



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit State Examinations Commission

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Scrúduithe Ardteistiméireachta, 2007

Eacnamaíocht Bhaile (Eolaíoch agus Sóisialta) Gnáthleibhéal

Marking Scheme

Leaving Certificate Examination, 2007

Home Economics (Scientific & Social)

Ordinary Level



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate Examination 2007
HOME ECONOMICS – SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL
ORDINARY LEVEL

Marking Scheme / Summarised
Exemplar Answers

280/320 MARKS

Instructions to Candidates

- Section A** There are **twelve** questions. Candidates are required to answer any **ten**.
- Section B** There are **five** questions. Candidates are required to answer **Question 1 and any other two questions**.
- Section C** There are **three** questions. Candidates are required to answer **one** elective question to include **part (a)** and either **part (b) or part (c)**.
Candidates who submitted Textiles, Fashion and Design coursework for examination may only attempt Question 2 from this section.
Electives **1** and **3** are worth **80** marks each. Elective **2** is worth **40** marks.

Section A

1. Name **three** sources of protein under **each** of the following headings: 6@1 (6)

High Biological Value Protein (HBV)	Low Biological Value Protein (LBV)
<i>Eggs</i>	<i>Rice</i>
<i>Milk</i>	<i>Wheat</i>
<i>Meat / Fish</i>	<i>Maize</i>

2. (a) List the **three** elements found in carbohydrates: 6@1 (6)

- (i) *Carbon*
- (ii) *Hydrogen*
- (iii) *Oxygen*

- (b) In relation to the digestion of carbohydrates, indicate with a tick (✓) whether **each** of the following statements is true **or** false.

Digestion of Carbohydrates	True	False
Starch is changed to maltose in the mouth	✓	
Carbohydrate digestion takes place in the stomach		✓
Intestinal juice contains sucrase	✓	

3. (a) State **one** function of iron in the body. 3@2 (6)

Essential in the formation of the pigment haemoglobin in the red blood cells.

- *Haemoglobin transports oxygen around the body*
- *Plays a part in enzyme activity*
- *Involved in myoglobin production which carries oxygen to the muscles*

- (b) List **two** good dietary sources of iron.

- (i) *Liver, kidneys, red meat*
 - (ii) *Eggs, cereals, fish*
- *Dark Green Vegetables e.g. spinach, cabbage*
 - *Pulses and Dried Fruits*

4. State **two** specific dietary requirements of a lacto-vegetarian diet. 2@3 (6)

- (i) *Protein – H.B.V. vegetables e.g. Soya beans, pulse vegetables and T.V.P.
Vitamin D, Vitamin C and phosphorus necessary for the absorption of calcium*
- (ii) *Iron – green leafy vegetables, blackcurrants, raspberries etc.*
 - *Vitamin C – necessary to convert non-haem iron to haem-iron, and for the absorption of iron*

5. In relation to the wheat grain, explain **two** of the following: 2@3 (6)

(i) **Endosperm**

Inner part of grain, composed mainly of starch, part from which white flour is made

(ii) **Germ**

2% of grain, is situated at the base of the grain, rich in protein,

(iii) **Bran**

Outer covering, removed during processing, 13% of grain, consists of layers of cellulose

6. (a) Name **one** diet-related condition that commonly affects elderly people. 2@3 (6)

Osteoporosis

Diabetes, CHD, High/low BP, High cholesterol

(b) State **one** cause of this condition.

Calcium absorption decreases with age

7. Name a **different method** of preservation suitable for **each** of the following vegetables: (6)

3@2

<i>Vegetable</i>	<i>Method of preservation</i>
Carrots	<i>Freezing, Bottling, Drying</i>
Whole Tomatoes	<i>Canning, Bottling, Drying</i>
Onions	<i>Irradiation, Pickling, Drying</i>

8. Give **one** recommendation under **each** of the following headings in relation to safe food preparation. 3@2 (6)

(i) **Personal hygiene**

Always wash hands in hot water, using liquid soap and a nailbrush:

Wash after sneezing, coughing, using toilet, nappy changing, handling pets, rubbish etc.

