

University of Sussex
V4147 Material Heritage, 2013/14
Assessment

QUESTION 1 (1,000 words)

Imagine that you are applying to a wealthy charitable foundation for new funding for the heritage site or object that you worked on this term OR for a heritage site of your choice. The funding might be designed to improve the condition of your site/object and to preserve it for the future. You might want to conserve the site, or to pull down an addition to it in order to restore its original condition or to create a new display or storage facility for it if it is an object rather than a site. It might be for improving public access and amenities or for another purpose, such as commissioning new research for an exhibition, publication or interpretation website.

Please write your essay as though it were an application for this funding (remember to include footnotes and a bibliography). You will need to think about what you believe your site or object most needs, you should present relevant information about its history, condition and present public access arrangements, and you must explain to the foundation why your project is important and how your vision will help to preserve the site or object in the future.

Question 1

The Great Wall of China is now in danger that parts of the wall are deteriorating due to natural disasters, ineffective enforcement of policies, vandalism and unsustainable tourism. The funding provided by the foundation would be of a great use to keep the maintenance services of the existing parts of the Great Wall, to restore the collapsed parts to its original condition, to employ more staff and to educate the tourists.



Fig. 1: View of the Great Wall of China, China, 2013. Photo: Bryan.

The Great Wall of China has a long history. In 11th century BC - 771 BC, the Western Zhou Dynasty used the wall to protect itself from the attacks by the North nomadic tribes.¹ During the Warring States Period (476BC - 221BC), the seven states were the overlords of China, which were comprised of Qi, Chu, Yan, Han, Zhao, Wei, and Qin. Each of them had their own walls of hundred miles to two thousand miles built for self-defense. After the conquest of Qin (221BC - 206 BC), millions of laborers were commanded to link the scattered walls of the other six states and to build new sections. Rebuilt by the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the Great Wall had

¹ P.A. Sauvain, *Round the World Histories: The Great Wall of China* (Bucks: Hulton Educational Publications, 1972), p.16.

been further developed as a defensive system and had been extended to more than twenty thousand kilometers in length on completion.² The Great Wall serves as a military architectural ensemble in the ancient China, carrying through a single strategic purpose for two thousand years.³ Now, the Great Wall of China is a renowned tourist attraction that welcomes over ten million visitors a year.⁴



Fig. 2: Xinghuanet, *Visitors on the Great Wall of China*, 2010, China.
Source: Global Heritage Fund, http://globalheritagefund.org/onthewire/blog/vandalism_unsustainable_tourism_threaten_the_great_wall_of_china [accessed 9 December 2013].

UNESCO has listed the Great Wall of China as a World Heritage in 1987.⁵ The Great Wall is a masterpiece of military architecture. It is integrated into the landscape and is built over two thousand metres in height, where some parts of the wall are on near-vertical cliffs and steep slopes, and some are in remote vast grasslands and deserts. Different sections of the Wall have different dimensions and use different building materials, as the Great Wall of China is a collection of short walls during the Warring

² Travel China Guide, *Great Wall Construction* (2013), http://www.travelchinaguide.com/china_great_wall/construction [accessed: 9 December 2013].

³ UNESCO, *World Heritage List: The Great Wall of China* (World Heritage Centre, 2013), <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/438> [accessed: 9 December 2013].

⁴ Discovery, *Earth: China's Great Wall Crumbles as Tourism Soars* (2013), <http://news.discovery.com/earth/great-wall-of-china-deteriorating.htm> [accessed: 9 December 2013].

⁵ UNESCO, *World Heritage List: The Great Wall of China*.

States Period. In general, the Wall is constructed of stone, brick and clay, with an average height of thirty-three feet and width of five yards.⁶ It is not only a wall, but also fortifications that equipped with watchtowers, beacon towers and blockhouses.⁷



Fig. 3: Kristen Harris Walsh & Kieran Walsh, *Watchtowers at the Mutianyu Site*, 2013, China. Source: The Telegram, <http://www.thetelegram.com/Author-Kristen-Harris-Walsh-%26amp%3B-Kieran-Walsh/3818/1> [accessed 9 December 2013].

Exposing in rains, snows, and winds, some sections of the Wall are being constantly eroded and, eventually, collapsed. A study by the Great Wall Society of China in 2006 reveals that fifty percent of the Wall has deteriorated due to modernization, to mining, to vandalism, and to sandstorms. Thirty percent is in ruins and only twenty percent of the Wall is in reasonable condition.⁸

⁶ P.A. Sauvain, *Round the World Histories: The Great Wall of China*, p. 22.

