

8

Our heritage

My learning journey:

Reading

- A travelogue about discovering one's roots 
Life & Society (Socio-political system of our country)
- An essay about preserving heritage 
Life & Society (Socio-political system of our country)



Identifying views and attitudes

Vocabulary

- Preserving the past
- Describing customs and traditions

Language

- Adding emphasis (Inversion)
- Putting forward arguments (Introducing and presenting)
- Introducing counter-arguments

Integrated Listening

- A meeting about writing a paragraph for a heritage website



Noting relevant information

Speaking

- Talking about the Cheung Chau Bun Festival



Ending a group discussion

Task

I will write a **two-sided argumentative essay** about preserving an aspect of culture.



Strengthening arguments



Warm-up

Look at the photos below. Do you know what customs and traditions they show?
Write their names in the spaces provided.



Diwali, India

Paper cutting, China

La Tomatina, Spain

Songkran, Thailand

Maypole dancing, UK

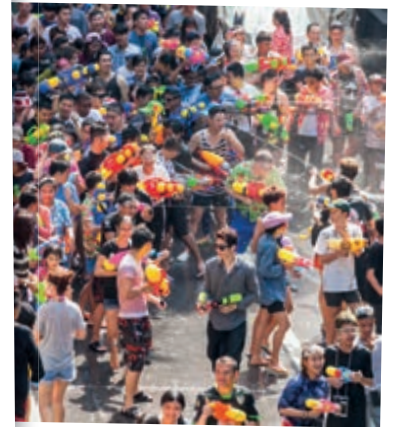
The tea ceremony, Japan



1



2



3



4



5



6

Work in pairs. What other customs and traditions can you name?
Exchange ideas with the class.

Pre-reading

1 Match these words (A–C) with their meanings.

- A throng (*n*) (line 1) decorated with patterns sewn with thread
- B embroidered (*adj*) (line 7) crowd
- C diverse (*adj*) (line 35) showing variety

2 Scan the text.

Where is Songpan located?



Look for 'Songpan' in the first few paragraphs.

A teen from Hong Kong posted a travelogue. Read it below.

Discovering my roots

1 'Luke!' Hearing my name, I spun around and through the throng of people at the bus station, saw my cousin running towards me and Dad. 'It's so good to see you, Ming!' I said. 'Same here, it's been ages since I visited you. It's great you came so I could show you around this time!'

2 'So, what do you think of Songpan so far?' I looked around, my eyes drawn here, there and everywhere by the beautiful clothing on display. Ming followed my gaze. 'It's the Qiang New Year Festival so many of us Qiangs are in traditional embroidered costumes.' Ming was wearing a colourful jacket and she showed me the delicate needlework and the pieces of silver sewn into it. I touched the flowers gently, in awe. Never had I seen such elaborate embroidery. 'We love our traditions,' Ming said, smiling. 'I'll show you more of our heritage. Oh, and we must visit the temple and pay respects to our ancestors of course.'

3 Ming led us through the ancient streets of Songpan, explaining that the ancient city located in northern Sichuan was founded in the Tang Dynasty and rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty. As soon as I walked through the city gate, I was immediately transported back in time. The streets were lined with old traditional-style buildings, and I could have been on a historical drama film



set except that everything was authentic. Rarely can one experience this in Hong Kong. We arrived at the temple. Uncle was waiting for us and waved us over. Despite the fact that it was busy, we found enough space to light incense sticks and pay respects to our ancestors. Feeling a wave of nostalgia,
20 my father put his arm around me. I could tell that he was glad to be home.

4 If Songpan wasn't impressive enough, the next day, we all took a taxi to the stunning Huanglong National Park. Then we ummed and ahed about whether to take the cable car up the mountain or not, but Uncle looked at Dad and whispered, 'It's a long hike.' The decision was made. And what a good
25 decision it was as it meant we had time in the evening to try a local delicacy called *po cha* (butter tea), a thick, heartwarming mixture of tea, yak butter and salt. I drank five cups, but Uncle drank ten! Dad explained that butter tea is a time-honoured drink in the region.

5 At the top of the mountain, I felt breathless. Not only were we
30 very high up, but the view was also breathtaking. Needless to say, Uncle and Ming were much more comfortable with the high altitude while Dad and I needed an oxygen bottle. From multi-coloured ponds to majestic waterfalls and magnificent snowy mountains, the landscape was enchanting. Never had I seen such a beautiful and
35 diverse landscape. No wonder people call Huanglong 'Fairylad on Earth'.

6 When we stopped for a rest, Uncle showed us some photos of where he and Dad grew up, now derelict buildings due to an earthquake in 2008. It made me feel sad that Dad and Uncle only have photos
40 now to remind them of how the area looked before.

7 Living far away, it's easy just to think about the present and the future. I'm glad this trip gave me the opportunity to find out more about my roots and learn about the past. Rather than forgetting it, I'd like to respect it, appreciate it, and carry
45 on beautiful and meaningful traditions.



Grammar in text

We can use **inversion** to emphasise (highlight) a point.

Never had I seen such elaborate embroidery.

Can you find other examples in the text? Underline them.

Values corner

Appreciate your heritage

The writer's visit to Sichuan inspires him to respect and appreciate his roots. Why do you think it is important to respect and appreciate your heritage?



Reading skill

Identifying views and attitudes

A view is a person's thought or belief.

I think we should follow traditions.