(ii) **Kitchen hygiene**

Keep food covered, store in sealed containers

Segregate raw and cooked foods, place raw meat below cooked foods in fridge

(iii) **Food hygiene**

Cook food thoroughly to destroy bacteria, handle food as little as possible during preparation

- *Avoid cross contamination, defrost food in a microwave or refrigerator*
- *Maintain refrigerator at 5°C or below*

9. (a) Name **one** statutory organisation and **one** voluntary organisation that works to protect the consumer. 2@2 (6)

Statutory organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Ombudsman</i> • <i>Office of Director of Consumer Affairs</i> • <i>Comhairle</i>
Voluntary organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consumers Association of Ireland</i> • <i>Citizen's Information Centres</i> • <i>National Standards Authority of Ireland (N.S.A.I.)</i> • <i>Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland (A.S.A.I.)</i>

- (b) Complete the following sentence 2@1
 A guarantee is a contract between the **Manufacturer** and the **Consumer**

10. Explain **each** of the following 2@3 (6)

- (i) **Gross income**
Is income earned before any deductions are made
- (ii) **Net income**
Refers to income after deductions (P.R.S.I. etc.) are made i.e. take home pay

11. Explain **each** of the following fabric properties: 3@2 (6)

- (i) **Absorbent**
Good soakage, receptive to colour application, wrinkle resistance, and easy care finishes
- (ii) **Colourfast**
Dye will not run in washing – as dyes used in manufacture are insoluble in water
- (iii) **Flammable**
Catches fire and burns easily

12. In relation to budgeting explain and give an example of **each** of the following: (6)

Explain 2@2 Example 2@1

Essential expenditure

Spending on essentials – is both fixed and irregular

Example

Fixed - mortgage, rent, insurances etc.

Irregular – car, doctor, clothing etc.

Discretionary expenditure

Spending on non-essentials

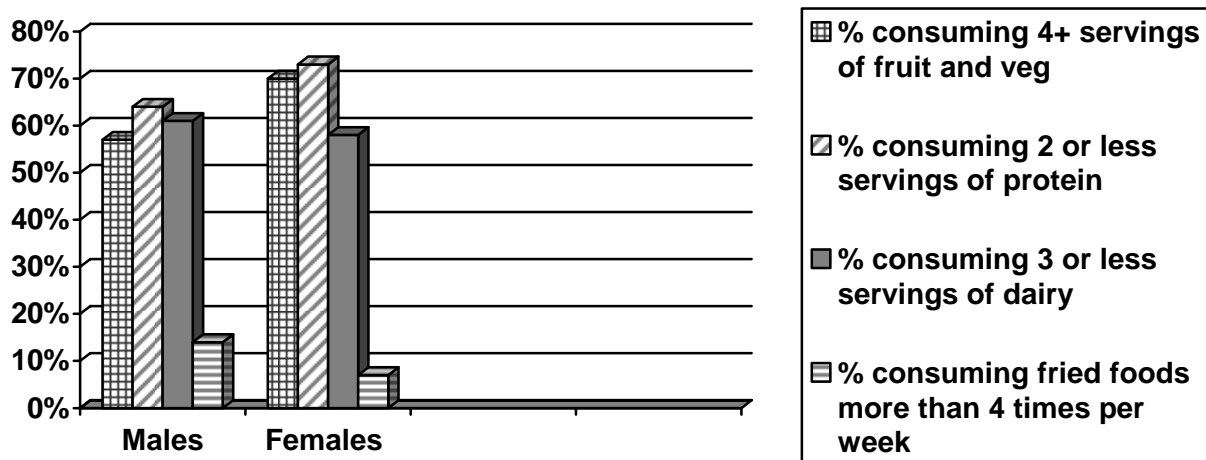
Example

Luxuries e.g. entertainment, alcohol, cosmetics etc.

Section B

Answer Question 1 and any other two questions from this section.

1. The chart below provides information on the eating habits of males and females in Ireland.



(Source: The National Health & Lifestyle Surveys – 1999)

- (a) Using the information provided on the chart
 (i) identify **three** differences in the eating habits of males and females
3 points @ 5 marks each **(15)**

- Higher % of females consume less fried foods than men on a regular basis
- Higher % of females consume the recommended daily amount of fruit and vegetables than men
- Higher % of females consume the recommended daily amount of protein than men
- Higher % of males consume the recommended daily amount of dairy than women etc.

