Economic Activities Junior Cert Geography

Primary Economic Activities

Farming Fishing Forestry Mining

Primary economic activities deal directly with nature. They are the activities that supply unprocessed raw materials from the earth’s rocks, soils and waters.

Everything provided by nature is a natural resource so they can be renewable, that is infinite e.g. fish, water or they can be non-renewable, that means they will be eventually used up e.g. oil and coal.

The water cycle (hydrological cycle) is the earth’s method of recycling water. Example of a renewable resource

It describes the circulation of water from the oceans to the atmosphere, from the atmosphere to the landmasses and then back to the oceans. Clean water is important for a healthy lifestyle, irrigation, cooling purposes and for plants and animals to live. There are many threats to our water supply – fertiliser run-off, industrial waste and sewage.

Know the Central Valley Irrigation Project Case Study

The fishing industry, if properly managed is a renewable resource, but it is being over-exploited because modern fishing vessels are very large, navigational aids have improved, purse seining, trawling and drift netting are the methods used to catch fish and fish handling has improved.

Know Case Study of Irish Fishing Industry

There are three types of fish – Pelagic fish, Demersal fish and Crustaceans. Certain methods have being introduced to conserve the fish population – fishing limits have been introduced by the EU, a reduction in the size of the fishing fleet, quotas and embargoes have been introduced as well as minimum net mesh sizes.

Be able to explain why overfishing happens and how it is being dealt with

Oil is a non-renewable resource of energy. It is a clean fuel that produces a high degree of energy and is convenient to transport. An oil find off the coast off Ireland would be advantageous as it would bring employment, increased tax revenues and reduced imports of oil. However, it would also have some disadvantages causing pollution, an increase in the cost of living and oil refineries.

Know the Case Studies for both Ireland and Saudi Arabia

Be able to give positives and negatives of large oil discovery in Ireland

Peat is another non-renewable resource. There are two types of peat bogs- raised bogs and blanket bogs. Peat can be used at ESB power stations, as briquettes or as fertiliser.

Case Study: You need to be able to describe the four stages of Peat Exploitation

Farming is a primary economic activity that may be viewed as a system of inputs (raw materials), processes (change) and outputs (finished product). The three main types of farming are arable tillage (growing crops), pastoral (dairy farming, sheep farming, dry stock farming) and mixed (mixture of the other two types).

Case Study of a Farm as a System of Inputs-Processes and Outputs- Mixed Farm in Co. Offaly
Secondary Economic Activities

Processing and manufacturing raw materials or further processing things that have already been processed

A System of INPUTS-PROCESSES-OUTPUTS
These activities involve the processing or manufacturing of the unprocessed raw materials into finished goods.
All secondary activities are part of a system – they are made up of inputs, processes and outputs.

When companies are choosing a location for their factory or business, they must consider the following Factors: resource materials, labour, transport, markets, services, capital, Government policy and preferences of local communities.

Heavy industries involve the processing of heavy and bulky raw materials into finished products e.g. Irish Cement
Case Study – Know One Heavy Industry – Irish Cement

Light industry involves the processing of small or lightweight raw materials into finished goods e.g. Intel manufactures computer parts.
Case Study - Know One Light Industry -Intel

A footloose industry is one which is not tied down to any one dominant locational factor, they can locate in a wide variety of places.
Know Case Study of Fiacla Toothpaste Page 311

Industries may change location over time to find new resources, new energy sources or new markets.
Case Study -Know British Iron and Steel Industry

Industrial inertia is when a factory remains in its original location despite the fact that this location is no longer the most economical one.
Sheffield Steel is an example of this page 313

Industrial Development Authority (IDA) is a government run department responsible for the development of industry in Ireland especially in attracting foreign companies.
Multinational corporations (MNC's) are large companies which have factories all over the world called subsidiaries.
Examples are Intel and Coca Cola

The role if women in industry has changed in developed and developing countries, such as Russia and Ireland.
Russia Case Study pages 315-316

The world can be classified into regions according to the three levels of industrial development – industrialised (Ireland) are regions containing long established industries, newly industrialised countries (Brazil/China) are regions with a rapid rate of industrial growth, industrial emergent (Mali/Ethipoia) countries are regions with very little large scale manufacturing.

Industrial development has a massive impact on the environment as it causes acid rain to develop. This process can be reduced by car pooling, using alternative sources of energy and mandatory use of clean emission technology in car exhausts.
Be able to give the reasons for and the results of Acid Rain-Global Warming-Greenhouse Effect

Tertiary Economic Activities

Tertiary economic activities involve the **provision of facilities and services** e.g. financial services may provide banking.

Failte Ireland is the name given to the **Irish Tourist Board** which promotes Ireland at home and abroad as a tourist destination.

There are four main categories of tourist attractions in Ireland – **natural beauty, beaches and coastlines, recreational and sporting activities and cities**. **Seasonal employment** means that temporary jobs are created for the tourist season.

**Climate** is an important aspect in developing tourism, for example the hot, dry, sunny and calm conditions of the **south of France** attracts many tourists. Tourism may lead to the development of transport and **communication links** e.g. **Switzerland** is a land-locked country that has overcome tourism problems by developing an excellent road infrastructure, efficient rail system and cable cars.

**Know Case Study of Tourism and development of improved communication and transport in France**

Tourism may have a **negative impact on the environment and society** e.g. high-rise buildings, increase in crime, increase in cost of living, noisy nightlife, pollution. Or tourism may have a positive impact e.g. creation of jobs, increased income into local population, development of infrastructure, injection of foreign currency.

**Be able to describe the negative and positive effects of tourism on places like Majorca/Switzerland**
Past Question on Economic Activity and Development 2011 Junior Cert

Question 4. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Economic Activity
(i) Explain two factors which influence the location of industry.
(ii) Economic activities can give rise to local conflicts.
Name and explain an example of such a conflict. (10)

B. Tourism
(i) Name two types of tourist regions.
(ii) Explain one positive effect of tourism, referring to an example you have studied.
(iii) Explain one negative effect of tourism, referring to an example you have studied. (10)

C. Economic Inequality
(i) Name a developing region you have studied.
(ii) Explain three reasons why this region is not as economically developed as other regions. (10)