In contrast, an attitude is how a person feels about someone or something. It is usually expressed through positive or negative language. We can also look at the person's actions.

'Don't traditions belong in the past?' he snorted dismissively. (He does not respect traditions.)

We may sometimes be asked to say what we think about someone's views or attitudes.

'When I was a girl, we never had birthday cake, but it's become a heartwarming custom in our family and I love it.' She **picked up a pile of birthday cards and dropped them into the bin.** *'I don't understand why people bother with these things, though,' she added.*

View = 'I think we should continue having birthday cake'

Attitude = Negative attitude towards birthday cards

Part A Answer the questions using information from Reading 1. For multiple choice questions, blacken one circle only.

1 Which phrase in paragraph 2 shows that Luke had lots to look at?



2 a) What is Luke's attitude towards the traditional costumes?

b) How do you know this?

3 Who or what does the word 'our' refer to?

a) Line 9: _____

b) Line 11: _____

4 Which phrase in paragraph 3 means Luke 'imagined he was in another time'?

5 Contrast how Luke and his father felt about taking the cable car.

Luke's father felt relieved because

a _____

while Luke felt happy because

b _____

6 What metaphor does Luke use to describe the view from the top of the mountain?



7 Which statement best summarises Luke's view of the trip?

- A I learnt about my link to Songpan.
- B It was a long journey.
- C The best part of the trip was seeing the town.
- D You will need at least three days to explore Huanglong National Park.

Part B Use information from Reading 1 to answer the following questions. For multiple choice questions, blacken one circle only.

1 Match paragraphs 1–4 with the following sub-headings. Write the paragraph numbers in the spaces provided.

- a) A visit to the temple _____
- b) Arriving in Songpan _____
- c) We make our way to Huanglong _____
- d) Discovering Qiang traditional clothing _____

2 Which phrase in paragraph 4 means ‘were unable to decide’?

3 According to the travelogue, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)?

	T	F	NG
a) Songpan was founded in the Ming Dynasty.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Luke has a positive attitude towards butter tea.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Luke’s father didn’t drink any butter tea.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) There was an earthquake in 2008.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Luke and Ming are the same age.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4 According to Luke, why might it be easy to forget about the past?

Part C Summary cloze Complete the following summary using words taken from Reading 1. Fill in each blank with one word only.

The travelogue is about the writer’s trip to Songpan with his ¹ _____. The writer is shown around by his ² _____ and uncle. On the first day, the writer is introduced to Qiang ³ _____, and taken to a ⁴ _____ to pay respects to their ⁵ _____. On the second day, he is taken to Huanglong National Park, and tries butter ⁶ _____. The writer finds out that the place where his father and uncle grew up was ruined by an ⁷ _____ in 2008. The writer learns a lot about his ⁸ _____ on the trip and values the ⁹ _____.



Pre-reading

1 Skim the text.

What is the essay about?

2 Scan the text.

What example is given for London?



Look for the word 'London'.



Read the first sentence of each paragraph.

You find an interesting argumentative essay on a webpage. Read on to find out more.

Preserving heritage buildings

1 There is often heated debate about whether or not heritage buildings should be preserved, especially when much-loved landmarks become derelict and it is proposed that they are knocked down. While some people believe that we should respect our heritage and preserve these buildings, others think they should give way to modern development. In this essay, I will discuss the pros and cons of preserving heritage buildings.



Lui Seng Chun

2 The first reason why heritage buildings should be preserved is that they are an important source of knowledge for future generations. A notable building is Lui Seng Chun in Prince Edward, which was built in the *tong lau* style. *Tong lau* are 'walk-up' buildings which were typical in Hong Kong before the Second World War. Not only do these buildings tell us about our ancestors' living conditions, some features also remind us of the customs of the past, for example, it is common to find hooks on the ceiling which were used for pet bird cages. The charming but declining tradition of keeping songbirds and taking them for a 'walk' in the park dates back centuries.



Tai Kwun

3 Another argument in favour of preserving heritage buildings is that they help to promote tourism, which drives development in their home cities. From Tai Kwun in Hong Kong to the Ruins of Saint Paul's in Macao to Westminster Abbey in London, these historic buildings attract thousands of tourists every year. Not only does their significant role in

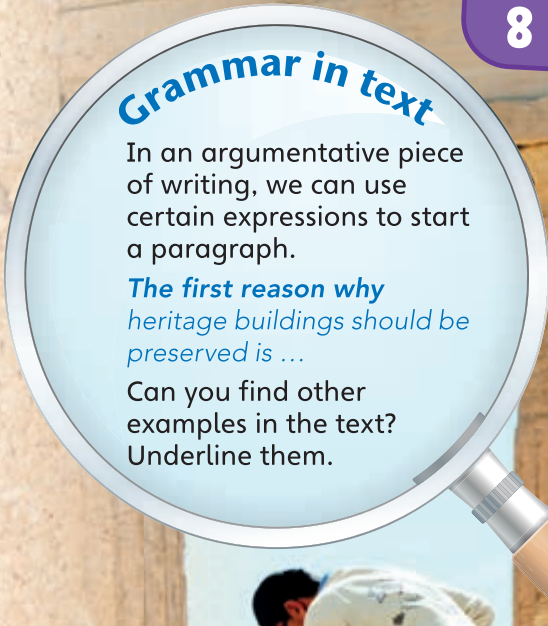


Ruins of Saint Paul's

heritage tourism help to bring in income but it also creates job opportunities. In fact, tourism generates 10 percent of employment around the world. Preserving heritage buildings also gives locals the chance to appreciate the heritage of their home and enjoy moments of nostalgia.



