

## 2015 Section C Q3

### **3.(a)(i) Discuss how changes in the availability of work have affected individuals and families in Ireland.**

Work availability is changing constantly within the different sectors. There is less work becoming available in the primary and secondary sector due to technological developments such as new machinery becoming available. There is more work becoming available in the tertiary sector providing goods and services.

#### Individuals

If there is a lack of work available in a certain sector, this can cause issues for an individual. It can cause financial insecurity for an individual which may make it difficult for them to afford basic needs such as housing which is becoming more and more expensive in Ireland.

When an individual is struggling to find work, this can be harmful for their mental health. They may suffer from low self-esteem if they find that they can't provide for their family.

#### Families

If there is not much work available in a certain area, this can put strain on family relationships. There may be tension in the family if one member can't get work and as a result can't provide for the family.

There are a huge amount of students who work during the summers. Many of these jobs are in the hospitality sector. This has a positive impact on family life as it may reduce the amount of money that parents have to give to their child.

**(ii) Discuss, giving examples, how flexibility in working hours has impacted on work/life balance for many people.**

Flexi-time: this allows employees to leave work early or come in early once a certain minimum number of hours are completed, usually over a monthly period. Employees can build up hours to earn days off. This has a positive impact on family life as it gives people the opportunity to take full days off to spend with their kids once they have enough work completed.

Parental leave: this is a leave of absence from a job for an employee to care for their child or children. 18 weeks of this leave is available per child. Each parent has an equal separate entitlement to parental leave. This allows a parent to spend more time with their child without the pressure of work hanging over them.

Job-sharing: this enables two employees to become part-time and share the work normally fulfilled by one person working full time. This allows for work/life balance as the people involved will have more leisure time and have more time available to enjoy themselves.

Career break: this is a period of time where an employee chooses not to work, typically to raise children or pursue other interests, e.g. travel. This allows the person to do things that they have always wanted to do but couldn't do because of work.

Part-time work: this involves employees working fewer hours per week than a full-time job. They have more time to themselves while also earning an income.

**(iii) Name and give details of one statutory initiative aimed at creating employment.**

Industrial Development Authority (IDA) – encourages foreign investment to establish in rural and urban regions throughout Ireland, creating new employment opportunities. This assists in eliminating poverty as it provides jobs to local people.

**3.(b) (i) Evaluate three supports that are available to improve the accessibility of second-level education for all students.**

Leaving Cert Applied (LCA): this is a 2 year programme with a range of practical subjects. It is a modular based course. It aims to prepare students for further education and training. The curriculum offered is different to the traditional Leaving Cert. It is suited to students who prefer the practical side of learning rather than just the academic side alone. The assessment is continual with practical, oral and written exams at the end of their second year.

DEIS schools: delivering equality of opportunity in schools. These schools aim to enable disadvantaged students to gain the full benefit from the education system. DEIS schools may run breakfast clubs and homework club. They offer a huge amount of support to students who are at risk of social exclusion and helps them to deal with any issues that they may face.

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.

**(ii) Explain, giving examples, how education prepares students for participation in employment.**

Education provides basic education, e.g. numeracy and literacy. These skills are necessary for nearly all jobs in our society today. Most employers will only hire people who have completed their Junior Cert and/or Leaving Cert

It supports the attainment of educational qualifications through various subject levels and educational programmes, e.g. Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) and Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP). These aim to accommodate the different learning styles and abilities of students, ensuring academic success for all.

Education develops qualities through the hidden curriculum which are essential for the world of work e.g. punctuality and respect for authority. These skills are vital to obtain and hold on to employment.

**3.(c)(i) Discuss, giving examples, the role of leisure activities in personal development.**

**Refer to the following factors: • physical • social • emotional.**

Physical development: leisure is hugely important for physical wellbeing. Active leisure activities such as golf, dance and football all contribute to good cardiovascular health. These activities encourage people to get outside and to be active which contributes to physical wellbeing.

Social development: leisure encourages people to get out and socialise with other people. The socialisation helps people to relieve stress and forget about any problems they have for a while. Leisure activities enhance social wellbeing by encouraging bonding between families and friends.

Emotional development: leisure enhances a person's emotional wellbeing. A person's self-esteem and confidence can be improved by participating in leisure activities e.g. the pride and joy felt after winning a match. Certain leisure activities e.g. yoga and listening to music allows people to relax and unwind after a stressful day.

**(ii) Name and evaluate two leisure facilities popular with retired people.**

Golf: this is a very popular leisure activity amongst retired people. Golf is a sport that takes 4 hours on average to play which is suitable for retired people who have more time on their hands. It is a very social sport. It is an expensive sport to play but it is good value for money for a retired person who has the time to play it regularly.

Bingo: this is a very popular activity amongst retired people. It does not involve exercise so it is suitable for people with limited mobility. It is a great social event and a place where people can go to make friends. It is a very cheap activity to take part in and it is not affected by the weather.

