

Climatic region of Ireland | sample answer

Q: 'A region can be defined by its climate'. Discuss this statement with reference to one European country you have studied. (has not been asked yet)

A region is a well defined area of land with particular characteristic that set it apart from other areas.

Characteristics that set us apart from other areas. Characteristics may be physical, social and or economic.

A climate is the average weather in a region over a period of time. Climate is an important physical factor that influences the distributor and the type of vegetation; human activities and animal species.

There are different climate types throughout the world; they are majority corresponding as to how far away (N or S) they are from the equator.

They are separated into hot, temperate and cold. Cool temperate oceanic climates are situated around 50° North and South. of the equator.

Ireland is a good example of a cool temperate oceanic climate. It is situated around 53° North. The situation of Ireland influences its amount of sunshine and temperature throughout the year.

At this latitude, the polar and tropical air masses meet. This causes a polar front.

Movement around these fronts cause disturbances in the atmosphere called depressions or lows.

These depressions move across the Atlantic ocean east- west. These depressions or lows.

These depressions cause Ireland's weather to be changeable and inconsistent on a daily basis. They cause precipitation throughout the year.

This rainfall is called frontal rainfall and is most common in Ireland. When a cold air mass and a warm air meet at a front, the lighter hot air is forced up, it then, cools, condenses and create rain.

In Ireland there is about 1500mm per year (more in winter). This rainfall is also caused by the south-westerly prevailing wind.

This prevailing wind picks up water vapour from the Atlantic and when this air hits Ireland's mountainous west coast the air is forced up, causing relief rainfall. This is why west of Ireland has up to 2800 mm of rain.

Ireland's average temperature range is 6°C - 15°C.

Ireland has mild winters and moderately warm summers. this is because of the sea. The sea is essentially a storage heater, it warms slowly during summer and retains this warmth and cools very slowly during winter.

The prevailing winds blow the sea air onto Ireland; either cool or warm and this regulates and influences its temperature.

The sea is also prevented from freezing by the warm current; The North Atlantic Drift, this keeps winds warm and without it Ireland would be a frozen wasteland.

As you move east the cool temperate climate becomes drier and there becomes a greater temperature range because it is further away from the Atlantic.