

## Social Change Elective

3. (a) *Settlement patterns in modern Ireland have changed. In the 1900s 70% of the population lived in rural areas. In 2002 almost 60% of the population live in urban areas. (Census of Population, 2002).*

(i) Give an account of the reasons why more people in modern Ireland are living in urban areas. (16)

(4 reasons @ 4 marks each)

- Greater range and choice of services on doorsteps
- Shopping centres will provide for all household needs
- Wide range of educational facilities
- Leisure and entertainment close by. Employment, Housing etc.

(ii) Discuss the impact on family life of:

(a) more people living in urban areas and less people living in rural areas

(b) improvements in social welfare entitlements. (24)

(4 points @ 6 marks)

(a) Imbalance in population, many older people, loneliness

- Rationalisation of services therefore people have to travel
- Fewer employment opportunities in rural areas
- Lack of facilities for further education etc.

(b) Child Benefit, Family Income Supplement, One parent family payment, Supplementary Welfare Allowance, Unemployment assistance - all lead to a better standard of living

(2004 OL)

(i) Explain why childcare facilities are required in modern society. (15)

3 points @ 5 marks each

- Both parents are working. • Working lone parents need help.
- Role overload and conflict – full-time employment, child care/running a home.
- Grandparents no longer live with family etc.

(ii) Give a brief account of the factors a parent should consider when choosing a childcare option.

3 points @ 5 marks each

(15)

- Environment – safe, hygienic, bright etc. • Seek references – if not known.
- Investigate qualifications and experience. • Proximity to home or work.
- Age and needs of child. • Cost involved.
- Special needs required. • Registered with Health Board etc.

(2006 OL)

3. (b) *“Almost 60% of the Irish population now live in urban areas”*

- (i) Discuss how changes in settlement patterns from rural to urban areas has impacted on family life.

*3 points @ 6 marks each*

Sporting clubs in rural areas may find difficulty in recruiting members. Businesses may close down in rural areas e.g. post offices. Fewer employment opportunities as shortage of labour can be a negative factor. Greater choice and range of services in urban areas. Facilities for leisure and entertainment are closer in urban areas. Overcrowded schools and hospitals in urban areas. Pollution. Crime. Inadequate play areas etc.

- (ii) Comment on the efforts being made by the Government to reverse this trend and halt population decline in rural areas.

*2 efforts/ initiatives @ 6 marks each*

Decentralisation of Government departments, Rural resettlement schemes, Building new industries in rural areas. Better transport system. Better roads and infrastructure etc.

**(2006 HL)**

**‘Ireland has undergone many social and economic changes in the past few decades. These changes have had an impact on family life.’**

*(The Central Statistics Office 2005)*

- (i) Discuss how social and economic change has affected family life.

Refer to **each** of the following:

changing attitudes to marriage

**2 points @ 4 marks each**

**(8)**

- *Social pressure to marry young is not as strong as in the past.*
- *Couples marrying later due to career demands*
- *An increase in number of couples co-habiting*
- *Increase in number of single parent / blended families etc.*

traditional roles within the family

**2 points @ 4 marks each**

**(8)**

- *Women working outside the home – roles for other family members have changed.*
- *Egalitarian roles (both partners responsible) are more common regarding finances, discipline, family responsibilities etc.*
- *Women better educated – more financially independent.*
- *Socially acceptable for men to be house husbands.*
- *Grandparents role – childminding etc.*

employment opportunities

**2 points @ 4 marks each**

**(8)**

- *Jobs are becoming less gender specific e.g. nurses*
- *Greater opportunities for promotion*
- *Technology relatively new to employment market e.g. Web Designer, people work from home etc.*
- *Flexible working hours / patterns e.g. job-sharing*
- *Maternity and adoptive leave available.*
- *Jobs better paid / higher minimum wage - people have more disposable income and a higher standard of living*
- *Better working conditions (shorter working week, longer holidays etc.) can translate to a happier home life etc.*

improvements in the provision of education.

**2 points @ 4 marks each**

**(8)**

- *Pre-schools – qualified staff available for the whole of average working day*
- *Schools for special needs pupils are available and S.N.A.s are available at both primary and secondary level*
- *Abolishment of fees, grants, and access programmes, have made third level education more accessible*
- *Adult and second-chance education provides self-esteem, improving promotion chances, keeping skills up-to-date etc.*
- *P.L.C.'s are also available as are FÁS programmes*
- *V.T.O.S. for long term unemployed*
- *Distance learning – e.g. Open University – functions across Europe and has no defined entry requirements etc.*

**(2007 OL)**

**3. (c) Requirements for childcare vary depending on family circumstances.**

- (i) Summarise the factors that can affect a family's requirements for childcare. **(12)**

*4 points @ 3 marks each*

**Two parents working full time or part time, single parent working, availability of grandparents/family members, cost of care, after school care requirements, hours of opening, available during school holidays, proximity to family home, special needs of the child etc**

- (ii) Evaluate two types of child care options. **(18)**

*(3 points @ 3 marks each) x 2*

**Nurseries & Creches, Playschool/Playgroup, Montessori school, Childminder, Au Pair, After school groups etc.**

**(2008 HL)**

3.(a) 'Between 1991 and 2006 the population in rural Ireland increased by 9% but the greater number of people still live in urban areas.' (Rural Economy Research Centre)

- (i) Why, in your opinion, has there been an increase in the number of people living in rural areas between 1991 and 2006?

**3 points @ 5 marks each (15)**

*e.g. better transport, more employment, people working from home, cheaper houses, cost of living lower, lower crime rate, less pollution, cheaper crèches, leisure facilities, refuse collection, community centres, rural resettlement programme, movement by families from inner city areas to rural areas by local authorities, decentralisation of government departments and agencies, etc.*

- (ii) Identify and elaborate on some of the reasons why a greater number of people in Ireland live in urban areas.

**3 points @ 5 marks each (15)**

*e.g. more employment opportunities, greater access to education and other services, better infrastructure, greater availability of housing, proximity to family and friends, etc.*

- (iii) Discuss the impact of (a) social change and (b) economic change on family life.

**4 points @ 5 marks each (20)**  
**expect 1 reference to each + 2 other points**

**Social:** *isolation due to decline in population in some rural areas leading to many elderly people living alone, cut back in some services e.g. post offices etc. fewer amenities so social life declines; increase in age at which people get married leading to smaller families; increase in number of couples living together; more lone parent families; increasing crime rate/ anti social behaviour in some urban areas, increase in underage drinking and drug taking, etc.*

**Economic:** *increasing unemployment affecting the living standards of families; more dual earner families; house prices and cost of living lower leading to an improvement in living standards; increase in the service industry leading to more employment opportunities, etc.*

**(2009 OL)**