

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:

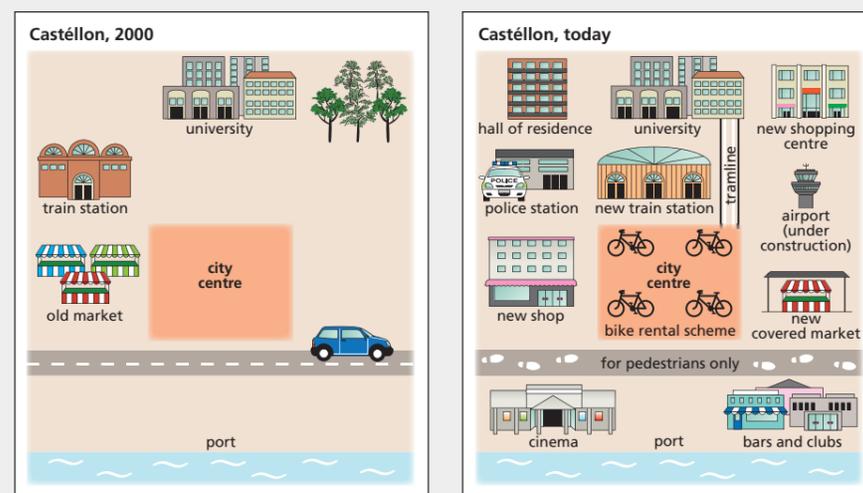
- a time in the past (e.g. 2000) and now;
- two times in the past (e.g. 2000 and 2010).

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?



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.