Westminster Abbey



Grammar in text

In an argumentative piece of writing, we can use certain expressions to start a paragraph.

The first reason why heritage buildings should be preserved is ...

Can you find other examples in the text? Underline them.

4 It can be seen that there are clear advantages to preserving heritage buildings. However, there are also disadvantages. One obvious disadvantage is that the cost of preserving a historic building is extremely high. Despite the fact that these buildings generate income, it is a small amount compared to the cost of their maintenance. Rarely do we hear of heritage projects making a profit. Needless to say, this can make heritage buildings a burden for governments.

5 The second argument against the preservation of heritage buildings is that the money needed and land involved can often be put to better use. It is true that some buildings are worth preserving, but this is done with taxpayers' money which could be better spent, for example, on fighting poverty. The preservation of heritage buildings is expensive to support when there are more urgent needs.

6 In conclusion, there are both pros and cons to the preservation of heritage buildings. However, looking at the benefits to society, I think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Heritage buildings are a rich source of knowledge about the past that cannot be replaced. They also help to promote tourism which drives socioeconomic development, including the creation of many jobs. No doubt, it is important that governments find a balance.

Values corner

Be responsible

We have a responsibility to look after what we have for future generations. Yet we need to be ready for / support change. How can we do this?

Comprehension 2



Part A Text analysis Answer the question using information from Reading 2.

Match the paragraphs in the argumentative essay with their functions. Write the letters (A–F) in the spaces provided.

Paragraph	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Function

- A** Summarise the writer's point of view with reasons.
- B** Explain the first disadvantage.
- C** Explain the second advantage.
- D** Introduce the argument.
- E** Explain the first advantage.
- F** Explain the second disadvantage.

Comprehension 2



Reading skill

Identifying views and attitudes

See page 84 for details.

Part B Use information from Reading 2 to answer the following questions. For multiple choice questions, blacken one circle only.

1 What does the word 'heated' (line 1) suggest about the debate over whether or not heritage buildings should be preserved?

2 According to paragraph 2, why is Lui Seng Chun a 'notable' building?

It was _____ which became common in Hong Kong in the 19th century.



3 a) According to paragraph 2, what is the writer's attitude to the tradition of keeping songbirds?

- A negative
- B neutral
- C positive
- D birds were not pets

b) How do you know this?

4 Buildings in Hong Kong, Macao and London are mentioned in paragraph 3 because _____.

- A they are all heritage buildings
- B they are all old buildings
- C a lot of money has been spent on them
- D they attract large numbers of tourists

5 Find a word in paragraph 3 which means 'important'.

6 The word 'outweigh' is used as a metaphor in paragraph 6 to create an image _____.

- A to amuse the reader
- B showing the pros and cons are the same
- C to sound knowledgeable
- D showing that one side is greater in importance



7 Which side of the argument does the writer support?

Part C Summary cloze Complete the following summary using words taken from Reading 2. Fill in each blank with one word only.

The essay presents arguments both in favour of ¹ _____ heritage buildings and against it. The supporting arguments are that heritage buildings are an important source of ² _____ about the past, and they promote ³ _____ and create ⁴ _____. The arguments against preservation are the cost of ⁵ _____, and the belief that money and ⁶ _____ can be put to better use. In ⁷ _____, the writer hopes that a ⁸ _____ can be found in the future.



The **root** is the basic part of a word, to which other parts (e.g. prefixes, suffixes) can be added. Not all roots are complete words, but they all have meanings.

A The roots below are related to **society** and **actions**. Can you work out their meanings? Fill in the missing examples and blacken the correct circles.

Society			Actions		
Root	Examples	Meaning	Root	Examples	Meaning
loc	<input type="text"/> (v, from Reading 1)	<input type="radio"/> time <input type="radio"/> place	mit / miss	transmit (v) dismiss (v)	<input type="radio"/> send <input type="radio"/> receive
labor	collaborate (v) laborious (adj)	<input type="radio"/> work <input type="radio"/> method	mot	remote (adj) motivate (v)	<input type="radio"/> stop <input type="radio"/> move
pop	population (n) populate (v)	<input type="radio"/> object <input type="radio"/> people	port	important (adj) transport (v, n)	<input type="radio"/> carry <input type="radio"/> drop
soc	<input type="text"/> (n, from Reading 2)	<input type="radio"/> habit <input type="radio"/> partner	rupt	abrupt (adj) interrupt (v)	<input type="radio"/> carry on <input type="radio"/> break

Note
See Appendix 3 for more examples of roots.

B Now use some of the words above to fill in the blanks below. Use each word **once only**.

- Language and food play an ^a _____ part in culture — the customs and beliefs shared by people in a ^b _____.
- As the younger generation has been moving to the city to find jobs, the _____ of the old town has fallen dramatically. Now there are fewer than 5,000 people left.
- Can I _____ for a second? I'd like to share a fact about the preservation of heritage.
- It was the first time I visited my great-grandparents, who live in a ^a _____ mountain village in Yunnan. There aren't many ^b _____ choices available — we had to take a taxi.
- Teachers can _____ students to do better by helping them set suitable goals.
- After three weeks of discussion, it was decided they would _____ the idea.
- A property developer will _____ with a committee consisting of government officials and local residents on the preservation project.
- Jiuzhaigou is _____ in the northern part of Sichuan in southwestern China.

