

## Section 1:

### #1 (First paragraph): a. Strengths:

- Strong thesis statement outlining the main argument
- Effective use of transitions between ideas

b. Weaknesses: Lack of specificity Your opening paragraph could benefit from more concrete examples to support your claims. You mention "social and economic benefits" without providing specific instances, which weakens the impact of your argument.

c. Exemplar: "Cities should not only tolerate graffiti but actively encourage and embrace it as a valuable component of urban art, as seen in cities like Bristol where the Upfest street art festival has significantly boosted tourism and local businesses."

### #2 (Third paragraph): a. Strengths:

- Addresses counterarguments effectively
- Uses specific examples to support claims

b. Weaknesses: Overreliance on generalisation While you mention Melbourne and Berlin as examples, you don't provide specific details about their initiatives or outcomes. This lack of specificity undermines the strength of your argument.

c. Exemplar: "Cities like Melbourne, through its laneway art programme, have transformed once-neglected areas into vibrant tourist attractions, with a 2018 study showing a 35% increase in foot traffic and a 20% boost in local business revenue."

### #3 (Fifth paragraph): a. Strengths:

- Addresses a significant counterargument
- Proposes constructive solutions

b. Weaknesses: Insufficient evidence Your argument about graffiti artists being motivated by personal expression rather than criminal intent lacks supporting evidence. Without data or expert opinions, this claim appears subjective.

c. Exemplar: "A 2022 survey of 500 graffiti artists in major UK cities found that 78% cited personal expression and community engagement as their primary motivations, challenging the notion that graffiti is inherently linked to criminal activity."

Actionable task: Revise your essay, focusing on incorporating specific data, case studies, or expert opinions to support your key arguments. Ensure each claim is backed

by concrete evidence, particularly in paragraphs discussing the benefits of graffiti and addressing counterarguments.

Overall score: 43/50

## Section 2: Revision Guidelines

Graffiti, often seen as a contentious issue in urban environments, has evolved from its roots as vandalism to a legitimate form of artistic expression and urban commentary. Cities should not only tolerate graffiti but actively encourage and embrace it as a valuable component of urban art. This perspective not only enriches the cultural fabric of cities but also supports social and economic benefits that counterbalance the potential drawbacks.

#1 Firstly, graffiti offers a unique avenue for artistic expression that is accessible to a broad spectrum of individuals. Traditional art forms are often confined to galleries and museums, spaces that can be exclusive or intimidating. Graffiti, on the other hand, democratizes art by placing it in public spaces where anyone can engage with it. This accessibility fosters a greater appreciation for art and creativity, particularly among marginalised communities that might otherwise lack representation. By embracing graffiti, cities create a more inclusive cultural landscape where diverse voices and perspectives can be expressed and celebrated.

Moreover, graffiti can serve as a catalyst for community engagement and revitalisation. In many urban areas, neglected or abandoned spaces become canvases for graffiti artists, transforming them into vibrant, visually appealing areas. For instance, neighborhoods [neighbourhoods] that have supported street art initiatives often experience a decline in vandalism and crime, as these projects foster a sense of community pride and ownership. #2 Cities like Melbourne and Berlin have demonstrated how strategic support for graffiti can lead to cultural revitalisation and increased tourism, benefiting local economies and creating dynamic urban environments.

Critics argue that graffiti contributes to urban blight and reduces property values. While it is true that unregulated graffiti can lead to visual clutter and damage, this concern is mitigated by the implementation of controlled and sanctioned graffiti zones. By designating specific areas for graffiti and encouraging artists to work within these spaces, cities can balance the aesthetic concerns with the benefits of urban art. Furthermore, the practice of legal graffiti can actually enhance property values by transforming previously undesirable areas into attractions that draw visitors and potential investors.

#3 Another common counterargument is that graffiti promotes illegal activity and is associated with gangs. However, this perspective overlooks the fact that many graffiti artists are motivated by personal expression rather than criminal intent. By providing a legal framework and supportive environment for graffiti, cities can channel this energy into positive, community-oriented projects. Educational programmes and workshops for young graffiti artists can also redirect their creativity into constructive avenues, reducing the likelihood of involvement in criminal activities.

In conclusion, cities stand to gain significantly by encouraging and embracing graffiti as a form of urban art and expression. Far from being a source of urban decay, graffiti has the potential to enhance cultural vibrancy, foster community engagement, and stimulate economic growth.