



**Economics
Leaving Certificate
Higher Level**

**Past Exam Questions on
Economics of Population**

Q8 Section B 2013

8. (a) 'The rate of unemployment among 15-24 year olds in Ireland has increased by 74% between 2006 and 2011' (*Profile 3 At Work*, Central Statistics Office, July 2012).
- Explain **three** economic consequences of a high rate of youth unemployment on the Irish economy.
 - Discuss **three** measures which the Irish government may introduce to reduce the problem of youth unemployment. (30)
- (b) 'Ireland's National Debt was €137.6bn at the end of December 2012'.
(National Treasury Management Agency)
- Discuss the disadvantages for Ireland of having a high National Debt.
 - Outline **two** means by which Ireland's National Debt may be made more sustainable. (30)
- (c) Ireland, in common with many developed countries, is facing the challenges of an ageing population.
Discuss the possible economic consequences of an ageing population for the Irish economy. (15)

[75 marks]

Q5 Section B 2012

5. (a) The following table shows the world population and the projection for 2012, according to the United States Census Bureau (USCB) estimates:

Population in Billions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Year	1804	1927	1960	1974	1987	1999	2012
Years elapsed	-	123	33	14	13	12	13

- Suggest **two** reasons for the rapid growth in world population in recent times.
 - Discuss the economic effects of an increasing population on the Irish economy. (30)
- (b) (i) State and explain the benefits of economic growth for developing countries (LDCs).
(ii) Discuss **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage for the Irish economy of increased growth rates in developing countries (LDCs). (25)
- (c) The classical economist, Thomas Malthus, in his work *An Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798) created a theory on population.
- Explain Malthus's theory on population.
 - Is Malthus's theory on population relevant today? Explain your answer. (20)

[75 marks]

Q8 Section B 2012

8. (a) It is often said that 'push' factors and 'pull' factors drive emigration.
- (i) Describe two economic 'push' factors OR two economic 'pull' factors currently affecting emigration from Ireland.
 - (ii) State and explain the positive and negative consequences of emigration for the Irish economy. (30)
- (b) (i) State the rate of unemployment in Ireland during 2012, as indicated by the Live Register.
- (ii) Outline the limitations of the Live Register in measuring the rate of unemployment in the Irish economy. (20)
- (c) The economist John Maynard Keynes, author of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (1936), supported the use of fiscal policy by Government to create full employment.
- (i) Explain the above statement.
 - (ii) Discuss two other key concepts which Keynes contributed to economic thought. (25)

[75 marks]

Q8 Section B 2011

8. (a) Discuss the economic uses of the 2011 Census of Population data for Government and Business. (20)
- (b) 'Ireland is experiencing the highest level of net outward migration since 1989'.
(The Central Statistics Office, 2010)
Discuss the reasons why Ireland is now experiencing a high level of net outward migration. (25)
- (c) 'The unemployment rate in Ireland in December 2010 was 13.6%'.
(The Central Statistics Office)
- (i) Discuss two economic measures which the Government could take in order to reduce the level of unemployment in Ireland.

At the end of the year 2010, the EU and the IMF agreed €85bn of financial support for Ireland.

- (ii) Discuss the economic effects of this financial support on the Irish economy. (30)

[75 marks]

Q7 Section A 2010

7. Outline two limitations in using the Live Register as a means of measuring unemployment.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(17 marks)

Q8 Part (b) Section B 2010

(b) *By 2036 one in five Irish people will be over 65 years of age, with the greatest increase being in those over 80 years.*

(i) Outline two possible economic effects of an ageing population on the Irish economy.

The number of emigrants from Ireland, in the year to April 2009 was 65,100, up from 45,300 for the previous year.

(ii) State and explain three economic consequences of the recent increase in emigration.

(25 marks)

Q9 Section A 2009

9. Economists have commented on Ireland's 'greying population', i.e. the structure of Ireland's population is getting older. Outline two economic effects of this development for the Irish economy.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(17 marks)

Q8 Part (b) Section B 2009

(b) 'According to the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) the rate of unemployment was 7.7% in December 2008'.

(i) Name a source, other than QNHS, for unemployment statistics in Ireland.

(ii) State, with reasons, which of the measurements of unemployment used by each of these sources gives the most accurate estimate of Irish unemployment.

(15 marks)

Q7 Part (c) Section B 2008

(c) The 'Birth Rate' in Ireland shows an increase over previous years (CSO Census 2006).

- (i) Explain the meaning of the underlined term.
- (ii) Outline **three** economic implications of the changing structure and size of the Irish population.

(20 marks)

Q1 Section A 2006

1. State **THREE** economic uses for a census of population in Ireland.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(16 marks)