



**Home Economics
Leaving Certificate
Higher Level**

**Past Exam Questions on
Elective 3: (un)employment and Poverty**

Q3 Part (a) Section C 2013

3.(a) In an age of austerity, high unemployment and street protests that focus on the harsh economic realities of the present day, there's a sense that the world of secure employment and jobs with good benefits are a thing of the past.

- (i) Differentiate between paid work and unpaid work. (10)
- (ii) Discuss the impact of social, economic and technological change on patterns of work and work availability in Ireland. (25)
- (iii) Identify and elaborate on the factors that affect an individual's attitude to work. (15)

Q3 Part (b) Section C 2013

- 3.(b) (i) Discuss the extent and distribution of poverty in Ireland today. (20)
- (ii) Name and set out details of one statutory response to eliminating poverty in Ireland. (10)

Q3 Part (a) Section C 2012

3.(a) The high level of joblessness and the continuing threat of unemployment are among the biggest issues adversely affecting the Irish economy. Figures released by the Central Statistics Office show that the standardised jobless rate increased to 14.4% in October 2011. Among those signing on were 93,013 Jobseeker's Benefit claimants and 301,333 Jobseeker's Allowance claimants.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<i>Unemployment rates in Ireland</i>	4.4%	4.5%	6.4%	11.8%	13.7%	14.2%

(Seasonally adjusted standardised unemployment rates. Central Statistics Office)

- (i) Having regard to the information provided above, discuss unemployment in Ireland. (20)
- (ii) Analyse how each of the following has impacted on current rates of unemployment:
- geographical location
 - the global economy
 - the level of demand for products and services. (20)
- (iii) Name and give details of one statutory response to creating employment. (10)

Q3 Part (b) Section C 2011

- 3.(b) In Ireland, the last 30 years have seen dramatic social and economic changes.
- (i) Discuss the impact of social change on family life. (20)
 - (ii) Assess the effects of decreasing employment opportunities in Ireland today. (10)

Q3 Part (a) Section C 2010

- 3.(a) The Irish economy has come to the end of a prolonged period of growth, this will increase the number of households vulnerable to poverty.
- (i) Discuss the influence of each of the following as a contributory factor to poverty in Ireland today:
 - the economic recession
 - social policy
 - the cycle of deprivation in families and geographical areas. (30)
 - (ii) Outline how the state has responded to eliminating poverty. (10)
 - (iii) Write an informative note on one national voluntary organisation which works with individuals / families experiencing poverty. (10)

Q3 Part (b) Section C 2010

- 3.(b) 'Having a work environment that is dynamic encourages people to share their views and be innovative.'
(Irish Independent March 2009)
- (i) Assess how intrinsic and extrinsic factors affect attitudes to work. (10)
 - (ii) Identify and discuss some of the changes in patterns of work and work availability in Ireland today. (20)

Q3 Part (a) Section C 2009

- 3.(a) 'Ireland is now facing the most severe economic downturn and unemployment crisis since the 1980's.'
(Irish Independent 8th March 2008)
- (i) Define unemployment and comment on the extent of unemployment in Ireland today. (14)
 - (ii) Analyse the causes of unemployment. (24)
 - (iii) Name and give details of one statutory initiative aimed at creating employment. (12)

Q3 Part (b) Section C 2008

3.(b) 'Despite almost a decade of economic boom, Ireland still has a large proportion of people at risk of poverty.' (CSO)

- (i) In relation to the above statement discuss the extent and distribution of poverty in Ireland today. In your answer include reference to the cycle of deprivation in families. (20)
- (ii) Name and give details of two government schemes that reduce expenditure for low-income families. (10)

Q3 Part (a) Section C 2007

3. (a) The 1990s has seen significant changes in the employment opportunities available in Ireland.

- (i) Discuss how patterns of work and work availability have been affected by
- developing technology
 - the decline in primary and secondary industries and the growth in service industries
 - increased educational requirements. (30)
- (ii) Explain how improved working conditions have allowed women to participate more fully in the workforce. (12)
- (iii) Write an informative note on the Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act (1996). (8)

Q3 Part (b) Section C 2007

3. (b) (i) Identify two groups of people who have difficulty in securing employment and discuss reasons for high unemployment among each group named. (18)
- (ii) Outline the effects of unemployment on society. (12)

Q3 Part (a) Section C 2006

3. (a) *While Ireland has become increasingly wealthy in recent years, it still has one of the highest levels of income inequality in the EU.*

- (i) Define each of the following: (10)
 - (a) *Relative Poverty*
 - (b) *Absolute Poverty.*

- (ii) Discuss the reasons why poverty continues to be a feature of modern society. In your answer include reference to the cycle of poverty and the influence of social policy on poverty. (24)

- (iii) Give an account of two statutory initiatives aimed specifically at eliminating poverty in Ireland. (16)