

Student task

1. With a partner, read through the comments below together.
2. Decide whether each is a fact or opinion.
3. Separate the comments into two piles, one for facts and one for opinions.
4. Thinking about your pile of opinions – do you think the majority of people in favour of or against the regeneration of Gloucester Docks?

Regeneration to date has been largely heritage-led, with the restoration of, and new uses for, many historic buildings, including warehouses in the Gloucester Docks and buildings at the Gloucester Quays.

The Gloucester Docks are a unique heritage site, and along with the Cathedral, are one of the city's most visited tourist destinations.

A combination of new build and the repair/refurbishment of many of the historic warehouses, typically for apartments with active commercial uses on the ground floor, have breathed new life into the docks.

It's well worth visiting the dock area; a lovely place for an interesting walk. Plenty of seats. The maritime museum and also the large antique centre are great. Some good pubs and the restaurants are always open. Sometimes when the weather is good there are outdoor entertainers that add to the atmosphere. There is plenty of parking at reasonable prices.

Full of canal barges, tall ships and pleasure craft, the docks have been excellently developed. Plenty of shops, cafes and restaurants. Well worth a visit.

The Gloucester Docks regeneration project was effectively started by the Council's pioneering move to save four of the historic warehouses in the 1980s.

There is a wide variety of bars and restaurants to enjoy and the quays really come to life in the evening. Great for a night out with the girls, a family meal, or even a nice date night.

The regeneration of the docks, coupled with the creation of a small outlet mall, works well. Plus, lots of bars and eateries to suit all tastes. We visited during the Victorian Christmas market, so it was very busy. I would imagine it is lovely on a warm summer day. Shame the museum is currently under refurbishment. Next time! Smaller than the likes of Meadow Hall, Trafford Centre and Cheshire Oaks, but loads more character. Will happily return in summer.

The Gloucester Quays scheme also covers around 25 hectares of brownfield land, where Gloucestershire College, Sainsbury's, Travelodge, a cinema and several restaurants are now located.

The Gloucester Quays scheme has involved a significant investment by the Peel Group and made a major contribution to the regeneration of Gloucester.

The regeneration of Gloucester docks – fact or opinion?

We visited the docks as we used to live in the area and it has been totally revised since then. It generally was a pleasant place to be, although parking was a bit difficult to find and expensive at more than £1 per hour. This is not conducive to casual visiting. Actually found though that there was limited things to do and the National Waterways Museum was closed for refurbishment. There was just shopping and wandering around the dock area to do, although there were many restaurants to visit. I think more could be made of the area with boats open for visits on them, rather than having to look at them from afar. Also could do with more explanations of the area, rather than the few signs dotted around the place. Could see it all in about an hour at present! There did not appear much for young children to do, unless parents were well-informed and could explain what the site was about. A display centre would be useful. It was clean and tidy though.

In a joint venture with Merchant Place Developments, Rokeby Developments has recently acquired Bakers Quay and plans to deliver an exciting, good quality mixed-use regeneration scheme. This will bring the last two, vacant Victorian Warehouses in the Gloucester Quays back into use.

We enjoyed seeing the old ships in the dry docks. It was interesting, but it is not a place I would go back to, unless I was taking a boat ride somewhere.

The Victorian Docks have been sympathetically regenerated with shops, pubs and numerous places to eat. The docks themselves would fascinate anyone with an interest in the sea having numerous, old sailing vessels and barges; the beautiful, old warehouses have been remodelled and are now home to many and varied enterprises. We were there for the Victorian Christmas Market and it was an excellent day out. The only drawback seems to be that this new area has drained the life out of the older parts of Gloucester.

The Gloucester Docks regeneration project has also seen considerable investment in the public realm.

The Gloucester Quays scheme includes the Outlet Centre operated by Peel Holdings.

It is a strange thing of beauty. It reminds me of so many ideas mashed into one, but somehow does not pull it off. Princes Quays, Liverpool and McArthur Glenn outlets all rolled into one. The shops are the usual run of the mill that you will find anywhere in the country. But it is clean and has a good sized, multi-storey car park with disabled access.

Lots of history surrounds the docks, and it is a gorgeous place to stroll and take in the views. There is a great bar at the docks (Doctor Foster's) and it is next to Gloucester Quays ... there are plenty of things to see and do.

Peel Outlets will invest £100 million in the Gloucester Quays over the next three years.

Great day out, lots to see and do. Great shopping and lots of places to eat. Lovely to see the tall ships in for repairs.

The regeneration of Gloucester docks – fact or opinion?

Teaching notes

Comment	Fact or opinion
Regeneration to date has been largely heritage-led, with the restoration of, and new uses for, many historic buildings, including warehouses in the Gloucester Docks and buildings at the Gloucester Quays.	Fact
The Gloucester Docks are a unique heritage site, and along with the Cathedral, are one of the city's most visited tourist destinations.	Fact
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