- (ii) state, giving reasons, whether males or females have a healthier diet

3 points @ 3 marks each **(9)**

Females have a healthier diet because:

- They consume sufficient protein for repair and normal body functioning
- They consume less fried foods – preventing Coronary Heart Disease, obesity, etc
- They eat more fruit and vegetables gives them the essential folic acid, iron, vitamins for absorption of iron and calcium etc.

- (b) It is recommended that consumers choose three servings a day from the milk, cheese and yoghurt food group. State **two** reasons for this recommendation.

2 reasons @ 5 marks each **(10)**

- Good sources of H.B.V. protein for growth, repair of cells and manufacture of hormones and enzymes equally important for all age groups
- Excellent sources of calcium for bones and teeth – also has Vitamins A, D and some B Group
- Versatile inexpensive foods suitable for packed lunch, beverages, snacks and desserts etc.

(c) Give an account of protein under **each** of the following headings.

(i) composition

1 point @ 6 marks

(6)

- *Elemental - Carbon (C), Hydrogen (H), Oxygen (O), and Nitrogen (N), small amounts of sulphur, iron and phosphorus*
- *Elements are arranged into basic units called amino acid*
- *Only nutrient containing Nitrogen*

(ii) functions in the body

2 points @ 6 marks each

(12)

- *Supply all essential amino acids required for growth and repair of cells*
- *Manufacture of enzymes, hormones and antibodies*
- *Blood clotting and immune response*
- *Formation of cellular membranes, muscle, and skin*
- *Provides energy (deamination)*

(iii) properties

2 points @ 4 marks each

(8)

- *Denatured by chemicals, heat, agitation, enzymes*
- *Insoluble in H₂O (exceptions, collagen in warm water, egg white in cold water)*
- *Maillard reaction (browning of food not caused by enzymes)*
- *Gel formation – e.g. mousses*
- *Elasticity – some proteins – e.g. gluten in bread*

(d) Describe **four** ways the consumer can play a role in waste management when selecting and purchasing food commodities.

4 ways @ 5 marks each

(20)

- *Avoid excess packaging*
- *Refuse pre-packed fruit or vegetables*
- *Re-use shopping bags*
- *Buy goods packaged in recyclable materials e.g. aluminium cans*
- *Re-use plastic containers e.g. ice-cream tubs etc.*
- *Purchase goods in glass jars which can be re-used for storage*
- *Select biodegradable packaging etc.*

Total = 80

2. ‘The number of obese children in the EU is predicted to reach 6.4 million by 2010 if current trends continue – new research from the International Association for the Study of Obesity indicates.’ (Easy Food, April/May 2006)

(a) Comment on the above statement and state **three** causes of obesity in children. (12)

Comment = 3 marks

According to this research the number of overweight children within the E.U. is expected to rise by 1.3 million per year – this will have a hugely negative effect on the health of young children. May have implications for health services etc.

3 causes @ 3 marks each

- *Poor food choices – excessive use of ‘fast foods’ and processed foods*
- *Unhealthy eating patterns*
- *Lack of regular exercise*
- *Psychological factors e.g. boredom*
- *Video and computer games replacing more physical activities etc.*

(b) Give details of **two** health risks associated with childhood obesity. (8)

2 risks @ 4 marks each

- *As a result of obesity an estimated 20,000 young people will develop Type 2 Diabetes.*
- *High blood pressure*
- *High cholesterol levels and early signs of heart disease*
- *Chronic inflammation of weight-bearing joints etc.*

(c) Having regard to current healthy eating guidelines, plan a menu (3 meals) for **one** day for a family with young children. (18)

<p>Breakfast - 2 courses @3 marks Weetabix with low fat milk Brown bread / toast and marmalade Glass of fruit juice</p>
<p>Lunch - 2 courses @3 marks Meat / Salad wrap or roll Banana / apple / pear / Yoghurt Drink / Smoothie</p>
<p>Dinner - 2 courses @3 marks Melon slices / Vegetable Soup Stir fried chicken with noodles</p>

(d) Outline **four** factors that determine a person’s energy requirements. (12)

4 factors @ 3 marks each

- *Gender – men require more energy than women of equal weight because of higher proportion of muscle to fat*
- *Bodyweight / Size – the larger the body the more energy is required*
- *Age – young people / teenagers require a lot of energy for growth and development*
- *Occupation – sedentary type needs less energy than those who are physically active*
- *Pregnancy / Lactation – extra energy required to allow for growth of baby and breast-feeding*

Total = 50

3. Developments in technology have led to an increased range of microwave cookers on the market.

(a) Set out the results of a study you have carried out on microwave cookers.

