



MATURITA CARD | Housing and the Local Neighbourhood

A COMPARE AND CONTRAST

- Look at the pictures on the other side of this card. What does each picture show? What trends, themes or ideas do they represent? What is happening in each picture?
- Compare and contrast them. In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
- How do these pictures make you feel? Do they remind you of anything from your own life and experience?

B ALL ABOUT YOU

- What kind of property do you live in? Describe your home.
- What's your neighbourhood like? What facilities are nearby? What is the area like? Is it a walkable neighbourhood?
- Do you feel a sense of connection to your neighbourhood? Is there a strong sense of community? Why or why not, and in what ways?
- Have you ever lived anywhere else? If so, what was it like? How was it different from where you live now? If not, would you like to? Why or why not?
- Do you have friends or relatives whose homes, neighbourhoods or communities are very different from your own? Describe some of the differences.
- What are your plans for the future regarding accommodation and housing?
- What would your dream home be like? How would it be different from where you live now?
- What changes would you like to see in your neighbourhood? Are they likely to happen? Why or why not? What effects could such changes have, both positive and negative?
- What experience or knowledge do you have of homes, neighbourhoods or communities in different countries?
- What factors would you prioritise when choosing where to live?

C SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

- What trends do you know about with regard to housing and communities? How do you feel about them? Are they positive or negative? In what ways?
- What policies could the local or national government introduce to support housing and communities? What could be the downsides to these policies?
- Some developments that are "good" can cause local harm; for example, a rehabilitation clinic for drug addicts may anger local residents. The reverse can be true as well; for example, a new mine that provides employment may also destroy the environment. How should we choose what developments to permit? What are the biggest priorities, and why?
- What do you think about the differences between city and country life?
- How do you feel about second-home ownership? How about Airbnb and the trend of people buying properties for renting out, not for living in?

D WHAT IS....?

Give a definition of each of these terms.

- flat / apartment
- housing estate
- social housing
- gated community
- walkable neighbourhood
- gentrification
- urban sprawl
- buy-to-let
- affordable housing
- NIMBY, NIMBYism
- amenities
- landlord
- flatmate / roommate

E QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"Old notions of growth are growing obsolete. We need to build less, we need to build smarter, and we need to build to elevated green standards."
John Diamond-Nigh

"The cause of homelessness is lack of housing."
Jonathan Kozol

"Some people look for a beautiful place to live. Others make the place they live beautiful."
Hazrat Khan

"What we don't have a right to is healthcare, housing or handouts (= money from the government). We don't have those rights."
Glenn Beck

"To buy a nice home is to buy a better way of life, and that's the most important thing."
unknown

"City life is millions of people being lonely together."
Henry David Thoreau