**2) To understand the most important characteristics of a society, one must study its major cities.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

**5) Claim: Governments must ensure that their major cities receive the financial support they need in order to thrive. Reason: It is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are preserved and generated.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

**117) It is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are generated and preserved.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

部分同意

1. Major cities sometimes can be the cultural centers of a society. 在发达国家，地区发展相对

均衡，研究大城市可以直观的了解整个社会的特征。毕竟大城市是一个国家经济政治文 化的中心。如美国纽约，文化的多样性，社会经济的高度发达，崇尚自主和个性。古代 的 Tokyo 是日本的首都反应了日本的文化。

2. Nowadays, however, due to the influence of globalization, major cities throughout the world look more or less similar. 随着世界全球化趋势的增强，各国的大城市越来越像，我们很 难从他们身上区别社会的不同，从这个角度看，大城市又不是一个国家主要特点的体现。 上海跟纽约很像，高楼林立(full of high-rise buildings)，生活节奏紧张，就此得出中美 社会特征相似是很荒谬 ridiculous 的。

3. By contrast, the suburban and rural areas of a society maintain more of its cultural tradition.

在发展中国家，相对来说地区差异很大。如中国的北京和上海与西部的省份就完全不同， 如果只研究北京上海，那我们就会得出中国是高度发达的国家这一结论，但显然这与中 国的国情不符。因为许多农村地区还非常落后。实际上，有时候通过研究一个社会中小 城市或农村更能反映一个社会的主要特征，因为一个社会的文化主要在这些地方产生和 发展，而且地区较为封闭，很少受到全球化的影响。例如巴南的彝 族文化，仍然在使用 象形文字(hieroglyphs)。在中国北京，有很多古代建筑，是很多朝代的首都，历史文化。 尤其对于发展中国家来说，小城市也能体现一个社会的各方面水平。

4. 总结，这个不能一概而论。对于发达国家，研究大城市是比较好的 方法，而对于某些发 展中国家，由于发展不均衡，研究大城市和小城市都很重要。

Major cities more or less reflect features of national culture?...

Major cities draw recorded history, festivals, fairs, plays, and tournaments to enhance the staging of cultural attractions. Tokyo is the administrative, financial, educational, cultural and industrial center of Japan; Seoul is the political, commercial, industrial, and cultural center of South Korea; Beijing is the political, cultural, and educational center of China. Those cities preserve the significant building, customs and culture of the nation; besides, they attract the youth come and generate new features – fashion, music, design, film, art and architecture. They develop, enliven, enhance, and promote arts, culture, and cultural diversity. In sum, major cities could be regarded as the cultural centers of a society.

Globalization gradually erases diversity and indigenous identities of major cities. The “serial reproduction” of malls, pedestrian city centers and plazas become the capital hallmarks of major cities. Global firms in retailing, tourism, hotel accommodation and fast-food outlets have invested in urban prime sites with the result that the mix of shopping and leisure experiences varies little from one city to another. For example, since the mid-20th century, a large number of Beijing hutongs were demolished to make way for new roads and buildings. All that history simply gone, and with it the remaining vestiges of charm once associated with Old Beijing. Nowadays, everywhere is nowhere; all places are pretty much the same. In sum, Particular distinctive places of major cities are replaced by universal homogenous “non places.”

Major cities just represent a small part of the national culture. In China, there are 56 ethnic groups let alone hundreds of dialects within country. Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong can’t encompass the small provinces’ features like Liangshan, known as micro provinces. Those tiny provinces have its own their own cultures, languages and customs. For example, governments put an extra emphasis on Peking opera, a form of Chinese opera which combines music, vocal performance, mime, and dance. However, traditional Chinese opera not only include Peking opera, but also contain Yu opera and Sichuan opera, which are not prevalent in Major cities like Beijing. Whereas They still are typical sample of the nation and need to be preserved. In sum, small cities can also mirror a level of social aspects, especially in developing countries.