

Essay: Describing your town or city

Describe the city of Lucerne using the outline below as your basic architecture (each of you will probably have different emphases, a different order, additional information, etc.).

Possible topics:

- general location/part of Switzerland
- area/surroundings/mountains
- population size
- historical facts/age
- character of the city
- climate
- culture/sports
- main sights/places of interest
- advantages/disadvantages of living there
- fun places/favourite spots
- problems of the city
- personal view/opinion
- ...

Use some of the **adjectives below** in the text for **describing places**.

Use some **superlatives** (*the best, the largest, the most famous* etc).

Adjectives to describe a town or city

ancient, artistic, awful, beautiful, big, bustling, busy, charming, coastal, colonial, commercial, compact, crowded, deserted, distant, down, excited, famous, flourishing, historic, industrial, lively, lovely, medieval, mountainous, narrow, neighbouring, nice, northern, oldest, outside, peaceful, picturesque, pleasant, polluted, popular, pretty, principal, prosperous, quiet, remote, rural, sleepy, southern, strange, suburban, thriving, touristic, typical, urban, walkable, walled, wide

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first name	
second name	
class	

	criteria	max. points	points	remarks
layout	formatting restrictions (MS Word, Arial 12, 1.5 line spacing, no handwriting)			
	personalized paper (name & class in footer)			
	text is structured with several paragraphs			
	indication of number of words at end of text	8		
content	length of text: about 300–350 words	15		
	characterisation of the city (5 topics)	15		
	negative aspects/disadvantages of city	6		
	personal view/opinion/tips/suggestions	6		
language	present simple			
	descriptive adjectives / meaningful verbs			
	use of superlatives			
	correct sentence structure	12		
spelling	capitalization			
	silps of the pen (Flüchtigkeitsfehler)	6		
due date	late submission/no print-out: -12 points			
total		68		
grade				

Example 1:

London is the capital city of the UK. **It is located in** South East England, on the River Thames. **It is well known around the world for** its amazing history, architecture, music and fashion. **I think what makes my hometown special is the fact that** you can meet all kinds of people there as it is a melting pot of hundreds of different communities, cultures and languages. **The main language is** English, but this is spoken with a wide variety of accents and dialects.

The advantages of living in London are the high employment prospects, the range of things to do, such as cultural and social activities, and the beautiful parks and river. **Some of the main industries in London are** tourism, retail, finance, creative industries, education, banking and so on. So the job opportunities are good, and **it's quite easy to travel around** London on the Tubes, buses and overground trains.

However, one of the main downsides of London is the cost of living. Rent and travel costs **are some of the highest in the world**, so any advantage of higher wages is usually cancelled out by higher living costs. If you don't like crowds, you'd better stay away from the city centre – but I **guess that is true of any city**.

London **also faces environmental problems such as air pollution, caused by heavy traffic**, and also flooding, as it is in a river valley and some areas of London are lower than the level of the river. **It also faces social problems such as overcrowding and homelessness, and in some areas, social tensions**. London is **more cosmopolitan and much larger than** any other city in the UK, and compared with Paris, the capital of France, London **has a higher population and is also greener in terms of** the number of parks and open spaces.

Example 2:

I live in a town called Nongpoh, in the state of Meghalaya. It is the district headquarters of Ri-Bhoi district, one of the outlining districts lying close to the state of Assam. Nestling amidst the pine groves and undulating hills, Nongpoh is a small tourist town, standing as a gateway to Shillong, the state's capital. Perched on a small plain below the Northern tip of Meghalaya Plateau, it is a beautiful town bustling with business, commerce and tourism.

Nongpoh is situated almost half way between Guwahati and Shillong. Guwahati is hardly one-hour journey from Nongpoh while little more than an hour takes to reach Shillong. It is one of the major tourist commercial towns of the state. It is situated on the Northern plains lying below the Meghalaya plateau. The town lies in the heart of this small plain surrounded by a series of hills on its eastern and western borders.

The main people of my town consists of Khasis- the main inhabitants of the state of Meghalaya, though there are few others from other states. The township has about 5000 people working in all walks of life. More than half of this population is engaged in hotel catering and tourism-related activities. Being a district headquarter the town has all the essential facilities. The 50-bed hospital lies close to the main town while post-office and the main market lie in the heart of the town itself.

Today, Nongpoh stands merely as roadside snack station or a bus- stop station, offering a bit of break to the numerous travellers who pass through the town. If proper night halting facilities, few sightseeing spots and adequate entertainment facilities are provided, the town can progress much more as it would offer an ideal resort for those who want to escape the scorching heat of the Assam plains.

I am proud of my town and I am happy to live in this town. It is a small township marked by liveliness, social harmony and development.

I am sure in the years to come my town would rise from its present status as a mere bus- halting station to a fine town bustling with tourism, commerce, business, industry, etc. The plain nature of the land, temperate climate of the area, and excellent travel and communication facilities available in the town offers immense possibilities for further development.

Example 3:

A fairly big town, I live in an estate on the outskirts of the town. It's quite nice but just round the corner is where all the chavs and council houses are, so it's not that good of a place to be whilst walking around at night. As for the town itself, it's pretty shit. All the good shops have closed and been replaced by poundland or Starbucks. The buildings are mostly modern, but there are a few streets with Victorian houses on them. But other than those most of the streets are grimey and horrible. But, we do have a really nice park and a prestigious golf academy 5 minutes drive away. As I live on top of a hill, my bedroom window overlooks some really lovely hills and you can see for miles.

I don't really call my hometown home even though I've lived there since I was 6. It just seems like a place to live, not home. Now my birthplace, a lovely place in Wales called Aberystwyth was where I truly called home. It's just such a beautiful town with an awesome coastline and some pretty amazing views.

<http://www.escapistmagazine.com/forums/read/18.326459-Describe-your-hometown>