

Leaving Certificate Home Economics Notes

SOCIAL ELECTIVE QUICK REVISION NOTES (copyright: www.homeeconomicsnotes.com)

Economic recession – when economy is weak / in recession unemployment levels rise; world economy /globalisation many jobs lost in manufacturing industry etc.; levels of demand for products and services has fallen so many indigenous companies closed and in debt, little hope for the future

Social Policy – if wages are low there is little incentive for long term unemployed to return to the workforce as they may lose some of their benefits and end up financially less better off. Social policy may perpetrate poverty if the benefits gained leave little incentive to gain employment.

Cycle of deprivation and geographical areas – children from lower socio economic groups may not have the same opportunities as those from higher socio economic groups. This may result in unemployment or poorly paid jobs. In turn their children have the same experiences and the cycle continues. Poverty results from lack of education and lack of education can lead to poverty. Unemployment black spots; Industries closing down in areas with few other employment opportunities etc.

Poverty- *refers to a lack of sufficient means to provide for essentials such as food, shelter and sanitation.*

Relative poverty –

- *People living below what society recognises as a basic standard of living.*

Absolute poverty-

- *People may not be able to physically survive due to lack of food, shelter and clothing.*

Cycle of poverty –

- *Children from lower socio-economic families generally do not get the same opportunities*
- *Place less importance on education, than the children from the better off in society*
- *They end up unemployed or in low-paid jobs and have their own children who are born into the perpetual cycle of poverty etc*

MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service) –

- *Free confidential advisory service, primarily to low income families who are in debt or at risk of getting into debt etc*

Inequality – where there is discrimination on grounds of gender, race, religious etc.

Social welfare assistance / benefits – job seekers allowance, one parent family payment, old age pension, child benefit, supplementary welfare allowance, family income supplement, local authority housing etc.

Schemes to reduce expenditure for low income families – Medical cards; Back to school clothing and foot wear allowance; school books grant scheme; mortgage allowance scheme; national fuel scheme.

Combat Poverty Agency – advises policy makers on preventing and eliminating poverty and social exclusion.

National Anti Poverty Strategy (NAPS) – ten year programme to reduce poverty looking at income, unemployment, educational disadvantage and urban/rural poverty. National minimum wage.

Money Advice and Budgeting Service – funded by Dept. of Social, Community and Family Affairs (Social Protection), FÁS, VTOS,

Intrinsic factors affecting job satisfaction – fulfilment that job offers, if work gives a sense of achievement, this gives workers confidence, sense of pride, job satisfaction, scope for creativity, workers are motivated and are more creative

Extrinsic factors affecting job satisfaction – financial rewards e.g. high salary, bonuses, benefits, status. Can affect performance, job satisfaction and commitment etc.

Gender inequity – equal representation of both genders in third level, textbooks less gender stereotypical; subject availability and choice linked with school (single sex or co-ed); differences in levels of attainment – girls higher level of achievement; schools' emphasis – single sex girls schools Vs single sex boy's schools etc.

St Vincent de Paul (Voluntary organization); *raises money in a number of ways i.e. charity shops, church door collections, provides financial assistance to people in need i.e. paying emergency bills, visits needy families, old people and do housework, gardening, assist in buying school books & uniforms, provide emergency housing, holiday breaks, homework clubs, etc.*

Early school leavers – more likely to be unemployed and to experience social exclusion; programmes in place to help early school leavers return to education e.g. “school completion programme” available in schools with high numbers of early school leavers; DEIS programme; National Educational Welfare Board – tracking attendance; Back to Education Allowance; Youthreach; VTOS, etc.

Early Start pre-school programme- *community-based initiative for 3-4yr olds in disadvantaged areas, funded, managed & evaluated by Dept of Education & Science. The aim is to provide children with a positive start in education, to prevent future school failure & improve overall development of students from socially disadvantaged areas. Taught by primary school teachers, childcare assistants & parents. Curriculum consists of – language, cognition, social & personal development.*

JCSP, LCA programme- *enables more students to complete secondary school.*

National Education Welfare Board (NEWB)- *obliges schools to put in place positive steps to encourage attendance.*

Second chance education- *Going back to education, re-training to improve qualifications or to follow particular areas of interest, to keep up with technological changes/computer courses, available in colleges/ universities/ secondary schools, may be available through distance learning, may be availed of by early school leavers, improving a qualification for professional development, improving promotional chances, to meet people etc.*

