



**Economics
Leaving Certificate
Higher Level**

**Past Exam Questions on
Economic Policies: Problems and Conflicts**

Q9 Section A 2013

9. A recent report to the Irish government highlighted the growing issue of alcohol abuse in Ireland.
- (a) Outline **one** private cost and **one** social cost related to excessive alcohol consumption.
 - (b) Describe **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of the government imposing a minimum price on alcohol products.

(a) Private Cost: _____

Social Cost: _____

(b) Advantage: _____

Disadvantage: _____

(17 marks)

Q6 Part (c) Section B 2012

- (c) State and explain **two** economic arguments in favour of and **two** economic arguments against third level students contributing to the cost of their higher education. (20)

Q9 Section A 2010

9. The Irish Government is considering the introduction of water charges for households. Outline **three** possible economic arguments in favour of the introduction of water charges for households in Ireland.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(17 marks)

Q3 Part (c) Section B 2010

- (c) *Ireland's 'Black Economy' (underground economy) activity results in a loss of up to €6.1bn to the Exchequer annually, according to the economist Friedrich Schneider.*
- (i) State and explain **three** economic effects of this activity in Ireland.
 - (ii) Outline **two** economic measures the Irish Government could take to discourage this activity.

(25 marks)

Q6 Part (b) Section B 2010

- (b) (i) State and explain what you consider to be the **three** most important economic aims of the Irish Government.
- (ii) Outline **two** examples of possible conflicts between government economic aims/objectives.

(25 marks)

Q8 Part (c) Section B 2009

- (c) (i) Outline the major causes of the recent increases in unemployment in the Irish economy.
- (ii) Discuss economic policies which the Irish government might pursue in order to reduce the level of unemployment.

(40 marks)

Q4 Section A 2008

4. Define **economic development**. State two policies by which governments in less developed countries (LDCs) might promote economic development.

Definition: _____

Policy (i): _____

Policy (ii): _____

(16 marks)

Q7 Part (b) Section B 2008

- (b) One of the economic aims of the government is 'Balanced Regional Development'.
- (i) Explain the meaning of the underlined term.
 - (ii) Outline **two** policies which the government could implement to promote regional development.
 - (iii) 'Balanced Regional Policy has an opportunity cost'. Explain this statement, using an example to support your answer.

(25 marks)

Q9 Section A 2007

9. Energy costs (e.g. electricity) increased significantly in Ireland during 2006. Outline **TWO economic reasons** for the increase and **TWO economic consequences** of this specific development for the Irish economy.

Reasons:

(i) _____

(ii) _____

Consequences:

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(17 marks)

Q8 Part (b) Section B 2007

- (b) (i) State and explain **FOUR** economic aims of the Irish government.
- (ii) Discuss **TWO** examples where economic policies introduced to achieve one economic aim, may make it more difficult to achieve one of the other aims.

(25 marks)

Q4 Section A 2006

4. Define **economic development**. State **TWO** policies by which governments of developed countries could promote economic development in less developed countries (LDCs).

Definition: _____

Policy (i): _____

Policy (ii): _____

(16 marks)

Q8 Section B 2006

8. (a) The government announced plans to **decentralise/re-locate** many government departments and state agencies throughout the country. Discuss **TWO** possible economic advantages and **TWO** possible economic disadvantages of this policy for the development of the Irish economy. *(20 marks)*
- (b) It is argued that the Irish economy is currently experiencing close to **full employment**.
(i) Explain the underlined term.
(ii) Discuss **TWO** economic benefits and **TWO** economic difficulties of a full employment economy in Ireland today. *(25 marks)*
- (c) There has been high expenditure in recent years on developing transport and communications infrastructure in Ireland. With the use of examples, outline **TWO** possible social costs and **TWO** possible social benefits of these developments. *(30 marks)*
[75 marks]