Preserving the past

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| A ancestor | C custom | E heritage | G nostalgia |
| B asset | D derelict | F maintenance | H tradition |

A Complete the following sentences using the words from the box above. Write the letters (A–H) in the spaces provided.

- 1 A / An _____ is a social practice followed by most people in a society, e.g. tapping two fingers on the table to say ‘Thank you’ when tea is poured in teahouses.
- 2 A / An _____ is a belief or practice that has existed for a long time, e.g. giving red packets during Chinese New Year.
- 3 A / An _____ is someone related to you who lived a long time ago.
- 4 A / An _____ is something or someone that is useful or valuable.
- 5 A / An _____ building is a building which is in very bad condition.
- 6 _____ includes buildings, customs and traditions that are important to the history or culture of a society, e.g. A-Ma Temple and egg rolls in Macao.
- 7 _____ is work that you do to keep a road, building or machine in good condition.
- 8 _____ is remembering happy things about the past.



B Complete the blog post below using the words from the box above. Your answers must be grammatically correct.



Macao's ¹ _____! We visited old buildings like St Dominic's Church, although some parts were shut due to some ² _____ work needed. We also went to Long Wa Teahouse to people-watch and look out for the old ³ _____ of keeping and 'walking' caged songbirds. It brought back moments of ⁴ _____ for Mum, whose grandfather used to keep birds too.

In the afternoon, Dad took us to his home village. He showed us where he was born — now a ⁵ _____ building. Then, we gathered in front of the family shrine to offer incense to our ⁶ _____. I really appreciate this ⁷ _____ because it makes you think about the importance of family. Then, it was time for some Portuguese egg custard tarts. The bakery we went to is definitely an ⁸ _____ to the village. Lots of people were arriving to buy tarts, no doubt after spending time (and money) in the village.



Describing customs and traditions

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| A ancient | C elaborate | E superstitious | G time-honoured |
| B controversial | D heartwarming | F symbolic | H unusual |

A Complete the following sentences using the words from the box above. Write the letters (A–H) in the spaces provided.

If a custom or tradition is ...,

- 1 _____ it has a lot of details put together in a complicated way.
- 2 _____ people follow it based on beliefs, e.g. that some actions are lucky.
- 3 _____ it was followed thousands of years ago.
- 4 _____ it makes people feel happy because they see others being happy.
- 5 _____ it represents something.
- 6 _____ people have been following it for a long time.
- 7 _____ it is different from others of the same type.
- 8 _____ many people disagree about it.

B Complete the following comments posted on a forum using the words from the box above.

What is your favourite custom or tradition?



Here in Mexico, we have an ¹ _____ birthday tradition called *La mordida*. The birthday boy or girl's face is pushed into the birthday cake. Some people argue that this is wasteful and therefore, it has become rather ² _____.



On Christmas Eve in Iceland, families give each other books. It's a tradition called *Jolabokaflod* — a ³ _____ one because it's been followed every year since 1944. We love it because it's so ⁴ _____ to see everyone enjoying a good book with the family.



In the UK, we say 'Touch wood' when we wish for good luck. It's a custom believed to be based on an ⁵ _____ belief that spirits live in wood and if you touch the wood, they protect you or cannot change your luck. It's quite ⁶ _____ really.



We have a dance in Bolivia with ⁷ _____ masks and costumes called *Diablada* that I love. The masks are often decorated with sequins and mirrors, and they can take months to make. The dance is performed at the Oruro Carnival and is ⁸ _____ of the struggle between good and evil.



Adding emphasis (Inversion)

In a statement, we usually put the subject before the verb. However, sometimes we put the subject after the main or auxiliary (helping) verb. We do this in formal writing to emphasise (highlight) a point.

A statement that begins with a negative adverb, e.g. *seldom, rarely, little and never*

Rarely do people support such a project.
(People rarely support such a project.)

Never had I seen such a grand exhibition.
(I had never seen such a grand exhibition.)

An expression with *only* or *not only* at the beginning of a sentence

Only by interacting with its people ***can a person*** have a real understanding of a culture.
(A person can only have a real understanding of a culture by interacting with its people.)

Not only is it interesting, it is also very inspiring.
(It is not only interesting, it is also very inspiring.)

Let's practise Complete the blog post below using the words given in brackets and the correct forms of the verbs in the box. Your answers must be grammatically correct. Use **inversion**.

You can use these verbs:

- remind of
- see
- sense
- visit

Last January, I visited Japan and had the chance to celebrate Coming of Age Day with the locals. ¹ _____ (do / I / rarely) Japan at this time of the year because of the cold weather, so it was fortunate that I did.

Coming of Age Day marks the beginning of adulthood for the Japanese. On this day, many eighteen-year-olds dress up in traditional kimonos to attend large ceremonies and gatherings with gifts, speeches and presentations.




² _____ (are / not only / they) the privileges of adults, they are also reminded of the responsibilities.

It was an eye-opening experience. ³ _____ (had / I / never) such a colourful event. Everywhere I went, I saw young adults happily posing for pictures with family and friends. It is difficult to find words to describe the atmosphere. ⁴ _____

_____ (by participating / can / in the celebration / you / only) its importance and the excitement involved.



Let's practise Complete the following email by choosing the best word or phrase for each blank below. Write the letters (A–H) in the spaces provided. Use each letter once only.

