

## 2017 Section C Q3

**Unemployment in Ireland is now at its lowest level since December 2008. Total numbers unemployed have now fallen by 52% from the 327,000 peak recorded in 2011.**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Unemployment rates in Ireland</b>	15.1%	14.1%	12.2%	10.2%	8.9%	7.2%

*(The Irish Times, 2016)*

**3.(a)(i) Comment on the information provided above and analyse why unemployment rates have changed in Ireland.**

Unemployment rates in Ireland in 2008 were very high due to the worldwide recession. Growth in the economy from 2011-2016 meant that the unemployment levels have dropped drastically.

### Analysis

- 1) Recession: the 2011 rate of unemployment was 15.1% which was very high. The worldwide economic recession had a big role to play in this. Many jobs were lost as companies and businesses all over the world were forced to close.
- 2) Effects of recession: the rates of unemployment slowly dropped from 14.1% in 2012 to 7.2% in 2016. This was a slow process which required a huge amount of money to be borrowed from the EU. This slow drop in unemployment rates clearly shows the amount of effort that was required to rebuild the economy of the country.
- 3) IDA: The Industrial Development Authority is responsible for encouraging industry to Ireland. The IDA played a huge role in reducing the unemployment rate from 15.1% to 7.2% over a 5 year period. They put together attractive financial packages including grants and greenfield sites for MNCs. They created a huge number of jobs which helps to grow the economy.
- 4) Enterprise Ireland: they helped many Irish businesses to recover from the recession as well as offering support to people looking to set up their own business. They provided support and

financial aid to aspiring entrepreneurs who had lost their jobs as a result of the recession. This caused the unemployment rates to drop.

**(ii) Discuss the effects of unemployment on individuals, families and society.**

**Individuals**

- 1) Feelings of low self-worth: if a person doesn't have a job, they might have low self-esteem and feel like their life is pointless as they have nowhere to go in the mornings. This may lead to mental health issues such as depression.
- 2) Financial insecurity: if a person is unemployed and relying on social welfare payments, this causes stress. They may worry about not having enough money to provide for their family.

**Family**

- 1) Relationship problems: unemployment can cause the relationship between couples to become strained from financial worry. The family may find it difficult with each other if they cannot afford to take part in any leisure activities.

**Society**

- 1) Antisocial behaviour: unemployment and the resulting boredom can lead to issues such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse and vandalism.
- 2) Unemployment cycle: children from unemployed households are more likely to be unemployed themselves as they are less likely to have access to the same opportunities as a working household.

**(iii) Name and give details of one scheme to reduce expenditure for low-income families.**

Back to school clothing and footwear and allowance: this is a support for low income families on social welfare. It helps them to pay for all the items that children need for going back to school. It relieves financial strain on these families.

**3.(b) The percentage of men exceeds the percentage of women in the labour force.**

**(i) Analyse the factors that influence the participation of women in employment.**

Rising cost of living: due to an increase in the cost of living, it's becoming more necessary for women to work outside the home. Historically, men were the breadwinners but in today's society and economy, most people do not have the choice to stay at home.

Higher education: more women than ever before are moving onto 3<sup>rd</sup> level education. This provides them with qualifications for a career path of their choice. In modern society, women are aspiring and motivated to achieve their goals which mean that more women end up in the workforce.

Childcare: in the past, women were expected to stay at home and to mind the children. Nowadays, there are a variety of childcare options to support women who want to work.

**(ii) Comment and elaborate on the childcare options available for working parents.**

**1) Childminder**

Childminders are self-employed people who mind children in their own home or in the child's home.

Desirable traits: have a love for children, be in good health and provide a secure and happy environment.

Advantages: They can give more 1-1 time to the child which is important for their intellectual and emotional development. The child has a reduced risk of susceptibility to illness as they are not around large groups of children.

Disadvantages: there is no back up option for childcare if the childminder is sick. They may not have the adequate training to support and care for the child's needs.

## 2) Crèche

Provides a home away from home for the child in a school type setting.

Desirable traits: they have sufficient indoor and outdoor space. There is efficient systems of heating, lighting and sanitation. They are run by trained people.

Advantages: all staff members are qualified in early childhood education. It offers a stimulating environment. It's a reliable option for parents as the opening hours are guaranteed.

Disadvantages: large groups of children reduce the 1-1 time. There's an increased risk of susceptibility to illness as they are around large groups of children. They operate strict opening hours that may not suit parents who are delayed at work.

**3.(c) The number of people emigrating remains high, despite improvements in the economy and a fall in unemployment. (i) People often move from place to place in search of work, discuss the impact this has on individuals and their families.**

### Individuals

It can give people a better standard of living. If someone moves away to find a job in a big city for example, on average they will get paid 10% more than someone doing the same job in a smaller part of the city. This leads to more disposable income so people will have a better choice of leisure activities.

By moving away for work, there can be more entertainment and leisure activities available. This can enhance someone's quality of life.

### Families

If one member of a family moves away for work, this may encourage other members of the family to move with them. This can cause rural depopulation if they are coming from a small town or village.

It can cause social isolation for the family members left behind, especially if it is an elderly person that is left behind.

**(ii) Outline how a person's work ethic influences their attitude to work.**

A good work ethic will influence a person's attitude to work in a positive way. This person will be motivated and hardworking which makes it easier for them to get the work done. Someone with a good work ethic is motivating to be around which will create a nice environment for everyone in it.

Someone with a poor work ethic will be lazy, unproductive and unmotivated. This person will have a negative attitude to work which makes it more difficult for them to get work done. This person will not create a nice work environment.