

Should museums and art galleries be free of charge for the general public, or should a charge, even a voluntary charge, be levied for admittance?

Discuss this issue, and give your opinion.

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One very 1. _____ in today's world is the 2. _____ of museums and art galleries. While there is an argument that they should be free to the general public and funded by governments, I also believe that there is also a cause for saying that they should charge an entrance fee like other attractions.

Those who argue that museums should be free typically make one of two arguments. The first argument is that 3. _____ like museums are a public service and therefore there should be free 4. _____ to the man in the street. If, for example, there was a charge only the wealthy could afford to enjoy works of art. The second, and related, argument is that if they did 5. _____ a charge fewer people would go to museums. This would be serious as they are educational institutions and standards would fall.

In 6. _____ there is only one 7. _____ argument on the other side of the 8. _____. This is that both museums and art galleries need to charge an entrance 9. _____ if they are to 10. _____ in the modern world. Governments do not have 11. _____ funds to 12. _____ all such institutions and there are other 13. _____ for public money. Therefore these galleries and museums need to charge their customers not only to survive, but to update their 14. _____ and make new 15. _____. By way of 16. _____, the Tate Modern in London would could not have been 17. _____ without revenue from admissions.

My personal position is that there is no clear answer for this question as there are such strong arguments on both sides. Perhaps it is possible for some museums and art galleries to charge fees and for others not to. It will depend on the situation of the individual museum or gallery.