

# Sustainable Development|sample answer

**Q: ‘Discuss the environmental and economic advantages of using renewable energy sources’ (2010 Q9 C.)**

Sustainable development is the term used for something that can bring us forward while maintaining the earth for future generations. It is important to ensure that the development of environment is sustainable because humanity could not survive if the environment stops living or runs out.

Renewable energy, unlike non-renewable energy will not run out because they are constantly renewed and grow back in the short time for example solar power, wind, water power and wood.

By using renewables the environment will remain stable. Renewables do little or no damage to the environment. Tidal, Geothermal, solar and wind power produce no harmful waste products such as carbon dioxide

In past development the excess burning of fossil fuels and huge amounts of methane and carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere caused more heat to be trapped in the atmosphere and caused global warming. If global warming is not addressed the average temperature will rise on the environment will suffer, the environment cannot adapt to the change with the climates and this is why ensuring that future development is environmentally sustainable is important.

By using the renewable energies less fossil fuels will be used. Therefore reduce the environmental problems.

This will decrease acid rain and harmful smogs. Plant growth will increase in health will benefit

By ensuring that development is environmentally stable means that renewables should be invested in. The money saved from relying less on oil imports and reduction in costs associated with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are huge, for example if Ireland uses 20% renewable energy they would save €1.2 billion per year.

Developing renewable energy and exporting it to other countries through interconnectors not only lowers the international use of fossil fuels but also brings money into the Irish economy.

If Ireland ensures that development is environmentally sustainable it is estimated at 20% of its GDP could be derived from renewable energy exports.

The development of sustainable environment will stop harmful smogs in cities. The mix of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides create a harmful yellow haze.

This causes lung problems and reduces plant growth on the ground level. The small particles in the air can cause problems such as asthma and consequently more expensive national healthcare.

Though there may be jobs lost if fossil fuels industries are be in cut out, developing a renewable energy sources creates jobs. There is a potential to create hundred thousand jobs from harnessing renewable energy and provide efficient technology in homes and businesses.

Another benefit of developing renewables is that the renewable energy stations generally required less maintenance than traditional power stations. This is because the generators are simple machines.

# Sustainable Development|sample answer

Although the initial costs of using renewable energy may be expensive to begin with, the cost of generation by renewables is low over the long term. This is because their fuel is frequently supplied by natural processes.

There is still a huge potential for renewable energy. We are only using the small fracture of the total available at renewable energy sources in the world. Ireland for example has more than three times its total energy requirement available from accessible renewable energy.

Renewable energy projects can also bring economic benefits too many poor rural areas. Wind farms, for example, are often located in remote areas and bring job opportunities to those areas.