

Try it first!

Maps

This type of question often shows you a **plan of a city in two time periods**, and you have to describe the main changes between the two periods. The most common time periods are between:

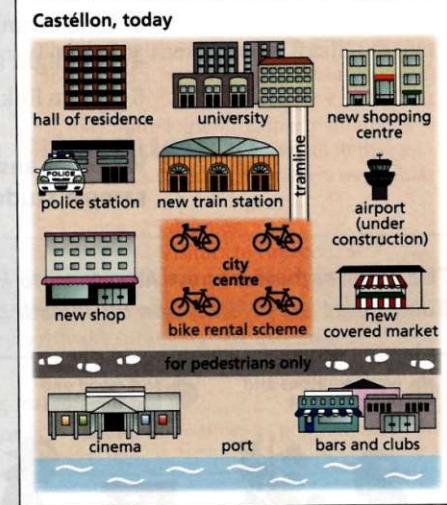
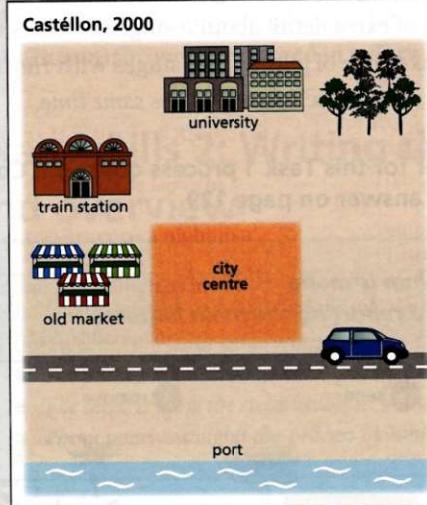
- a time in the past (e.g. 2000) and now;
- two times in the past (e.g. 2000 and 2010).

1 Try writing an answer for the Task 1 question below. You will need to write:

- a brief introduction to the maps in your own words;
- a short overview to describe what has happened to the town in general;
- two paragraphs to describe some of the main changes;
- a minimum of 150 words.

In the exam, you will have 20 minutes for this.

The maps below show changes in the Spanish city of Castellón in recent times. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



2 How has your home town changed since you were a child? Talk about these things with a partner.

- shops ● jobs ● parks ● entertainment ● restaurants
- new buildings ● traffic

Raquel Fernández Casanova is a 29-year-old pharmacist from Castellón in eastern Spain, the town in the maps above. She recently returned to live in her home town after several years living abroad. On the next page is an interview with her about the changes in her home town between 2000 and today.

3 Read the interview and match these questions (1–5) to Raquel's answers (a–e).

- 1 What are some of the main changes?
- 2 What about by the sea? Has anything changed?
- 3 Tell us about how you found Castellón when you went back.
- 4 Are you happy with the changes? Do you know what's planned for the future?
- 5 What else has changed? What about shopping?

 a

Interview



a Tell us about how you found Castellón when you went back.

Well, I don't think the people have changed much, they've always been really friendly and welcoming to outsiders, but what strikes me is that the city has become much more modern and dynamic. Ten years ago, the city used to be very calm and quiet, but there have been lots of changes, and now it's much faster and more exciting to live in.

b

One area which has seen big improvements is transport. A new tram line has been built, connecting the University of Castellón with the main train station. This has made it much easier to get to the uni. Another interesting thing is that a bike-rental scheme has been introduced all over the city, which means that you can hire a bike for free, ride it for up to two hours, then leave it in another area of the city. This is great. Also, a new, very modern, train station has been built, and the old train station has been converted into a police station. The university has been expanded, and they've built a new hall of residence for students to live in.

c

Castellón is really well known as a market town, but in the last ten years, the old market building has been knocked down to make way for new shops, and a completely new, covered market has been constructed. It's really great, it's much bigger than the old one, and there are more choices of things to buy there. Also, in the north-east of the city, a new shopping complex has been built. The area used to be full of trees, but the trees were cut down and replaced by new shops. It's a great place to spend an afternoon browsing the shops with your friends.

d

Definitely. The port area has been completely redeveloped and modernized. They've built a new cinema on the waterfront, and there are lots of new bars and clubs near the beach, where you can enjoy yourself, particularly in the summer. The port area has also been pedestrianized, which is so nice, because you can walk around in peace and relax without hearing the sounds of cars all the time.

e

Yes, overall, there has been a shift towards becoming a modern, vibrant city, and it's great to live here. In terms of the future, an airport is under construction at the moment, and it is due to open in three years' time, which will be fantastic. I've also heard that the council is planning to create a new nature park on the outskirts of the city, and I'm looking forward to going there when it opens.

4 Find words or phrases in the interview with a similar meaning to these.

- 1 The council has built a new tram line. (paragraph b)
A new tram line has been built ...
- 2 The old train station *has been turned into* a police station. (paragraph b)
- 3 The university *is bigger than it was*. (paragraph b)
- 4 The council *has demolished the old market building*. (paragraph c)
- 5 The port has become newer and more modern. (paragraph d)
- 6 The roads in the port area are now only for people to walk on. (paragraph d)
- 7 *The general trend is that* the city has become more modern and lively. (paragraph e)
- 8 The council *is in the process of building* a new airport. (paragraph e)

5 Read the interview again and write down any other useful vocabulary.

Exam skills 3: Grammar and vocabulary for maps

It is important to learn and practise the typical verbs used to describe changes in a city.

