Cultural heritage is the responsibility of the government, not the individuals. Do you agree?

**Introduction:**

Ever since the creation of nation states, cultural heritage, once a shared responsibility among groups of people, has now been under state ownership. This has evoked fiery debates about the responsibility of various stakeholders regarding cultural heritage and preservation. Debates from either section asserts that the respective stakeholder is responsible for cultural heritage stemming from a cost and benefit analysis. Bureaucrats rationalise that governments would gain potential benefits in undertaking the role of cultural heritage while some advocates that it is the responsibility of the individuals who should share more this responsibility. In view of such contrasting opinions, this essay argues that cultural heritage is the responsibility of the government.

**Main body**

Opposing view:

Critics assert that cultural heritage should be the responsibility of the individuals rather than the government as culture preservation is a critical component in the conceptualisation of a selfhood of individuals which defines one’s identity in society.

Rebuttal:

However, such a view holds a modicum of truth as individuals may possess the tenacity and personal will but lack in capabilities and experiences in cultural preservation which often needs governmental aid and support.

Supporting view 1 :

Cultural heritage is the responsibility of the government rather than the individuals as the government possesses the extensive resources and cultural institutions to direct the process of cultural heritage preservation.

Supporting view 2:

Furthermore, cultural heritage is the responsibility of the government rather than individuals as governments are better able to set impartial yardsticks and guidelines for cultural preservation which are often subjective and biased when individuals hold the responsibility.

Supporting view 3:

Lastly, cultural heritage is the responsibility of the government as it is a moral and legal obligation of sovereign states to protect the rights, values and identity of individuals.

Conclusion