⁷ Travel China Guide, *Great Wall Construction*.

⁸ Global Heritage Fund, *Heritage on the Wire: China Opens New Sections of Great Wall to Meet Tourism Demand* (2013), http://globalheritagefund.org/onthewire/blog/great_wall_tourism_demand [accessed 9 December 2013].

There are also reports concerning the heavy rain and massive flooding in the Hebei Province in Northern China, which has caused severe destruction to the Dajingmen section of the wall.⁹ Experts found that there are fragments in other sections because of erosion and cracking. Provided adequate funding can be provided by the foundation, it helps the Chinese government to sustain conservation projects of the Great Wall. It also gives supports to them in restoring the collapsed parts of the Wall.



Fig. 4: *Wall Collapsed after Heavy Rain, 2013, Hebei Province, China.* Source: Autonomous Nonprofit Organization “TV-Novosti”, <http://rt.com/art-and-culture/great-wall-china-collapse-355> [accessed 9 December 2013].

The Great Wall of China is open to public and it is slowly crumbling away due to the misconduct of tourists.¹⁰ Graffiti and irreparable damage, such as carved remarks on bricks, could be easily found on the Wall.¹¹ Hence, the State Council has imposed

⁹ Autonomous Nonprofit Organization “TV-Novosti”, *Art & Culture: The Great Wall of China Collapses after Heavy Rains* (2013), <http://rt.com/art-and-culture/great-wall-china-collapse-355> [accessed 9 December 2013].

¹⁰ Environmental Graffiti, *Architecture: How the Great Wall of China is Slowly Crumbling Away* (2010), <http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/architecture/news-crumbling-great-wall-china> [accessed 9 December 2013].

¹¹ China Daily, *Life: China’s Great Wall Cries over Wayward Graffiti* (2005), http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-11/07/content_492003.htm [accessed 9 December 2013].

and promulgated the Regulations on the Protection of the Great Wall to visitors and local residents in 2006.¹² Graffiti, removal and carving of bricks, and other activities that may destroy the Wall are strictly prohibited. Anyone violates the regulations would be fined or imprisoned depending on the seriousness of the crime. Nonetheless, the enforcement of the policies is difficult since the Wall stretches through eleven provinces of China. It is impossible to take notice of all the misconducts on the Wall. Hence, to enforce the policies to the misbehaviours, it is essential to have more patrols. The funding is vital to the executive body to employ more staff in monitoring the behaviours of the tourists and to penalize the offenders, which helps alleviating damages to the Great Wall. On the other hand, it is an opportunity to educate tourists to protect the Great Wall of China and to treasure the world heritage.



Fig. 5: Ric Ergenbright, *Graffiti on Bricks*, 2013, China. Source: Danita Delimont, <http://img.posterlounge.de/images/wbig/ric-ergenbright-graffiti-exists-all-over-the-world-even-on-the-great-wall-of-china-a-world-heritage-site-184503.jpg> [accessed: 9 December 2013].

¹² Travel China Guide, *Regulation on Great Wall Protection* (2013), www.travelchinaguide.com/china_great_wall/wallprotection/law [accessed 9 December 2013].

In addition, the Great Wall of China is also threatened by the modernization of provinces.¹³ The base of the Wall in Gansu Province is dried up due to farming, which result in sandstorms and erosions. Emission of waste gases from factories and plants, and roads nearby cause air pollution. To remedy the structural beauty of the Great Wall, the funding could be used in restructuring the area.



Fig. 6: AP, *Great Wall is Blanketed in Pollution*, 2008, China. Source: Daily Mail, http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2008/08/07/article-1042537-02315B1700000578-583_468x476.jpg [accessed 9 December 2013].

The Great Wall of China has stood erectly for two thousand years. It should be well conserved and not be ruined in our hands. The funding by the charitable foundation is crucial in restoring the Wall, restructuring the areas, and having strict enforcement of law to reduce vandalism by tourists, such that the Great Wall of China could return to its glory days and could be handed down to the next generation.

¹³ Daily Mail, *News: For Centuries the Great Wall Proved Impenetrable To China's Enemies – But Now It's Being Destroyed From Within... By Farmers* (2013), <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2513459/The-Great-Wall-destroyed-farmers.html> [accessed 9 December 2013].

QUESTION 2 (1,000 words)

How do you understand the terms 'tangible heritage' and 'intangible heritage'?