1 Write these verbs in the correct column of the table below.

~~build~~ construct ~~convert~~ ~~cut down~~ demolish ~~enlarge~~ erect expand extend
~~industrialize~~ introduce knock down make into modernize pull down redevelop
remove replace transform turn into urbanize

make bigger	take away	add something new	change into something else	general statements about changes
enlarge	cut down	build	convert	industrialize

Describing changes: present perfect passive

You can see from the interview on page 109 that when you write about changes between a time in the past and now, the main tense is the **present perfect passive**:

A new tram line has been built ...

... a bike-rental scheme has been introduced ...

However, *take place*, *become*, *change* and *make way for* can't be passive:

A number of important changes have taken place in the last decade.

The city has become much more modern.

The cinema was knocked down to make way for a new shopping centre.

2 Complete these sentences with a suitable present perfect form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 The city used to be very green, but it much more industrial. (*become*)
- 2 A new sports centre in the city centre. (*construct*)
- 3 The old stadium and replaced by a new one. (*demolish*)
- 4 Many significant changes in the city in the last ten years. (*take place*)
- 5 The old town hall and replaced by new flats. (*knock down*)
- 6 There used to be a park in the north of the city, but it by a supermarket. (*replace*)
- 7 The old houses to make way for new apartments. (*pull down*)
- 8 There didn't use to be many skyscrapers, but several in the last few years. (*build*)
- 9 In the last 15 years, the city considerably, from a quiet market town into a much busier small city. (*change*)
- 10 The disused factory in the south of the city a shopping mall. (*turn into*)

3 Write five sentences about the maps of Castellón on page 108 using the language from this page.

Example: *A new bike-rental scheme has been introduced in the city centre.*

4 Tell your partner how your home town has changed in recent years, using the new language.

Example: *The north-west of my city used to be an area with fields and trees, but in the last few years, lots of new flats have been built there.*

Exam skills 4: Nouns phrases for maps

Instead of using a verb like *demolish* (e.g. *The old market has been demolished*), you can use a noun phrase:

*One interesting development has been the **demolition** of the old market.*

*Another change has been the **construction** of a new football stadium.*

- 1** Complete this table with the noun forms of the verbs. Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.

verb	noun	verb	noun
demolish	1 <i>demolition</i>	cut down	11
construct	2 <i>construction</i>	transform	12
build	3	industrialize	13
open	4	erect	14
knock down	5	modernize	15
expand	6	urbanize	16
convert	7	redevelop	17
introduce	8	pedestrianize	18
replace	9	enlarge	19
extend	10	disappear	20

- 2** Complete these sentences with the noun form of the verb in brackets.

- It is interesting to note that there has been a *redevelopment* of the port area.
(*redevelop*)
- Another striking change is the of the university. (*expand*)
- A notable change has been the of the old train station into a police station.
(*convert*)
- The whole city has experienced a significant in the last ten years.
(*modernize*)
- An interesting development has been the of a bike-rental scheme.
(*introduce*)
- There didn't use to be a cinema or shops near the port, but the last few years have seen the of new facilities in the port area. (*build*)

Tip
To make your answer more academic, use phrases like It is interesting to note that ...

- 3** Cover Exercise 2 and complete these phrases. Then check your answers.

- Another s..... change is ...
- A n..... change has been ...
- The whole city has e..... a significant modernization ...
- An i..... development has been ...
- There d..... use to be ...
- The last few years have s..... the building of ...

- 4** Write a few sentences about the maps of Castellón on page 108, using the phrases on this page.

Model answer 2: Maps

The two maps show the main changes which have taken place in the town of Castellón between the year 2000 and today.

In general, it appears that Castellón has become a much more modern city, with far more shopping and transport facilities.

One interesting change is that a new tram line has been built, to connect the university with the town centre. In 2000, there wasn't any accommodation for students, but a hall of residence has been built near the university. Another striking change is that the old

market in the west of the city has been knocked down to make way for new shops. A completely new covered market has also been built on the other side of town.

If we look at the port area, it has been pedestrianized since 2000, and a range of entertainment facilities have been built, such as cinemas, bars and clubs. The north-east of the city used to be a green area, with lots of trees, but the trees have been cut down, and a new shopping complex has been constructed. A final interesting development has been the introduction of a bike-rental scheme in the city centre.

(194 words)

1 Read the model answer. How many changes are described in paragraphs 3 and 4?

2 Underline all the examples of the following in the model answer.

- 1 present perfect passive
- 2 phrases to introduce changes
- 3 noun phrases

3 Write an answer for this Task 1 map question. Compare your version with the sample student answer on page 129.

The maps below show recent changes in the town of Kimsville.
Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

