

**Q: 'Describe and explain two impacts on Ireland of the enlargement of the European Union' (2009 Q5 B.)**

**Economic and cultural.**

The EU expansion has provided a new source of labor for the Irish economy. Between 1995 and 2009 the Irish Tiger economy required 420,000 new workers.

The EU has expanded from six member states in 1957 to 28 today. Freedom of movement of labor has been an objective of the EU state since the treaty of Rome 1957 on the single Europe act 1987

Many workers from the newer EU states especially those in eastern countries who joined since 2004, e.g. Poland move from Ireland for work. In 2009, 150,000 foreign workers were employed here.

Positive impact on the Irish economy include the fact that their taxes contributed to health and education services EU workers provided skills that were in short supply in Ireland e.g. construction

Non-Irish EU workers also contributed to the economy here by buying houses goods and services from Irish companies. Huge influx also gave rise to new businesses catering specifically for the new immigrants e.g.

Polish newspaper

Another positive effect of the economy includes greater access to European markets I'm there for an increase in the possibility of exports abroad, further supported indigenous industries and adds to the positive balance of payments.

Ireland's population has grown since joining the EU as a result the economy is less dependent on the United Kingdom. Only 20% of exports go there, compared to 75% in 1960

Multinational companies have found Ireland an attractive location due to its export opportunities within An expanding EU Eg Dell in 1990. Culture refers to the way of life of a group of people and includes things like language, religion etc. Ireland has become a multicultural society as a result of European Union expansion Maastricht Treaty 1993 and introduction to the euro has allowed for direct comparison of services and products between EU countries therefore enabling us to gain insight to other EU states.

Irish population has become varied. In 2006 over 25,000 new work permits were issued to Polish people.

The largest groups living in Ireland work Poles 150,000, Lithuanians 45,000 and Latvians 30,000.

Irish people have adapted to become familiar with EU citizens working alongside them. Irish people now hear different languages daily, working on socializing with people from other countries.

Irish food shops now serve food from other EU nations which further encourages cultural diverse city.

Multicultural families are now common and now Irish people migrate more frequently.

Schools have had to integrate students from other countries. EU languages cannot be taken out leaving certain level of multicultural days help to educate embrace ideas of a multicultural society.

Celtic Tiger and cheaper airfare and also the expanding EU has allowed Irish people to visit more of the newer states and therefore broadening the cultural experience they do not get at home