Do you think that tangible and intangible forms of heritage are equally valuable?

Question 2

Heritage is a concept that most people would assign a positive value.¹⁴ The study of Heritage is to understand both the tangible heritage and intangible heritage, and to think of ways in preserving, displaying or restoring the collection of old objects.¹⁵ The following will have a further elaboration on the term ‘tangible heritage’ and ‘intangible heritage’, and will analyze whether both forms of heritage are equally valuable.

Heritage can be regarded as anything that someone wishes to conserve or to collect, and to pass on to the future generations.¹⁶ The item does not need to be valuable, but it should always have a story behind, which is meaningful to a particular person, particular groups, or to all the people.

Tangible heritage refers to physical objects or places of heritage.¹⁷ It could be categorized as a cultural heritage or natural heritage. Cultural heritage refers to sites or objects that are made by human. Examples of cultural heritage sites are Stonehenge, the Great Wall of China, the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Taj Mahal, the Colosseum, and so on, which are listed as the World Heritage by UNESCO. Historic cities, museums, paintings, videos, photographs and objects that have its own meanings could also be classified as a cultural heritage.

¹⁴ H. Silverman and D.F. Ruggles, *Cultural Heritage and Human Rights* (London: Springer, 2007), p. 3.

¹⁵ University of Massachusetts Amherst, *What is Heritage?* (MA: UMass Amherst Center for Heritage and Society, 2013), <http://www.umass.edu/chs/about/whatisheritage.html> [accessed 10 December 2013].

¹⁶ P. Howard, *Heritage: Management, Interpretation, Identity* (London and New York: Continuum, 2003), p. 6.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p. 9.



Fig. 7: Tangible Heritage: Cultural Heritage Site at Stonehenge, United Kingdom, 2013. Photo: Bryan.

On the contrary, natural heritage refers to sites or objects created by the nature. It conserves the biodiversity, which has its aesthetic qualities, natural beauty and uniqueness.¹⁸ The Amazon Rainforest in South America would be a typical example of a natural heritage. 250 species of mammals, 1,000 bird species and 2,000 fish species have been found in the Rainforest,¹⁹ and some of them are endangered species or new species.²⁰ The rainforest has a balanced ecosystem and provides a suitable habitat for animals to live in.



Fig. 8: André Bärtschi, Amazon Rainforest, Peru.
Source: WWF, http://awsassets.panda.org/img/web_23516_349343.jpg [accessed 10 December 2013].

¹⁸ R. Harrison, *Understanding the Politics of Heritage* (Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press), p. 12.

¹⁹ Arian Towers, *Amazon Rainforest* (Manaus, 2013), <http://www.ariatowers.com/html/manaus-brazil-our-neighborhood.asp> [accessed 10 December 2013].

²⁰ Mongabay, *441 New Species Described in the Amazon Rainforest since 2010* (2013), <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/1025-amazon-new-species.html> [accessed 10 December 2013].

In addition, tangible heritage could also be categorized as national or familial heritage, and within national heritage, it could be in the levels of local, regional, Nation-state and international.²¹ National Heritage may refer to footpaths, folk museums, national museums and UNESCO World Heritage Sites correspondingly.²² While for familial heritage, it may refer to family routines, graves, photo album, or anything that has a relation to memory or continuity.

In every object of tangible heritage, intangible heritage is embedded.²³ Religious sites, such as the churches, cathedrals, monasteries, temples, and mosques, which could be in the forms of tangible heritage, have intangible heritage embedded. People visit these holy places (tangible heritage) to attend worship and sing a hymn of praise to God, that their spiritual beliefs and rituals are intangible heritage.



Fig. 9: G.P. Nikishkov, *St. Peters Cathedral*, 2007, Rome. Source: University of Aizu, <http://web-ext.u-aizu.ac.jp/~niki/photo/images/Rome-St-Peters-Cathedral.jpg> [accessed 10 December 2013].

²¹ P. Howard, *Heritage: Management, Interpretation, Identity* (London and New York: Continuum, 2003), p. 4.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 148.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

Intangible heritage is invisible and could exist without physical references.²⁴

UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has divided intangible cultural heritage into five areas, which is in the form of oral traditions and expressions, performance, rituals and festivities, traditional craftsmanship, and knowledge and practices concerning the nature and the universe.²⁵

Take Chinese New Year (festival) as an example. It is the most significant and valuable day for the Chinese to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. The Chinese will greet each other by saying ‘Kung Hei Fat Choy’ (oral traditions), which means ‘may prosperity be with you’. There will be lion and dragon dances and fireworks (performance). Some citizens will go to temples to wish for good fortune (rituals) and will buy some Chinese paper-cuts for decorations (traditional craftsmanship). The material used in the Festival may not involve tangible heritage, nevertheless, the intangible heritage, which are passed on from a generation to another, exists.



