

Section 1:

#1 (First paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong thesis establishment linking Japan's economic growth to cultural identity
- Effective use of the Olympics as a concrete historical reference point

Weaknesses: Lack of Clear Position → Your opening presents competing viewpoints without establishing your stance. The phrase "The answer lies in the delicate balance" remains too vague as a thesis statement.

Exemplar: "Japan's post-war economic miracle, while lauded as a modernization template, demonstrates that nations must carefully balance progress with cultural preservation, as evidenced by the transformative impact of the 1964 Tokyo Olympics."

#2 (Second paragraph) Strengths:

- Vivid contrasting of physical modernisation against cultural loss
- Effective use of specific examples like "traditional neighborhoods were bulldozed"

Weaknesses: Underdeveloped Impact Analysis → Your discussion of community displacement could be strengthened. The phrase "trading centuries-old traditions for fleeting economic gains" needs specific examples of these traditions.

Exemplar: "Traditional neighborhoods were bulldozed for modern infrastructure, destroying centuries-old communal bathhouses and local markets that had fostered community bonds for generations."

#3 (Fourth paragraph) Strengths:

- Strong connection between cultural identity and social cohesion
- Effective use of metaphor with "untethered from its heritage"

Weaknesses: Limited Development of Key Ideas → Your argument about social cohesion lacks concrete examples. The phrase "unable to fully connect with the progress it inherits" needs elaboration.

Exemplar: "Cultural identity anchors a society through shared rituals, communal traditions, and ancestral wisdom—elements that, once lost to rapid modernisation, create a societal disconnect that economic progress alone cannot bridge."

Actionable Task: Rewrite your opening paragraph to clearly state your position on the modernisation-tradition balance, incorporating specific examples from Olympic-era Tokyo that demonstrate this stance.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

#1 ~~Developing nations often look to Japan's post-war "economic miracle" as a template for modernization~~ [Developing nations often look to Japan's post-war "economic miracle" as a template for modernisation]. However, as seen during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, rapid economic growth comes at a cost: the erosion of cultural identity. While the transformation of Tokyo into a global city ~~symbolized~~ [symbolised] progress, it also triggered deep social and cultural shifts. Should ~~modernizing~~ [modernising] countries emulate this path, even if it means radical changes to their heritage? The answer lies in the delicate balance Japan attempted to achieve, as reflected in the experiences of its people and the vision of Emperor Hirohito.

#2 Rick's observations of Olympic-era Tokyo reveal the visible fruits of rapid ~~modernization~~ [modernisation]—gleaming skyscrapers, high-speed trains, and a newfound global prestige. Yet, these advancements came at the expense of Tokyo's cultural landscape. Traditional neighborhoods were bulldozed to make way for modern infrastructure, displacing long-standing communities and severing the intergenerational ties that defined Japanese life. For many locals, particularly the elderly, ~~modernization~~ [modernisation] felt like an abandonment of their roots, trading centuries-old traditions for fleeting economic gains.

Emperor Hirohito, however, envisioned a path that ~~harmonized~~ [harmonised] progress with preservation. He believed Japan could merge technological innovation with its cultural essence, a philosophy encapsulated in the carefully orchestrated opening ceremony of the 1964 Olympics. Traditional performances shared the stage with modern displays, ~~symbolizing~~ [symbolising] a Japan that embraced its past while stepping into the future. His approach underscores an essential lesson: economic advancement should not come at the expense of a nation's identity.

#3 Developing nations face immense pressure to ~~modernize~~ [modernise], often ~~prioritizing~~ [prioritising] rapid economic growth to compete globally. Yet, Japan's experience warns against an unchecked focus on progress. Cultural identity anchors a society, providing the values and traditions that foster social cohesion. Abandoning this foundation risks creating a generation untethered from its heritage, unable to fully connect with the progress it inherits.

The path forward is clear. Developing countries must embrace ~~modernization~~ [modernisation] thoughtfully, seeking models like Hirohito's vision that balance innovation with tradition. Growth that honors heritage is sustainable, enriching not just a nation's economy but its soul. To follow Japan's post-war model blindly is to risk losing what makes a nation truly unique. Instead, let the lessons of Tokyo 1964 inspire a ~~modernization~~ [modernisation] that celebrates both progress and identity.