

## UXB130 History of the Built Environment

Guidelines for the first assignment – Comparison of an aspect of the built environment in historical and contemporary settings.

### **Purpose of the paper**

To compare an aspect of the built environment (for example, a port, road, type of building, recreational space, or institution) as it has existed in two different time periods, one historical, the other contemporary.

Your task is to discuss and analyse any changes (and similarities) that may have occurred in the nature of this aspect of the built environment through the passage of time. Examples of changes may be differences in physical form, location, types of users, frequency and purpose of use, and materials. Dimensions of change that are worthy of exploration are those due to changes in the environment, society, or technology.

### **Resources**

This is primarily a research based assignment. As such useful resources are text books, journal articles, and to a lesser extent information obtained from the web. We **STRONGLY ADVISE** that web based information forms no more than 20% of your overall reference list. I don't include finding journal articles using a web based search tool to be web based information as such.

Illustrations and diagrams are encouraged, the main points to remember are that you should reference and caption any illustrations, and refer to them in the body of your text. They are not to be used as decoration, but as an aid to informing the reader.

In the case of this paper, you will at least need a few maps and diagrams to orient the reader with respect to the focus of your comparisons.

### **Structure**

It is possible to write this paper as either a formal report, or as an essay. In either case it is important that you have a clear introduction that explains the nature of what you are about to do, a main body of the paper that does the job of analysing your chosen subject as it has existed through history, and a conclusion and reference list. We don't need fancy plastic covers or ring binders. A staple in the top corner will suffice and is better for the environment.

## **A few final tips**

The flow of your assignment is important; each paragraph should lead into the next, as should each of the sections of the paper.

Try and compare SPECIFIC aspects of the built environment to one another, for example comparing the ancient port of Massilia to the Port of Brisbane is a much better idea than comparing ancient and modern ports. You are still able to use more general information, it is just easier to talk about if you have a concrete example. It is also a good idea to make the two things you are comparing as far apart in time as you are able, it gives you more to work with.

If you don't do anything else make sure that you proof read your first page, it sets the tone for the rest of the paper and goes a long way to establishing a good relationship with your marker.

Use as broad a range of reference materials as you are able. This does two things. It helps the marker determine the amount of research that you have done, and it also minimises the chance for mistakes and errors with important facts and dates.