Fig. 10: P.A. Performance of Lion Dance, 2010, London Trafalgar Square.
Source: Daily Mail, http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2010/02/23/article-1253066-086699D3000005DC-121_468x308.jpg
[accessed 10 December 2013].

²⁴ D.A. Alzahrani, ‘The Adoption of a Standard Definition of Cultural Heritage’, *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity*, Vol.3, No. 1, 2013, p. 10.

²⁵ UNESCO, *Intangible Cultural Heritage* (United Nations: Intangible Cultural Heritage, n.d.) <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/01857-EN.pdf> [accessed 10 December 2013].

Both the tangible and intangible forms of heritage are equally valuable. There is an idiom called ‘bygones are bygones’. If a tangible form of heritage is being torn down, though it could carry out repairs, restoration, or even renovation projects, the original condition will be damaged and caused irreversible situations. An elderly volunteer tried to repair a fresco drawn by Elias Garcia Martinez at the Santuario de Misericordia Church in Borja, Spain, but her attempt was a failure. The detailed figure of Christ was turned to a furry creature.²⁶



Fig. 11: Centro de Estudios Borjanos, *Original Painting on the Left and Restoration on the Right*, 2012, Borja. Source: Huffington Post, <http://i.huffpost.com/gen/741061/thumbs/o-RESTORATION-570.jpg?4> [accessed 10 December 2013].

On the other hand, if the intangible form of heritage is to be lost, it will be lost forever and cannot be restored. The folk culture is disappearing in China.²⁷ Folk culture is produced by many anonymous creators and users, and is tied directly to the values and daily experiences of the tribes. It is simple and unsophisticated, localized and

²⁶ K. Brooks, *Elderly Woman’s Hilarious Failed Attempt at Restoring a 19th Century Fresco in Borja, Spain* (Huffington Post, 2012), http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/22/octogenarians-hilarious-f_n_1821389.html [accessed 10 December 2013].

²⁷ China Culture, *Plan Aims to Save Dying Folk Culture* (Ministry of Culture, 2003), http://www.chinaculture.org/focus/2009-05/31/content_330875.htm [accessed 10 December 2013].

natural, such that it could not be easily reproduced again. The living environment in the rural areas of China is changing that modernization and globalization tramped on the folk culture. In Guangxi Province, there were 18 local operas fifty years ago, but only four major ones are still in operation today. The rise of popular culture, which lacks originality, leads to cultural homogenization and threatens the position of folk culture.



Fig. 12: Folk Culture of Miao Tribe in China, 2008. Source: Nipic, http://pic1a.nipic.com/2008-08-20/2008820181344186_2.jpg [accessed 10 December 2013].

Both of the tangible and intangible forms of heritage serve as a mean to educate the next generation that let the descendants to learn from the past. For example, the Art of War, which is an ancient Chinese military treatise written by Sun Tzu, is a tangible heritage, and the recorded strategies and tactics in war would be an intangible heritage.

Some people nowadays transform some of the ideas used in the war from the Art of War and apply in the business sectors.²⁸ This illustrates that if the tangible heritage (the Art of War) and the intangible heritage (the recorded strategies and tactics) are well-preserved and passed from generation to generation, the descendants could learn from the past and have developments of what they have learnt.



Fig. 13: Tangible Heritage: The Art of War; Intangible Heritage: Recorded Strategies and Tactics in War, 2013. Source: Zhugeliangnet, http://www.zhugeliang.net/images/art_of_war.jpg [accessed 10 December 2013].

In conclusion, the study of heritage is to learn the connections between material objects and the concept of heritage, and to find ways to preserve them. The difference between tangible and intangible heritage is that the former one refers to physical objects or sites; while the latter one refers to skills, events, performance, and knowledge, and could exist without physical references. Both the forms of tangible and intangible heritage are equally valuable, which aim to pass the objects or skills to the next generation, such that it would not let bygone be bygone.

²⁸ Sun-Tzu Strategies, *Six Principles of Sun Tzu and the Art of Business* (2013), <http://www.suntzustrategies.com/resources/six-principles-of-sun-tzu-the-art-of-business> [accessed 10 December 2013].

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