Leisure - *the residual time left over after essential activities have been completed, the time that an individual can choose to spend as he/she wishes, time available for ease and relaxation etc.*

The Protection of Young Persons Employment Act 1996-

- *Children under age of 16 prohibited from working fulltime, Children over 14 years may do light work during school holidays, up to a maximum of 35 hours a week.*
- *May be employed on an approved work experience for an education programme and may work for up to 8 hours a week*
- *during school term.*
- *Any child under 16 may be employed in film, theatre, sports and advertising activities under licence.*
- *Rest Breaks must be allowed - 30 mins every 4 hours for*
- *14 to 15 year olds /and every 4.5 hours for 16 year olds.*
- *16 year olds are not allowed to work after 10 pm. etc.*

Child Benefit-

- *is paid to everyone living in the state up to 16 years or 19 if in full time education*
- *or physically / mentally disabled or attending a FÁS / Youth Reach Centre.*
- *It is paid monthly to the parent / guardian*
- *There is no income limit.*

F.I.S. –

- *Weekly allowance for families on low income*
- *It is not subject to income tax.*
- *One member of family must be working 19+ hours per week and have been working for at least 3 months*
- *The government pays 60% of the difference between earnings and the limit set for the family*
- *Income limits are set according to number of children in the family etc*

Lone Parent's Allowance –

- *means tested.*
- *Basic allowance plus increases for each dependent child.*

Clothing and footwear allowance-

- *available for June to September for school children*

Combat Poverty Agency-

- *Advises the Minister for Social Welfare on all issues relating to poverty*
- *Initiates and evaluates measures to prevent and eliminate poverty*
- *Examines the nature, cause and extent of poverty in Ireland*
- *Promotes greater public awareness of poverty*
- *Publishes a magazine “Poverty Today” every two months giving relevant, up-to-date information to the public etc.*

Paid Work-

- *Is employment / occupation which is a means of earning an income.*
- *It can be working for an employer or being self-employed*
- *It can be full, part-time, or temporary.*
- *Skills vary depending on job*

Unpaid work-

- *Is that which is generally done in the home.*
- *Only financial contribution made by the government is in paying child benefit*
- *Volunteers working in the community are also unpaid (by choice) etc.*

Role conflict – *partner may not be supportive of mother/father working outside the home, working parents strive for balance between paid employment childcare and running a home, can lead to conflict where demands of work are excessive, working mums often feel guilt e.g. when child is ill etc.*

Unemployment-

- *Unemployment results when people are available for and willing to work, do not have paid employment*

The effects of Unemployment on:**(i) The Individual**

- *Loss of income – insecurity.*
- *Loss of status – erodes self-esteem.*
- *Feelings of inadequacy – ill health, depression.*
- *Alcohol abuse – to forget problems.*
- *Social isolation – leisure activities restricted etc.*

(ii) The Family

- *Decline in living standards.*
- *Poverty prevalent – impacting on nutrition, schooling, children disadvantaged.*
- *Strain on family relationships – tension.*
- *Lack of financial security etc.*

(iii) Society

- *Where long-term unemployment is the norm, children lack role models in terms of employment and a positive work ethic.*
- *Anti-social behaviour – alcohol or drug abuse, vandalism and crime can lead to unemployment black spots.*
 - *People may be forced to leave an area to seek employment, decrease in population.*
- *Increased burden on state, dependent on social welfare for income etc.*

Factors a parent should consider when choosing a childcare option.

- *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.*

Factors that influence a student's educational achievement. *Intellectual ability, Personal motivation , Parental attitude to education, Family size – economic restraints, Home environment, Locality and school environment, Peers can greatly influence one's attitude to school and study etc.*

Voluntary work – *Usually based on charity and helping the disadvantaged in society. Work towards the alleviation and prevention of problems in the community and improve the quality of life of many individuals. Generally work closely with Government and Community services or may work for organisations and various social services. State is saved millions of euros each year etc.*

Unpaid work – *Usually involves the home and home based activities. Unpaid workers rarely get credit for the work they carry out. The work is very often repetitive and unrewarding. Normally have no regular working hours etc.*