 New message  

Dear Mrs Fong

On behalf of the Student Council, I am writing to propose a cultural exchange programme for Secondary 3 students in July. I believe that the programme is beneficial to our students for the following reasons.


(1) students will benefit from a cultural exchange programme (2) it enables them to experience other cultures through food, traditions and everyday interaction. (3), such opportunities expose students to cultural diversity, helping them to learn to respect people from different backgrounds.






(4) organising an exchange programme is that it allows students to practise a new language. (5), the best way to learn a language is to do so in an environment where the language is used naturally. A cultural exchange programme allows this to happen.

(6), a cultural exchange programme is particularly beneficial to a student's personal development. (7), during the programme, students need to learn to take care of themselves in an unfamiliar environment. This will help students to become more independent and self-confident.

(8), a cultural exchange programme will benefit our students in terms of cultural understanding, language development and personal growth. Therefore, the Student Council believes that the idea is worth exploring.

Yours sincerely
Sammy Tai
Chairperson
Student Council



     **Send**

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

- A is that
- B Obviously
- C To sum up
- D Needless to say
- E Another argument in favour of
- F Evidently
- G Last but not least
- H The first reason why I believe that

Putting forward arguments (Introducing and presenting)

Introducing arguments

When we write an argumentative piece of writing, we often present arguments in separate paragraphs. To link these arguments, we can use the following expressions to start a paragraph.

My first / second / final argument is that filial piety (respect for elders) is a valued tradition in Chinese culture.

The first reason why I believe that we should learn tai chi **is that** it is a valuable part of our cultural heritage.

One advantage of / The main benefit of studying in a school with a culturally diverse population **is that** we learn to respect people who are different from us.

Another argument in favour of exposing children to diverse cultures **is that** they can learn about other cultures.

Last but not least, every culture is unique and should be valued.

An argument against the elderly moving abroad **is that** they might encounter language barriers.

A serious disadvantage of sending young children to study abroad **is that** they may not be able to look after themselves.

Another drawback is that they may be easily distracted.

A downside of giving red packets to children **is that** they may compare the contents.



Presenting arguments

When we present our arguments, we can start with these expressions to make our statements more forceful.

I have no doubt that travelling is one way to help broaden our cultural horizons.

Needless to say, cultural exchange programmes have both advantages and disadvantages.

Obviously, most people experience culture shock when they move to a new country.

Evidently, studying abroad has more advantages than disadvantages.



Introducing counter-arguments

We can make our arguments more persuasive if we include **counter-arguments** (the opposing side's arguments) and explain why we don't agree with them. We can introduce counter-arguments with the following expressions.

It might seem (that it is) hard to make friends in a new environment **but** in fact it is not.

Some people think / believe / say that historic buildings should be protected, **but** have they thought about the costs involved?

Those who support the idea of preserving heritage buildings **often claim that** these buildings help us to learn about our history. **However, (the reality is that)** these buildings are often turned into modern high-end shops.

Sometimes, we might want to say that we partially agree with someone's idea but go on to state our contrasting view.

It is true that eating 'poon choi' can help to bring the family together during special occasions, **but** it is a rather unhealthy meal.

Despite the fact that electronic red packets are more environmentally friendly than traditional red packets, some people do not think they are representative of the tradition.

Note

Despite (the fact that) + subject + verb

Let's practise Read the following arguments and complete the **counter-arguments** using appropriate expressions from above.

1



Mooncake is unhealthy so we should stop eating it.

^a _____ mooncake is unhealthy so we should stop eating it.
^b _____, it is an important part of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

2



Chinese calligraphy is an outdated skill.

^a _____ Chinese calligraphy ^b _____ no longer popular, ^c _____ it helps students learn about the culture as well as develop concentration.

3



Songkran attracts lots of tourists to Thailand every year.

_____ Songkran attracts lots of tourists to Thailand every year, the festival should be promoted more widely around the world.

4



La Tomatina is a fun Spanish festival.

^a _____ La Tomatina is a fun Spanish festival, ^b _____ a lot of tomatoes are wasted in the fights.

Read the following essay. There is one mistake in each numbered line. Underline an incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided. Mark the position of a missing word with a '^' and write the missing word in the space provided. Use what you have learnt in this unit and previously to help you.

- 1 Some people enjoy live in a society where there is a mix of different cultures. _____
 - 2 Others prefer to living with people only from their own culture. In this essay, _____
 - 3 I will look at the pros and cons of living in multicultural society. _____
 - 4 The main benefit living in a culturally diverse society is that it raises cultural _____
 - 5 awareness so that we can learn from each other. Only interacting with its _____
people can we really understand a different culture.
 - 6 Another argument to favour of living in a multicultural society is that we _____
have the opportunity to take part in different festivals and try
 - 7 different cuisines. It is truly that we will not all share the same traditions, _____
 - 8 and it does not mean that we cannot respect other cultural traditions as _____
well as enjoy the atmosphere.
 - 9 It can be see that there are advantages of living in a multicultural society. _____
 - 10 However, there may also be disadvantages. A possible downside with living _____
 - 11 with other cultures is that there be misunderstandings. There could be a _____
language barrier.
- Some people may need time to adapt to living with people from other cultures.
- 12 Evident, some people may initially feel isolated or threatened. _____
 - 13 On conclusion, there are both advantages and disadvantages of living in a _____
 - 14 multicultural society. However, I believed that the advantages outweigh _____
 - 15 the disadvantages. Not once does it allow us to learn about different cultures, _____
we also learn from them.





