also has shops, bars, and restaurants. 15

4 In spite of all the difficulties experienced during the revitalisation, Tai Kwun has garnered a great deal of international recognition. For example, it received the Award of Excellence in the 2019 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. It is one of the most prestigious awards in the field of conservation. 20

Comments:

Nelson 15 Apr 20XX 20:27

Too many beautiful old buildings in Hong Kong have been torn down already. Revitalising them allows our cultural heritage to be passed on to future generations. 25

7 Replies 150 Likes

Leo 15 Apr 20XX 20:56

Preserving old buildings and renovating them cost a significant amount of money. These projects often exceed their budgets because it requires special care and attention to preserve the features of the original structure. 30

4 Replies 113 Likes

Alice 15 Apr 20XX 21:03

Revitalising historical buildings is far more environmentally friendly than tearing them down and erecting new ones. 35

2 replies 142 Likes

Blake 15 Apr 20XX 22:13

I'm not sure if it's worth all the effort. Many historical buildings, such as Murray House and 1881 Heritage, have been turned into upscale restaurants, designer shops, or art galleries. Certain parts of the buildings are now out of reach of ordinary people. 40

0 Replies 120 Likes

Cindy 16 Apr 20XX 08:03

Hong Kong buildings are too homogeneous. Skyscrapers and shopping malls all look similar to each other. In fact, the presence of buildings from different eras, each with their own unique architectural styles, would make this city a better place to live. 45

0 Replies 65 Likes

Leslie 16 Apr 20XX 09:23

Tai Kwun is located in the Central district, where land is extremely expensive. It is more cost-effective to build commercial or residential buildings on the site. 50

5 Replies 153 Likes

~500 words

Looking into Grammar

We use the dummy subject **There** to indicate the existence of someone or something. It should be followed by the verb **to be** rather than the verb **to have**.

✓ **There are** (✗ have) 16 structures within the Tai Kwun compound built between 1841 and 1937.

? Underline TWO sentences in the text that use *there* followed by the verb *to be*.

Read the text and answer questions 1–10. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (28 marks)

1. Find a word in paragraph 1 which has a similar meaning to 'informal'.

2. According to paragraphs 1–2, which of the following is TRUE about the revitalisation project?

A. 16 buildings were restored for reuse.

B. The government refused to spend HKD3.7 billion on the project.

C. All buildings were pulled down to make room for two new buildings.

D. The public was glad that Tai Kwun has become a new art centre.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

3. What is the name of Tai Kwun's first exhibition?

4. Who or what do the following pronouns refer to?

(i) 'They' (line 6): _____

(ii) 'It' (line 11): _____

5. Complete the summary of paragraphs 1–2 by selecting the best options from the choices below.

Tai Kwun is the former police headquarters but now it is (i) that anyone can visit. The old buildings were fixed up so that they could be used (ii). It has become one of the (iii) restoration projects in Hong Kong.

(i) A. the Central Magistracy

B. a prison

C. a heritage site

D. a police station

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

(ii) A. by the government

B. for different purposes

C. for public screenings

D. as a new police station

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

(iii) A. costliest

B. cheapest

C. most delayed

D. oldest

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

6. Read paragraph 3. Which of the following activities are NOT available in Tai Kwun?

A. guided tours

B. art shows

C. plays

D. film production

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

7. Find a word in paragraph 4 that means 'received something after putting in a lot of work'.

8. Look for a word or phrase in paragraph 4 which means ‘very much respected’.

9. Determine whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG).

	T	F	NG
(i) Victoria Prison closed down in 2006.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(ii) The revitalisation project ran smoothly.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iii) The first exhibition held at Tai Kwun was about Tai Kwun itself.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(iv) Many international musicians hold concerts at Tai Kwun.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Based on the information in the Comments section, decide whether each of the six people agrees or disagrees with the statement ‘I support heritage conservation’ by blackening the correct circle. Complete the main points using the given words. Use each word ONCE only. (13 marks)

alike different building less lost
 more practical promote renew

Opinion towards the statement: ‘I support heritage conservation’			
	Agree	Disagree	Main point
Nelson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Hong Kong has already (i) _____ too many historic structures. We should preserve and (ii) _____ cultural heritage.
Leo	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	These projects usually cost (iii) _____ than initially planned.
Alice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Repurposing old buildings has a far lower environmental impact than (iv) _____ new ones.
Blake	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Many historical buildings have become (v) _____ accessible after revitalisation.
Cindy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Hong Kong’s skyline is characterised by buildings that look (vi) _____.
Leslie	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Constructing office towers in a business district is a more (vii) _____ use of that space.

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the flyer below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Adjective: colloquial cost-effective homogeneous prestigious upscale

Phrasal verb: tear down

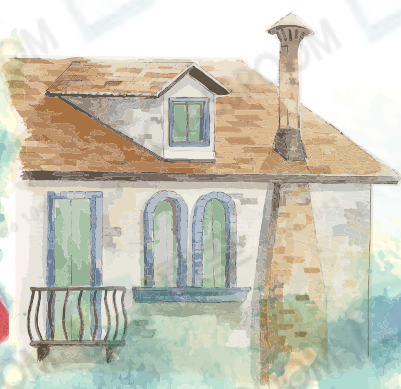
Verb: accommodate garner preserve revitalise

Living in a historical walled village

Walled villages are common in the New Territories, especially in Yuen Long. Hakka Wai, a / an (1) _____ name that means ‘the village of Hakka people’, is one of these villages. In the past, it only (2) _____ Hakka people and thus, a / an (3) _____ Hakka community developed there. However, in recent years most of the villagers have moved out and many of the buildings are in ruins. That is why our company has decided to (4) _____ them. Instead of being (5) _____, the village houses are turned into (6) _____ homes.

We are a / an (7) _____ company which aims to (8) _____ the heritage of Hong Kong. Many of our previous projects involved restoring old and historical buildings. We (9) _____ many awards in architecture and design since we were founded 50 years ago.

Discover the charm of rural living with our affordable and (10) _____ country homes now! Please contact our agents for details.



B. Look at the pictures. Label the photos below with the given words.

Hong Kong's traditional heritage

cheongsam

clay pot rice

dim sum

junk boat

lion dance

neon signs

stilt houses

wonton noodles



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Writing

What part of Hong Kong's traditional heritage do you appreciate the most?

Write an article to share your thoughts in about 150 words.