State (Government) initiative that encourages foreign investment thus creating employment-

- *Export Profit Tax Relief Scheme – Allows all export profits to be tax-free.*
- *IDA – Secures new investment from overseas and encourages expansion of foreign companies already established.*
- *Information Age Towns*
- *Enterprise Ireland – Offers services in business development and training, technology and export marketing*
- *Low corporation tax, Údaras, Government Grants etc*

Supports provided in second-level schools for students with special education needs-

- *Resource teachers and Special Needs assistants support students in class*
- *Visiting teachers advise and assist teachers of visually or hearing impaired pupils*
- *Special classes set up for students with special needs, teaching staff are highly qualified with additional training, extra resources are channelled where the needs are greatest, special accommodations in examinations etc.*

Benefits of pre-school education-

- *Children become more socially aware by playing and interacting with other children, form relationships outside the home, become more independent and confident. Their intellectual development is speeded up; they develop physically by playing games etc*

Family Income Supplement –

- *Is a weekly allowance to help families on low pay. Not subject to income tax. Entitlement to a medical card is not affected. One or both partners must be working for 19 hours per week. Income must fall between set levels depending on family size etc.*

Community based employment initiatives

- **FAS** – *provides practical work orientated training. Helps unemployed people to find work Holds database of employers – advertise vacancies. Provides grants to employers taking on extra employees.*
- **Social Employment Scheme (S.E.S.)** - *Jobs created are temporary but skills developed allow the long-term unemployed to return to work. S.E.S helps morale-breaking long-term process.*
- **County Enterprise Boards.** *Set up to help develop local enterprise/small business provides advice and grants for new local enterprises.*
- **First Step** *Free service providing advice and financial assistance to those setting up their own business. Loans provided are on an interest-free basis.*

Initiatives that have improved access to second chance education-

- **VTOS-** *Courses of up to 2 years for long term unemployed over 21. Personal development, business and computer skills. Training allowance paid.*
- **Youthreach-** *Managed by V.E.Cs. Targets young people between 15 and 18 who have no formal education. Provides the knowledge, skills and attitudes to make transition to work and adult life.*
- **FAS-** *Provides community training work shops for adults*
- **P.L.C courses-** *Offer training with work experience. Means of getting into Further Education. Variety of courses. No fees paid. Exams under NCVA certification*
- **Distance learning-** *Open university and OSCAIL at DCU. Build up Degree through Credits. No entry requirements.*
- **BTEA-** *Funded by Dept of Social, Community and Family Affairs. Unemployed for 15 months and over 21. Many lone parents. Full time or part time. Receive social welfare payments and a small grant*
- **Special Initiatives for Disadvantaged Adults Scheme-** *Funds through VEC for books, materials etc.*
- **Teagasc-** *Provides courses and certification in agriculture*
- **Community Education Schemes, Macra na Feirme, Adult Literacy Initiatives etc.**

Types of childcare

Crèches, Playgroups, Childminders, Nursery schools, Au-pairs

Key considerations a parent should take into account when evaluating a childcare option.

Premises registered, Cost, Location, Materials age appropriate, Training of carers, Condition of premises, Ratio of carers to children, Safety, Insurance, Activities etc.

Factors that influence family leisure patterns.

Social factor, Age of children, Gender, Occupation, Class, Cost, Location

Organisation that helps the creation of employment

Back to Work Allowance Scheme, Enterprise Boards, Leader, Fás, Social Employment Schemes, Enterprise Ireland etc.

Back to Work Allowance Scheme

- Allows unemployed people and lone parents to take up employment or self-employment
- To keep a % of their social welfare payment
- To keep secondary benefits for up to 3 years.

Factors that influence a person's attitude to work

- *Upbringing – attitudes formed in the home*
- *Education – worked hard to achieve qualifications, will want good job that is challenging and rewarding*
- *Economic situation – in economic boom times people are excited and enthusiastic – opportunities*
- *Social class–deprived background may not have high expectations Professional background will want the same or a better standard*
- *Job satisfaction. Working conditions etc.*

Difference between intrinsic and extrinsic job satisfaction-

- *Intrinsic refers to how the person feels internally as he/she performs duties in the workplace e.g. fulfilment*
- *Extrinsic refers to issues other than how one feels internally about performing the actual job e.g. company car*