

**Leaving Cert
SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVE**

KEY AREAS:

1. SOCIAL CHANGE & THE FAMILY

- The impact of social change on family life
- The impact of economic change on family life

2. EDUCATION

- The purpose of education
 - as a method of socialisation
 - in the development of the child
 - in preparation for work

- Factors that influence educational achievement

- The provision of education in Ireland
 - Pre-school
 - Primary
 - Second Level
 - Third level
 - Adult & second chance education
 - *****(H.L)** Special needs education

- *****(H.L)** Equality of opportunity in education

- *****(H.L)** Contemporary initiatives in improving the accessibility of education

3. WORK

- Concepts of work
 - definition of work
 - paid employment
 - unpaid work in the home
 - voluntary work

- Attitudes to work & work attainment

- *****(H.L)** Changes in patterns of work and work availability

- The role of unpaid & voluntary work in the community**
- The benefits of unpaid and voluntary work**
- Brief outline of the Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996**

Reconciling employment with family responsibilities

- Changing patterns in gender issues within the family**
- The impact of the dual earner families on family life**
- Family requirements for childcare facilities**
- Options available to meet child care requirements**
- *** (H.L) Evaluation of two types of child care options**

4. LEISURE

- Definition of leisure**
- Function & value of leisure in today's society**
- Influences on leisure patterns**
- The role of the individual & family leisure activities in physical, social & emotional development**
- *** (H.L) Evaluation of the leisure facilities available in the community, to include a comparison of cost and value of two facilities in the area**

5. UNEMPLOYMENT

- Definition of unemployment**
- *** (H.L) The extent of unemployment in Ireland today**
- *** (H.L) Causes of unemployment**
- Effect of unemployment on the individual, family & society**

6. POVERTY

-Concepts of Poverty

- Absolute poverty**
- Relative poverty**
- The Poverty Line**

-The extent & distribution of poverty in Ireland today

-Identification of groups at risk of poverty

-Causes & effects of poverty

-Reasons why poverty continues to be a problem in Western society

-The cycle of Poverty

-The influence of social policy on poverty

-The cycle of deprivation in families & geographical areas

-The poverty trap

7. STATUTORY & COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO CREATING EMPLOYMENT & ELIMINATING POVERTY

-Statutory

-Social Welfare assistance & benefits

-* (H.L) Initiatives encouraging foreign investment**

-Schemes to reduce expenditure for low-income families

-work of voluntary agencies

-Community based education

-Cycle of deprivation