Refer to:

(i) the different types of microwave cookers available

2 types @ 3 marks each

(6)

- *Conventional – used for cooking, reheating, and defrosting*
- *Combination – combines oven, grill and microwave; can brown food*
- *With grill – cooks, toasts, reheats, defrosts, and browns food etc.*

(ii) the factors to be considered when selecting a microwave cooker

3 factors @ 4 marks each

(12)

- *Budget – initial cost – running cost*
- *Safe for children and elderly to use*
- *Controls easy to use*
- *Colour – fits in with kitchen*
- *Takes up little space and is moveable etc.*

(iii) guidelines for use

3 guidelines @ 4 marks each

(12)

- *Arrange foods in a circle to ensure even distribution of heat*
- *Stir liquid foods e.g. soup during cooking*
- *Pierce foods*
- *Use recipes adapted for the microwave*
- *Cover food to maintain moisture and speed up the cooking time*
- *Never place metal or metal trim containers / dishes in the microwave*
- *Use appropriate cookware (paper, glass, plastic, ceramic, earthenware, etc.)*

(iv) modern features.

2 features @ 4 marks each

(8)

- *Digital control panel*
- *Anti-bacterial linings*
- *Recipe memory settings*
- *Self cleaning roof and walls*
- *Auto weight defrost*
- *Innowave technology etc.*

(b) State how the Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act (1980) protects the interests of consumers.

3 points @ 4 marks each

(12)

- *Makes retailer responsible for problem.*
- *Allows consumer to seek suitable redress.*
- *Consumer can bring a claim to the Small Claims Court if they are not satisfied.*
- *The Act also covers guarantees and services*
- *Request to have service repeated etc.*

Total	=	50
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4. Consumers are presented with an increasing range of goods and services. As a result, it can be difficult to make informed choices.

(a) Discuss how any **four** of the following might affect consumers' decision making when choosing goods and services:

(i) advertising 2 points @ 4 marks each (8)

- *Introduces new products to the market and makes people aware of them.*
- *Distinguishes a product by highlighting its uniqueness or difference*
- *People may feel compelled to buy products they cannot afford*
- *Sponsorship of sport and promotional products (e.g. T-Shirts), can influence the consumer etc.*

(ii) household income 2 points @ 4 marks each (8)

- *Money available for spending*
- *Easier access to borrowed money and social pressures leading to debt*
- *Teenagers may have part-time employment contributing to household income*
- *Easy-care garments and household goods keep down cost (no dry-cleaning)*
- *Purchase low maintenance appliances etc.*

(iii) discount offers 2 points @ 4 marks each (8)

- *These persuade the consumer to impulse buy*
- *Special offers - '3 for the price of 2' / free samples give the impression of extra bargains*
- *Multiple buys e.g. 3 for €1.50 compared to €0.60cent each - encourages consumer to spend more money etc.*

(iv) shopper loyalty schemes 2 points @ 4 marks each (8)

- *Loyalty scheme e.g. the club card from Tesco and Dunnes / Collection of tokens for household goods –SuperValu; offers consumers an incentive to shop in a particular store long term.*
- *May encourage consumer to purchase extra goods to meet a target number / date*
- *Collection of points / tokens may take priority over prices etc.*

(v) easy pay schemes 2 points @ 4 marks each [(8)]

- *Hire Purchase – used to purchase items over a defined period of time*
- *Easy pay – Gas / ESB, consumer can spread the cost over full 12 month period thus gas may be selected as a central heating fuel rather than oil*
- *Encourages the purchase of non essential goods*
- *Enables the purchase of essential goods where cash is not available etc.*

(b) State the advantages and the disadvantages of **one** of the following

(i) mail order shopping.

3 points @ 6 marks each (18)

Advantages - Popular and convenient for people who do not have time to visit shops

- *Can choose items from catalogue / order by post / phone*
- *Twenty eight day period to make decision re purchase or return of goods*

Disadvantages - Not able to try on clothes before ordering. Goods take 2-4 weeks.

Postage costs etc..

