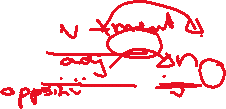
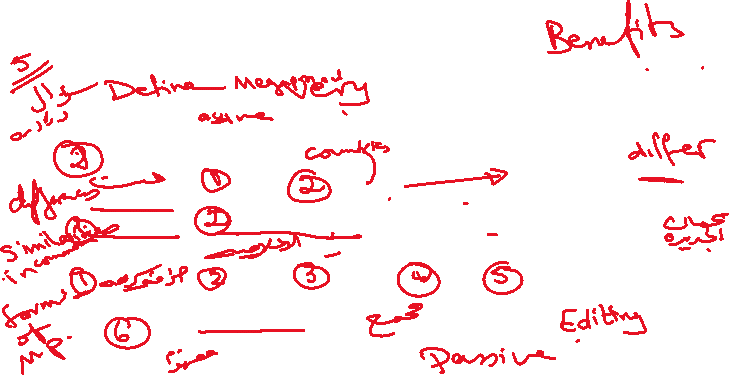
**Masdar City – a positive step?**



`Megaprojects are extremely large investment projects, which are designed to encourage economic growth and bring new benefits to cities. Although megaprojects vary in terms of size and cost, they are all, by definition, expensive, public projects that attract a high level of interest and media coverage. Projects range from motorways, airports, stations, tunnels, bridges, etc. to entire city complexes.



The concept of a megaproject is always based on the



benefits it brings to a community. However, many



megaprojects have been criticised because of their



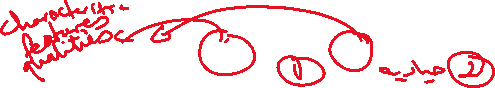
negative effects on a community or the environment.



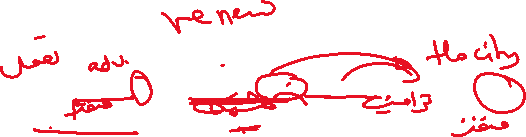
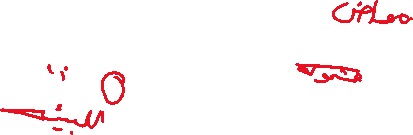
This essay will look at these issues with regard to



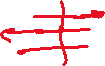
Masdar City, a megaproject in Abu Dhabi.



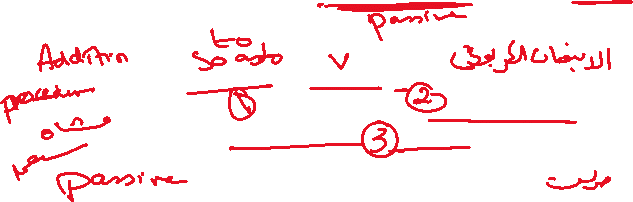
Masdar City, which began its development in 2006 CE, will be the world’s first carbon-neutral, zero-waste artificially-created city. Covering an area of six square kilometres, when it is completed in 2025 CE, it is expected to house more than 40,000 residents, 50,000 commuters, and 1,500 businesses involved in mainly environmentally-friendly products.



The city will run entirely on renewable energy sources. It is built on an advanced energy grid which monitors exactly how much electricity is being used by every outlet in the complex.



Furthermore, in order to reduce its carbon footprint, Masdar City will be a car-free zone, designed to be



pedestrian and cycle-friendly. Electric, driverless cars will operate as public transport vehicles, and the city will be connected to other locations by a network of roads and railways.



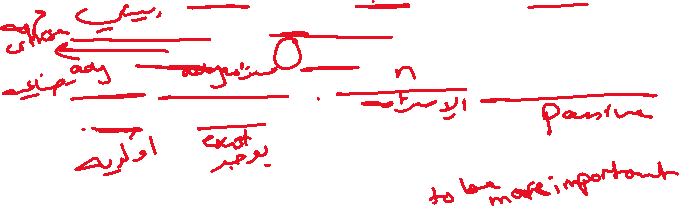
Energy will be provided by solar power and wind farms, and there are also plans to build the world’s largest hydrogen plant. A desalination plant will be used to provide the city’s water, with 80% of water used being recycled. Biological waste will be used as an energy source too, and industrial waste will be recycled.



The current residents of Masdar City are all students at the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, a university whose students are fully committed to finding solutions to the world’s energy problems.



While the project has the support of many global, environmental and conservation organisations, there is some criticism of it. It is felt that, instead of building an artificial sustainable city, sustainability should be made a priority of existing cities.



In conclusion, the benefits of Masdar City for the community and the environment greatly outweigh any disadvantages. If the aims of the developers are realised, Masdar City will be a blueprint for future urban planning that will inspire similar megaprojects in other countries.

