**GP – Essays – Culture**

**Essay Question 1**

Is it important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era?

**Essay Question 2**

‘The price of progress has been too high.’ To what extent is this true of your society?

**Essay Question 1**

**Is it important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era?**

Type of question: DYA

Thesis: It is important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era

Anti-thesis: It is not important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era

Requirement of question

Set stand: Support thesis.

* Consider why it is not important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era. (Opposing View)
* Consider why the reason stated in the counterpoint is flawed or invalid. (rebuttal)
* Consider why it is important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era. (Supporting View)
* Consider the underlying reason or precondition for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era. (evaluative conclusion)

Introduction (observation, set the perspectives, stand)

In this era of sweeping change, old traditions often seem like so much antiquated fluff, ill-adapted to the beliefs and challenges of today. Yet, as long as we see traditions as timeless values whose implementation adapts fluidly to contemporary requirements, the retention of a sense of tradition is important as it keeps one grounded to his cultural roots, increases individual and community resilience and even can provide vast revenues and raise state profiles as a cultural export. In view of these contrasting opinions, it is the view of this essay that it is important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era.

observation – nature of traditions festive celebrations, special rituals – weddings, ceremonials, cuisines, trends

Opposing View (topic sentence – perspective, ideas, intensification

To some modernists, they feel that it is not important for people to retain a sense of tradition in this modern era as tradition has failed to keep up with the massive social and economic change in this era, rendering it a useless and sometimes unpalatable dead letter.

EL: traditional activities are time-consuming, bothersome, routine – not suitable for modern era – convenience, fast, effective and useful – people in the modern society will reject traditions – affect their productive and efficient lifestyle

EG: traditional food being replaced by fast food.

LS:

**Rebuttal 1**

Traditions have in fact adapted to change, as the manifestations and practice of the traditional values and acts have changed to accommodate contemporary needs and constraints.

**Rebuttal 2**

The unchanging nature of some aspects of tradition are so because these values and beliefs transcend eras and are timeless.

Supporting View

**Point 1**

From a cultural perspective, it is important for people to retain a sense of tradition as it keeps them in touch with their intangible heritage and roots, which in turn mitigates the rootlessness and anomie common in the modern world.

EL: prevent your loss of cultural identity – absence of a sense of belonging – social alienation and isolation – a sense of emptiness and loneliness – affect social mentality and behaviours

EG: LHL – his view about the formation of a disenfranchised society / social and family policies introduced by MSF

LS:

**Point 2**

Furthermore, there are extensive economic benefits for the state and the individuals as it is important for people to retain a sense of tradition as the cultivation and enhancement of culture, coupled with astute marketing, can make cultural heritage a highly valuable intangible export, bringing in substantial export revenues for states in the post-industrial creative - world economy and refreshing consumers in an era of cultural hegemony and homogeneity

EL : the role of traditions in tourism – cuisines, activities, entertainments – provide the foreigners a sense of difference and experiences – modernized city is standardized and similar – not interesting while traditions have heritage and content in presentation

EG: consumer products from commercial business, traditional activities

**Point 3**

Psychologically, it is important for people to retain a sense of tradition as knowing one’s lineage and what the community has gone through increases individual, state and community resilience, making individuals more resistant to modern stresses and states and communities less susceptible to centrifugal forces.

EL: a sense of tradition – link to a heritage that provides a sense of identity – solace and reference for comfort and social support

Point 4 – religion – a sense of tradition is tied to the religious beliefs

Conclusion

The retention of a sense of tradition is important as long as tradition is not seen as a dead letter, but as a timeless base of stability, a ballast that steadies a people and a community as it forges ahead into the turbulent seas of modern life.