Listening skill

Noting relevant information

We often need to listen and make notes of key information. There are some techniques that we can use to help us extract relevant information.

- **Pre-listening**

If you have a note sheet, look at the headings and predict the type of information you will need to note down.

- **While listening**

Listen for information that is repeated, and phrases which indicate key information is presented.

Let me repeat that ... / Could you repeat that please?

I'll make a note of that.

That sounds important / interesting.

- **Post-listening**

Tidy up your notes and double-check names, etc.



Let's listen

You are Joey Lin. You are an intern at the Fringe Club. Listen to a recording of a meeting about writing a paragraph for a heritage website. Take notes. Then complete the paragraph using your notes and the extract from a history book.



Fringe Club

- Location: _____

- Important dates:

- Facilities added:

- Dairy _____

- Meat _____

Note sheet

- Became _____

_____ became derelict

_____ used for _____

_____ bought by Fringe Club



Did you know that this style of red and white bricks is also known as blood and bandages? Walk along Lower Albert Road and you'll see it.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRINGE CLUB

The Fringe Club on ¹ _____ in ² _____ was built in ³ _____ by Dairy Farm using red and white ⁴ _____, and initially used for cold storage. The warehouse was expanded in ⁵ _____ to include a dairy ⁶ _____ and a room for ⁷ _____ meat. The building became the company's ⁸ _____ until the company moved out in the ⁹ _____ and the building became derelict. The Fringe Club used the building for the ¹⁰ _____ in ¹¹ _____ before purchasing it a year later in ¹² _____.

FUN FACT! The red and white style of architecture is also known as ¹³ _____!



Speaking skill

Ending a group discussion

We can end a group discussion by summarising and checking the main points have been covered before signalling the end of the discussion.

- **Summarise the points you have discussed**

Shall I summarise what we've discussed today?

So first, we talked about ... We also ... Finally, we ...

- **Check you have covered all the main points**

Have I left out any points?

Does anyone have anything else to add?

- **Signal the end of the discussion**

Shall we finish here? / Let's finish here. Thank you.

- Give a summary of the most significant points.
- Do not add any new information.
- Use your own words.
- Be concise.

A Work in pairs. Take turns to practise ending a group discussion. Use the following notes to help you.

The pros and cons of learning calligraphy at school

Advantages

- helps students connect with an important Chinese art form
- helps students stay focused

Disadvantages

- not relevant to students' lives
- the time can be spent on other subjects

B Work in small groups. Read the article. Then discuss the following points.

The Cheung Chau Bun Festival

The Cheung Chau Bun Festival is a traditional festival which celebrates the end of a plague that struck the island in historic times. The highlight of the festival is the Bun Scrambling Competition where participants race up a bun tower to collect as many buns as possible, which are symbols of peace. In the past, all residents could take part in this activity, but this was banned after an accident in 1978 when one of the towers collapsed. The event returned in a different form in 2005.



- advantages of preserving the event
- disadvantages of preserving the event
- how to keep participants safe

Task

Write a two-sided argumentative essay



Sweeping the graves of our ancestors at Ching Ming Festival



Celebrating Holi



Celebrating Songkran



Celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival with mooncakes



Including Chinese opera in the school curriculum



Giving red packets at Chinese New Year

You are a member of the Debate Team. You have been asked to write an argumentative essay about preserving an aspect of culture. Choose one from above or one of your own and write a two-sided argumentative essay about the pros and cons of preserving it.

STEP 1 Get ready

Let's look at the genre and audience and work out the purpose(s) and style for this task. Tick the correct boxes.

G.A.P.S.

Genre: Two-sided argumentative essay

Audience: students and teachers

Purpose(s):

- to argue
- to instruct
- to give advice
- to give opinions

Style: informal semi-formal formal

A two-sided argumentative essay is ...

- entertaining
- friendly
- persuasive
- serious

STEP 2 Read and analyse

- A The Debate Team has some guidelines for writing a two-sided argumentative essay. Complete the guidelines below with the phrases given on the next page. Write the letters (A–O) in the spaces provided.



Title
 Include ¹ ____ title.

Introduction
 • Provide ² ____.
 • Raise ³ ____.
 • Give ⁴ _____.

1st body paragraph
 State ⁵ _____.

2nd body paragraph
 State ⁸ _____.

3rd body paragraph
 • Start with ⁹ _____.
 • State ¹⁰ _____.

4th body paragraph
 State ¹¹ _____.

The pros and cons of eating *poon choi*

Eating *poon choi* at gatherings is a family custom in many Hong Kong households. However, this custom has become somewhat controversial. In this essay, I will discuss the pros and cons of keeping this custom going.

One reason to continue eating *poon choi* is because it is a time-honoured tradition for villagers in the New Territories. For generations, villagers have gathered together to make and share the basins of food whole-heartedly. The meal is symbolic because it represents unity and fortune in the coming year.

Another argument in favour of keeping the custom going is that sharing a large bowl of food is an incredibly heartwarming experience. Nostalgia is an important part of eating *poon choi*.

There are clear advantages to eating *poon choi* but there are disadvantages too. It is true that a lot of people think the dish is delicious but it seems that most of the ingredients are meat with few vegetables. Therefore, the first disadvantage is that it is not a very healthy meal.