(ii) Internet Shopping

3 points @ 6 marks each [(18)]

Advantages – Can choose an item, goods are delivered by post, Variety of 'sites' to choose from, may be cheaper

Disadvantages - Danger of credit card fraud, overspending, product not as expected etc.

Total = 50

5. 'Adolescence is the time between the ages of 10 and 18 when your thinking, your feelings and your body are changing'.

(‘Ready, Steady, Grow’ by Angela MacNamara)

- (a) Identify **two** factors, outside the family, which may influence a teenager’s behaviour.

2 factors @ 4 marks each

(8)

- *Peer groups – important – reducing the influence of parents*
- *Part-time work – study and school may suffer*
- *Teenagers are influenced by the media etc.*

- (b) Discuss: (i) **three** aspects of adolescent behaviour that may lead to conflict between parents, other adults and teenagers.

3 aspects @ 5 marks each

(15)

- *Adolescents may feel parents / other adults are out of touch with technology, music, fashion etc.*
- *Relationships may take precedence over school work and study*
- *Peer pressure actions may be contrary to what parents / adults find acceptable*
- *Mood swings and lack of self-esteem*
- *Decisions about future careers etc.*

- (ii) **three** ways of dealing with conflict.

3 ways @ 5 marks each

(15)

- *Good communication – create an atmosphere where teenagers can talk*
- *Avoid confrontation*
- *Set limits and boundaries for the future*
- *Taking ‘time-out’ – giving both sides time to calm down*
- *Respect each others viewpoint / position*
- *Counselling etc.*

- (c) Each family member has a role and a number of responsibilities within the family unit.

Describe **one** role and **two** responsibilities of teenagers / adolescents

3 points @ 4 marks each

(12)

- *To do a fair share of household duties*
- *To attend school and achieve good grades*
- *Discipline during this period involves compromise and identifying limits*
- *Achieving gradual independence through trust*
- *Become more involved in decision making and the running of the home*
- *Be good role models for younger siblings etc.*

Total	=	50
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Section C

Elective 1 – Home Design and Management (80 marks)

Candidates selecting this elective must answer 1 (a) and either 1 (b) or 1 (c).

1.(a)

Mark and Emma have recently purchased a 2-bedroomed bungalow in a large town. The bungalow consists of a small kitchen, a bathroom, a large sitting room and two bedrooms. It has no heating system and little insulation.

- (i) Name and describe the central heating system that you would recommend for this house. Give **two** reasons for your recommendation.

Name = 4 marks: Describe: 2 points @ 4 marks

(12)

Wet Central Heating System/ Small bore

- *A boiler fuelled by oil, gas, or smokeless fuel, wood etc.*
- *Small bore pipes and radiators*
- *Pump – to circulate water through pipe work*
- *Overflow pipe and expansion tank – keeps water topped up, it also acts as an escape for steam and excess water.*
- *Heat exchanger – hot water cylinder etc.*
- *(Accept well labelled diagram)*

2 reasons @ 5 marks each

(10)

- *Costs involved – installation, running and maintenance*
- *Convenience – operates automatically using timers and thermostats – temperature can be controlled*
- *Environment – gas and smokeless fuel produce less pollution, wood is a renewable source of energy*
- *Aesthetically pleasing – pipes can be under floor etc.*

- (ii) Identify an area of the bungalow that should be insulated.
Give details of the type of insulation that could be used.

(12)

Identify = 4 marks

- *Attic, walls, windows, doors etc.*

Details = 2 points @ 4 marks each

- *Fibre blanket insulation – strips of mineral / glass fibre are laid between the joists in the attic*
- *Loose fill insulation – pellets of polystyrene / vermiculite poured between the joists in the attic*
- *Foam insulation – foam is sprayed between the roof rafters and solidifies etc.*

- (iii) Outline **four** factors that Mark and Emma should take into consideration when selecting furniture for the bungalow.

4 factors @ 4 marks each

(16)

- *Cost – but good quality should be chosen for durability purposes*
- *Proportion is achieved when the pieces of furniture relate to one another in size*
- *Space - avoid large heavy pieces of furniture*
- *Style – should suit the décor and style of room*
- *Function – e.g. sitting room – practical, stain-resistant etc.*

- 1.(b) (i) Give an account of **three** different factors that influence the interior design of a house.

