

Development of urban area in Irish region| sample answer

Q: 'Examine the development of one urban area in any Irish region studied by you' (2010 Q5 B.)

Dublin city is Ireland's primate city and capital. Because of huge rural-to-urban migration there has been rapid growth

Dublin's rapid growth since the 1960's led to urban sprawl. The development radiated around Dublin city,

Dublin city is a nodal and bridging point and the heart of the urban sprawl that occurred

Another reason why development of the urban area of Dublin occurred is because it is a capital of the country and consequently holds the centre of government

The government has been responsible for 1000s of civil service jobs. This abundance of jobs attracted thousands and caused growth

Dublin is an internationally known educational centre. It is home to Trinity College, University College Dublin and also provides an excellent health care centre like the Mater Hospital.

People therefore were encouraged to live and work and study in Dublin City. This rapid growth of population led to the need of dormitory towns

From the 70's until now Dublin's population has grown exponentially. In 1997 35.7% of the population lived in Dublin but now over 1 million people live in the suburbs and the city.

The educational, medical and vast population, along with other pull factors such as grants and taxes encouraged companies to move to Dublin and Ireland such as Dell in 1991.

These MNCs attracted further growth and as a result 3 towns were built to accommodate for the rising population; Tallaght, Blanchardstown and Lucan.

These towns were not enough because the population increased beyond all expectations with surplus immigrants adding to the rural-to-urban population, this housing demand spread the city even further to Maynooth and Leixlip in Kildare.

The prices for houses skyrocketed in the Dublin city so this caused more people to move to Kildare and Meath yet too many cars and people in Dublin has caused congestion issues and impacted commuting lifestyle

In order to avoid the congestion and high living costs of Dublin city there are people who commute from Mullingar and Carlow to work, this is 90km! This has expanded the zone of influence of Dublin

In the past, the boundaries of Dublin were seen as Dun Laoghaire, Phoenix Park and Howth but because of urban growth they are closer to Swords, Celbridge and Bray.

In an effort to control the rapid growth there was a legislation created called Local Government Act 1993, this ordered the creation of three new county councils to manage provision of services.

Each county council is given a budget and funds, these are used for local road works, and the management of waste, water, sewerage and other public services. eg Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.