1. HOMES

Complete this essay with words from the Academic Word List.

Aspects benefits circumstances community conclusion environment issue maintain major majority options purchase significant ultimately

Many people nowadays have to make a difficult decision when they buy their own home. The question is whether they should buy a house or an apartment. There would seem to be clear .....

and drawbacks to both .....

Perhaps the ..... advantage of living in a house is the ..... of privacy. Typically, there is more opportunity for peace and quiet, if you live in a house. This is particularly the case if it is a detached house. Other ..... advantages are that houses are generally more spacious and on the whole have gardens. This is especially important if there is a family so that the children can have a safe ..... to play in. If, however, you live in a tower block, then the children have to play outside on the pavement.

There are, of course, negative ..... to living in houses. The greatest of these is that they tend to be more expensive to ..... and ..... Indeed, a large ..... of people choose to live in apartments because they cannot afford the mortgage to buy a house. Another possible problem is that there are fewer houses in cities than the countryside. Thus, if you like urban life, it may be preferable to live in an apartment. A second reason to avoid living in a house is that there is a greater sense of ..... to life in an apartment.

My ..... would be that this is a well-balanced issue. There are probably an equal number of pros and cons to making either choice. ....., whether you decide to live in a cottage in the countryside or a duplex in a city depends on your own personality, family and financial .....

***Write your own essay on the topic - Which is better: to live in a big city or the countryside?