

## Concept of a Region| A1 Sample Answer

### **Examine how socio-economic factors can be used to define regions with reference to examples you have studied. (2013 Q4 C)**

Socio- economic regions are regions that have social and economic characteristics that set them apart. These can be used to determine the prosperity of a region. Economic characteristics can include trade, industry and unemployment levels. Social factors can include education and healthcare. Socio-economic regions are defined by whether they are core or peripheral.

Core regions are the wealthy, more important regions. An example would be the Greater Dublin area in Ireland. A core region experiences the majority of the region's trade, industry and governmental influence. They usually have urban-based economies that are developed and profitable. They are considered to be the centre of business and often government administration and decision making for a country. The average income in a core region would be higher than other areas of the country. The European Union classifies a core region as ones whose incomes are 10% higher than the E.U average. They find it easier to attract industry because they tend to have a better workforce of skilled and educated people, large market opportunities and provide necessary services. Core regions must have a reliable transport network and are usually accessible by road and rail to make trade easier. Core areas usually have a high population density and experience inward migration. Often they have low unemployment as there are more opportunities here. They often have better opportunities for further education and research and development.

A peripheral region is less economically developed than a core region and is often the least developed part of a country. An example would be the West of Ireland. Peripheral regions lack in industrial development. They are usually located far from the core region and the centre of governmental influence and decision making. They are often remote mountainous areas or coastal areas because these areas are inaccessible and therefore cannot benefit from efficient, reliable transport. They tend to have an underdeveloped services industry and lack industrial development due to the high cost of transport. This means they are unable to compete economically with other markets. Peripheral regions experience usually has high unemployment

levels and lower incomes than core areas. Because of this they tend to experience outward migration into core regions. Incomes in peripheral regions are 10% lower than the EU average according to the European Union. They have fewer third level colleges and because of this experience outward migration of their youth who look for better opportunities elsewhere. They tend to have an ageing population. People in these areas have low living standards and often don't even have access to adequate medical care.