

WRITING TASK 1 – Model Answer

The maps represent an island developed for tourism. Pre-development, there was little on the island apart from its natural features and a tiny fishing village. After the transformation, some of the natural features have been accentuated and others have disappeared, but the major differences have been the construction of a road, several buildings and a wharf.

The original island was forested, with a swamp at the northern end and a lake in the middle. In the south, a few simple dwellings surrounded a natural harbour where fishing boats were moored, and a footpath connected the village to the lake.

After development, fewer trees remain but the swamp has been turned into a wildlife refuge and the lake is now surrounded by accommodation units, from where a footpath runs to the sandy swimming beach in the east. A recreation centre and a restaurant have replaced the village and a wharf juts out into the harbour. A road runs around the perimeter of the island linking the deep-water cove in the west, which is used for diving, to the other facilities.

Although development has had a negative impact on the forest, other natural features have been preserved and construction has been concentrated in the centre and south of the island.

208 words

WRITING TASK 2 – Model Answer

In the developed countries of the world, the proportion of older citizens is undoubtedly increasing, and this is causing anxiety for the governments involved. The problems are many and, as yet, there are few solutions.

The main problem is an economic one. Retirees generally draw a government pension and require more healthcare and other welfare assistance, but there are fewer young people in stable employment to pay the taxes for their support. There is also a lack of infrastructure; for example, aged care facilities and geriatric hospitals, and a dire shortage of medical personnel and support staff to operate the amenities that are currently in existence, let alone those that may be built in the future.

What can governments do? In the short term, they could raise the retirement age so that people have to work longer before collecting a pension. Secondly, they could make saving for retirement more attractive by reducing the tax paid on interest earned or by offering other incentives. In addition, governments should start massive construction programmes to accommodate the elderly and invest in recruiting and training personnel to look after them. Both of these schemes would create jobs for the younger generation which, in turn, would raise tax revenues. Governments must also promote health and fitness awareness amongst the aging and encourage personal responsibility for this. Finally, they should consider assisting families in looking after elderly relatives in their own homes, which would be a cheaper option than putting them into care.

In conclusion, although there are undoubtedly economic, infrastructure and staffing problems arising from an aging population, some of these could be addressed by the immediate introduction of a few pragmatic, albeit unpopular, government measures (such as increasing the age of eligibility for a pension) as well as long-term investment in building and training.

300 words