### IELTS 101B – WRITING TASK 2

From small towns to large metropolises, many cities across the world are decorated with buildings of historic value. Governments and local authorities have established laws that protect such buildings, prohibiting their demolition. Nevertheless, the phenomenon of urbanization along with the rapid population increase in certain countries, has created the constant need for more housing and space in large urban areas. Enterpreneurship is also centered around big cities, and many large companies set their offices as close as possible to urban centers. The question therefore arises: should these old buildings be replaced by newer, bigger ones?

Old buildings are very often a way to preserve cultural heritage. On the outside, their architecture and style are oftentimes the result of great craftmanship that is now lost and replaced by a design that focuses on structural integrity and practical features. On the inside, old furniture and paintings remind to the local people of their past. It is not uncommon for historic buildings to become sources of inspiration for artists. There is an old oil factory in Elefsis, my hometown in Greece. It is named Kronos. It is now abandoned and has not been used for many years. But in a way it is still alive. Music bands go there to film their music videos. Movie productions set up their shooting location inside the factory. Concerts and theater teams play there.

History should of course not stand in the way of progress. The housing problem is serious and modern technology has provided clever ways to tackle it. An old historic library could host some offices or rooms but a strong and tall skyscraper built in its place would create room for hundreds of residents. However, as the old saying goes, the countries that forget their history will certainly repeat their mistakes. In my opinion, there are ways to protect old buildings of historic value. In many cases, architects and civil engineers have managed to find ways to keep the old building – or a part of it – and build a modern structure around and over it. Others have managed to renovate old buildings and change their use case so that it suits the needs of the modern cities.

Ultimately, it comes down to smart decisions and clever engineering. It is certain that the majority of old buildings will eventually be knocked down to make room for modern structures. However, knocking down such a building without calculating the cultural cost that demolishing it would have for the locals and without first considering renovation and repurposing technology, is something that we must prevent from happening.