The second argument is that sharing food in this way is not hygienic. Some people say that this does not matter among family, but we should all be wary of infectious diseases.

In conclusion, while there are pros and cons to eating *poon choi*, I believe that, on balance, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Not only is *poon choi* a tradition, it is a heartwarming one. It would be a shame to give up this meal.

Body paragraphs

- Begin each body paragraph with ⁶ _____.
- Elaborate with ⁷ _____.

Conclusion

- Restate ¹² _____.
- State ¹³ _____.
- Summarise ¹⁴ _____.
- Conclude with ¹⁵ _____.



Tip!

- Use 'hedging' language to protect our claims from being dismissed as wrong, e.g.
*A lot of people believe that 'poon choi' is unhealthy, **it seems** to be the reason.*
- Develop your arguments in a logical way.
- Don't base an argument simply on one or two cases or your own experience.
- Avoid jumping to conclusions, e.g.
If people stop eating mooncake, their health will improve.

A the topic

B the arguments which support it

C an outline of the essay

D background to the topic

E the first argument for the issue

F details, e.g. facts, examples, reasons or results

G an ending thought, e.g. call for action

H a transition

I your standpoint

J the key question or issue

K a simple and straightforward

L the second argument for the issue

M the first argument against the issue

N the second argument against the issue

O a topic sentence that summarises what the paragraph is about

**Writing skill****Strengthening arguments**

The purpose of an argumentative piece of writing is either to argue for one side or to examine both sides of an issue. In both, opinions can be strengthened using different techniques.

villagers ... make and share the basins of food **whole-heartedly** ...
sharing a large bowl of food is an **incredibly heartwarming** experience ...
It would be a shame to **give up** this meal.

Strong verb

Strong adverb

Strong adjective

Intensifying adverb

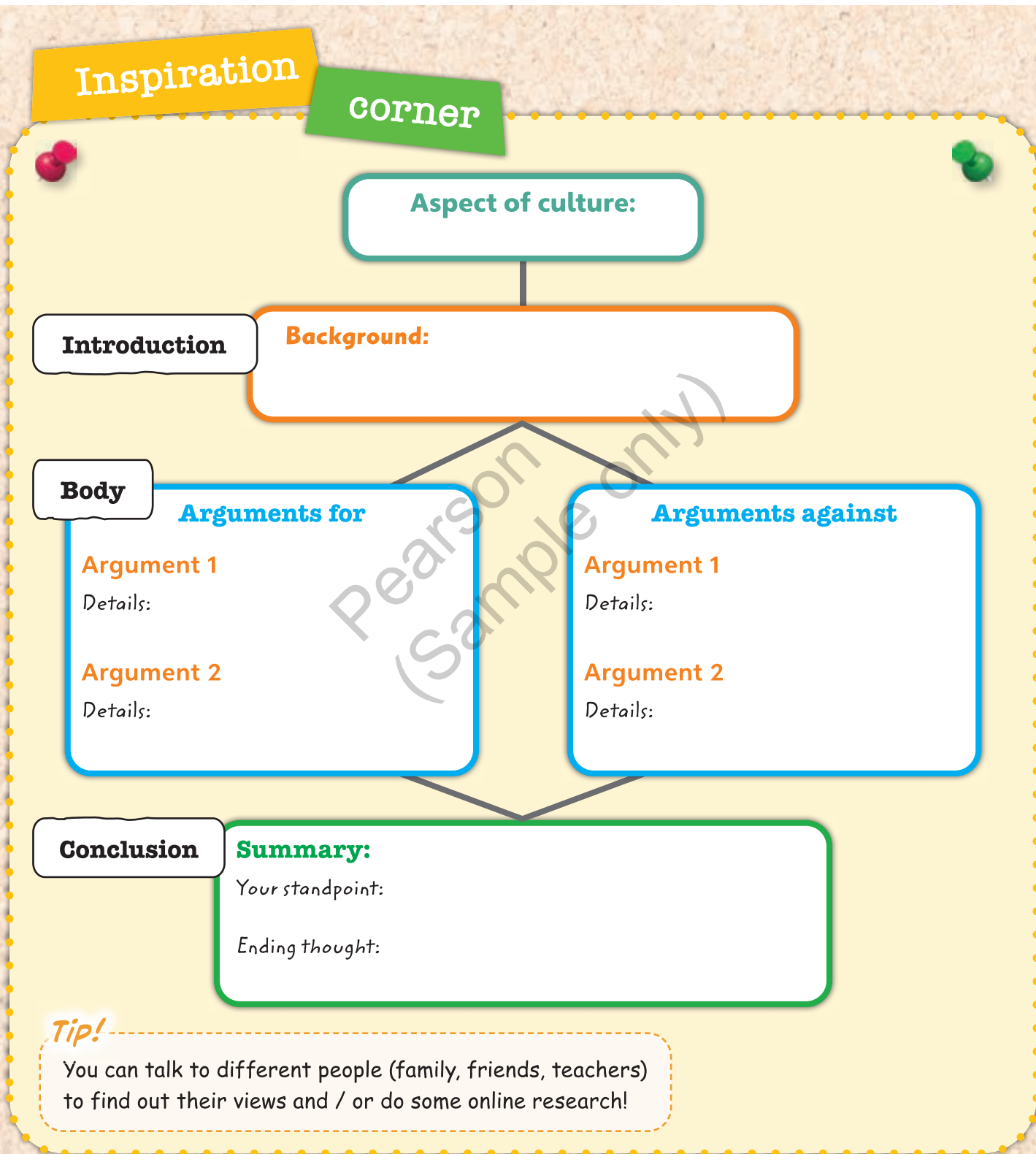
- B** Read the following blog post about a restoration project in Bangkok, Thailand. Strengthen the opinions by underlining the stronger words.

