

Categories of Industry – Ordinary Level

A. List the challenges facing the primary sector industries in Ireland. (15m)(LCOL 2003)

Marks: 3 points @ 5 marks each.

A SAMPLE ANSWER:

- Agriculture can be affected by bad weather, disease etc.
- Mining/quarrying: resources can be used up.
- Fishing: E.U. rules control catches to conserve stocks.
- The environment needs to be protected etc.

B. Outline the importance of the Secondary Sector to the Irish economy. (15m)(LCOL 2002)

Marks: 3 points @ 5 marks each

A SAMPLE ANSWER:

- The Secondary Sector involves manufacturing and construction.
- Both these industries employ large numbers of workers directly.
- Both employ large numbers indirectly in 'spin-off' jobs, e.g. catering, security, transport etc.
- Manufacturing industry exports many products e.g. Dell computers.

Categories of Industry – Higher Level

Explain, using example, the impact of transnational companies in Ireland. (20m)(LCHL 2004)

Marks:

4 points @ 5 marks (3 marks for stating the point; a further 2 marks for elaboration/example)
Must give examples.

A SAMPLE ANSWER:

- A Transnational Company (TNC) is a company, which has production operations in many countries, e.g. Ford Motors, Dell, and Intel. There are over 1000 TNC's operating in Ireland.
- TNC's provide employment directly, in producing their goods/services, e.g. Intel employs several thousand people at its Leixlip plant.
- They provide 'spin-off' jobs in firms, which supply services/materials/components e.g. cleaning, catering, security, banking etc.
- They increase exports, which benefit the Irish economy, e.g. TNC's are responsible for most of the growth in Irish exports from €1billion in 1972 to €90 billion by 2002.

However:

- Since TNC's usually employ large numbers, a decision to shut down operations in Ireland has a huge negative impact on the local economy, e.g. when Digital Computers pulled out of Galway and Clonmel.

Many other points could be made e.g.

- Construction jobs when factory is being built.
- Extra taxes for Government.
- GNP boosted: more income for the country.
- Training for workers, managers etc.