

Home Economics Sample Answer

2021 Section C Q3

(i) Define poverty.

Poverty is when someone's income or resources are so below standard as to preclude them from having a standard of living that is considered to be normal by society. Poverty cannot always be seen by the eye and it is not just about homeless people, there is much more to it.

(ii) In relation to poverty explain each of the following:

- **Relative poverty:** this is when someone can afford the basics like food and shelter but they may not be able to afford other things that are considered to be normal in the society that they are in. For example, they might not be able to afford new football boots for their children but in their town or area, all the children have new football boots
- **The poverty line:** this is the minimum amount of income that a person needs to be able to survive. The poverty line varies depending on the location. For example, more income and resources would be needed to stay above the poverty line in Dublin than in the West of Ireland
- **The poverty trap:** if someone is born into poverty, they are said to be in the poverty trap. It can be very difficult to escape the poverty trap if you've been born into it and if poverty is all you've known. People in the poverty trap may experience educational disadvantages.

(iii) Discuss the extent and distribution of poverty in Ireland today.

Extent of poverty:

Poverty has grown hugely in Ireland over the past number of years. The high cost of living can make it very difficult for people to even provide the basic needs for their families. In Dublin, the average cost for rent per month is well over 1200 euro. This has left a huge number of families in poverty.

The COVID 19 pandemic has worsened the extent of poverty in Ireland. March 2020 saw thousands of people in Ireland temporarily lose their jobs and get put on the pandemic unemployment payment of 350 euro per week. For many people, this was a huge drop from what they had previously been earning. With the monthly bills staying the same, this caused poverty across the country.

Distribution of poverty:

Rural Ireland: poverty can be seen in rural Ireland where there are few job opportunities. Most jobs are in the primary sector but these jobs are becoming less and less common due to the advances in technology.

Cities: poverty is evident in the larger cities of Ireland such as Cork and Dublin. The rent and cost of living here are very high which can result in poverty across the cities.

(iv) Name and give details of one social welfare assistance/benefit available to people who are experiencing poverty.

Family income supplement: this is given to families who are on low income. It is an incentive for people in these families to find work rather than relying on the jobseeker's benefit. In order to qualify for this payment, the person must be working

at least 19 hours a week. The payment is made on top of what they are already earning. This means that they are earning more than being on the jobseeker's benefit alone.

3.(b) People in work, paid or unpaid, tend to enjoy happier and healthier lives. (i) Identify and elaborate on the factors that affect an individual's attitude to work.

Working conditions: if someone is working in a nice, safe environment, they are more likely to put effort into their job. If a person is in a job where they are not respected, they are less likely to put in as much effort.

Education: a person who has 3rd level qualifications is more likely to enjoy their particular job and have a good attitude towards it. This is because they have gotten to choose their path of work by choice and are happy to have achieved their goals.

Financial reward: depending on the type of person, the money received for the work can affect the attitude of the person. Some people believe in the saying "minimum wage minimum effort" whereas the pay will not affect others.

(ii) Discuss giving examples, how a community can benefit from the work of volunteers

Volunteer work can result in the town and area being cleaner. This work is usually done by the tidy towns committee of different towns who do a huge amount of work keeping the towns clean and tidy. This work by the volunteers can inspire people living in the town to keep it tidy.

Tourism: volunteer work can benefit the community by bringing in tourists which in turn will bring in money to the town. Volunteer projects such as nature reserves or

paintings on town walls can encourage tourists to come to an area. This brings in money and creates spin off employment.

Closer bond: volunteers can create closer bonds within the community. Volunteers sometimes organise events for the community or projects within the community like coffee mornings and park clean ups. These bring the local people together which results in bonding in the community.