I found out more about Lhong 1919 today. A trading port in the 18th century, the owners raised funds to ¹ (fix / restore) it when the traditional buildings began to ² (get old / decay) ³ (quickly / rapidly). Originally, the restoration was to stop the port from ⁴ (collapsing / falling down) but it soon opened the owners' eyes to the port's ⁵ (nice / outstanding) architecture and the ⁶ (significance / importance) of its preservation. The area is now a cultural hub for artists and crafters. It is clearly a ⁷ (good / shining) example of a ⁸ (hugely / very) successful preservation project.



STEP 3 Brainstorm

Here are some useful ideas, words and phrases to help you with your writing. You can also look at the Vocabulary section and the Task Sheet for words to use. Begin by completing the plan below.





Types of traditions

- festivals
- oral traditions and expressions
- performing arts
- rituals
- social practices
- traditional crafts
- traditional dishes and festive food

Phrases related to ... cultural traditions

- ... a traditional ... art form
- bless ... with good luck
- pay respects to our ancestors
- ... is auspicious
- symbolises good fortune / togetherness
- wish ... an abundance of prosperity

Phrases related to preserving culture and traditions

- appreciate our heritage
- celebrate time-honoured ...
- embrace our traditions
- enjoy our rich culture
- preserve cultural and traditional values
- preserve intangible heritage
- protect traditional cultural expressions

Strengthening arguments

- absolutely ...
- blatantly ...
- firmly believe
- highly controversial
- incredibly ...
- strictly speaking
- strongly ...
- thoroughly convinced



STEP 4 Write

Write your essay.

STEP 5 Evaluate

Read your essay and tick the statements below that you agree with. Revise your essay if necessary.

G.A.P.S.

- I know the purpose of writing the two-sided argumentative essay.
- My essay appeals to my intended audience.
- I used a formal, persuasive and serious style in my essay.

You can also ask a friend to evaluate your essay!

Content

- I provided background information in the introduction.
- I presented two arguments for and two arguments against the issue.
- I supported the arguments with details, such as facts, examples, reasons or results.
- I stated my standpoint, summarised the arguments which support it and ended with a final note in the conclusion.

Organisation

- I included a simple and straightforward title.
- I started with a clear introduction.
- The body paragraphs arguing for the issue come before the body paragraphs arguing against the issue.
- Each body paragraph focuses on one argument.
- Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence summarising what the paragraph is about.
- I ended with a relevant conclusion.

Language

- I used inversion to add emphasis.
- I used appropriate expressions to introduce and present arguments.
- I used appropriate expressions to introduce counter-arguments.
- I used appropriate techniques to strengthen arguments.



Vocabulary Bank

Words related to Chinese culture and traditions

calligraphy (*n*) p. 95
 filial piety (*n phr*) p. 93
 pay respects (*v phr*) p. 82
 tong lau (*n phr*) p. 86

Chinese opera (*n phr*) p. 99
 incense sticks (*n phr*) p. 83
 poon choi (*n phr*) p. 95
 unity (*n*) p. 100

embroidery (*n*) p. 82
 paper cutting (*n phr*) p. 81
 tai chi (*n phr*) p. 93

Preserving the past

ancestor (*n*) p. 82
 ceremony (*n*) p. 81
 delicacy (*n*) p. 83
 festival (*n*) p. 82
 maintenance (*n*) p. 87
 roots (*n*) p. 82
 tradition (*n*) p. 81

architecture (*n*) p. 97
 cuisine (*n*) p. 96
 derelict (*adj*) p. 83
 heritage (*n*) p. 82
 nostalgia (*n*) p. 83
 shrine (*n*) p. 90
 traditional costume (*n phr*) p. 82

asset (*n*) p. 90
 custom (*n*) p. 81
 exhibition (*n*) p. 92
 landmark (*n*) p. 86
 preservation (*n*) p. 87
 temple (*n*) p. 82

Describing customs and traditions

ancient (*adj*) p. 82
 controversial (*adj*) p. 91
 heartwarming (*adj*) p. 83
 superstitious (*adj*) p. 91
 unusual (*adj*) p. 91

authentic (*adj*) p. 83
 elaborate (*adj*) p. 82
 meaningful (*adj*) p. 83
 symbolic (*adj*) p. 91

charming (*adj*) p. 86
 eye-opening (*adj*) p. 92
 multicultural (*adj*) p. 96
 time-honoured (*adj*) p. 83

Describing landscape

breathtaking (*adj*) p. 83
 impressive (*adj*) p. 83
 notable (*adj*) p. 86

diverse (*adj*) p. 83
 magnificent (*adj*) p. 83
 stunning (*adj*) p. 83

enchanting (*adj*) p. 83
 majestic (*adj*) p. 83

Other vocabulary

burden (*n*) p. 87
 gaze (*n*) p. 82
 socioeconomic (*adj*) p. 87

culture shock (*n phr*) p. 93
 language barrier (*n phr*) p. 93

embroidered (*adj*) p. 82
 privilege (*n*) p. 92



Self-assessment

How much have you learnt in this unit?
 Go to the online platform to find out!