3 factors @ 6 marks each

(18)

Aesthetics

- *Design principles – create a visually attractive room*
- *Easy to live with in the long term*
- *Select colours, pattern, and textures that will not date too quickly etc.*

Ergonomics

- *Allow ease of movement – natural traffic flow*
- *Easy to clean – free access to windows etc.*
- *Work triangle for kitchen etc.*

Environmental Awareness

- *Use natural materials where possible e.g. stone fireplace*
- *Wood burning stove*
- *Tiling is an energy efficient and attractive flooring option in conservatories/ south-facing kitchens – it absorbs solar energy and releases heat gradually within the house etc.*

Cost

- *Cheaper furnishings can reduce cost.*
- *Avoid hire purchase etc.*
- *Buy good quality suites of furniture / beds which affect comfort level etc.*

Comfort

- *Layout – suit designated function – working or relaxing*
- *Heating, ventilation, and lighting must be applicable to the area*
- *Work surfaces, desks, seats, etc., must be at a suitable level to avoid physical discomfort. etc.*

- (ii) Texture is an important element of design.

Give **two** examples of the use of smooth textures and **two** examples of the use of rough textures in interior design.

4 examples @ 3 marks each

(12)

- *Smooth textures e.g. tiling, glass, paint, stainless steel etc – use in kitchens and bathrooms*
- *Rough textures, carpeting, upholstery, bricks, textured paints, wallpaper – add warmth / comfort*

or

- 1.(c) (i) Explain the importance of good ventilation.

3 points @ 4 marks

(12)

- *Ventilation is the removal of stale air laden with impurities*
- *Introduction of fresh air without causing a draught or lowering temperature*
- *Controls humidity*
- *Prevents condensation*
- *Reduces smells*
- *Assists combustion (open fires)*

- (ii) Name **one** natural method and **one** artificial method of ventilating a home. Describe **one** of the methods named.

2 names @ 3 marks each

(6)

- *Best natural ventilation is achieved by opening windows and doors, also chimneys etc.*
- *Artificial methods – extractor fan or mechanical ventilation system*

3 points @ 4 marks each

(12)

Mechanical - A duct system is installed in ceiling or floor

- *Fresh air is blown through the system and stale air is removed*
- *Modern versions warm air as it comes into the room*

Extractor fans - fitted to an external wall

- *Motor causes blades to spin and suck out stale air and cooking smells*
- *Brings fresh air into the room*
- *Reduces the relative humidity of a room etc.*

Total = 80

Elective 2 – Textiles, Fashion and Design (40 marks)

Candidates selecting this elective must answer 2 (a) and either 2 (b) or 2 (c).

2.(a) You are about to start work in a local office where you will be dealing with the public and are expected to dress appropriately.

(i) Sketch and describe the outfit you would consider suitable.

Sketch = 6 marks: Description = 4 marks

(10)

- *Sketch of outfit should show details of outfit design, and be well labelled*
- *Description may include details of fabric, fabric properties, colour, design features etc.*

(ii) State how the design of the outfit takes account of:

- comfort
- aesthetic appeal (appearance)
- current fashion trends.

3 points @ 3 marks each

(9)

- *Garments should allow for ease of movement (bending etc.) while maintaining shape*
- *Line, shape, and texture of a design must be manipulated to provide a comfortable garment*
- *Techniques used in construction e.g. piping, binding, and addition of trims etc.*
- *Reflects both new and traditional fabrics*
- *Top stitched suits with patch pockets*
- *Cropped jackets and blazers just above hip are popular for workwear with skirts or trousers as an alternative etc.*

(iii) Suggest one fabric suitable for this outfit giving reasons for your choice.

Name = 2 marks: Reasons 2@ 2 = 4 marks:

(6)

- *Polyester – strong, resists abrasion and creasing, washable and dries quickly*

and

2.(b) Modern fabrics are given a variety of treatments during manufacture.

(i) Explain why fabric finishes are used when manufacturing fabrics.

3 points @ 3 marks each

(9)

- *To change its appearance, handle or performance*
- *Many finishes are applied to stop high shrinkage and creasing*
- *Water-repellance – makes finish durable during washing and wearing*
- *Flame-proofing – chemicals are applied to make fabric flame-resistant*
- *Use of reactive dyes create colourfast and bright colours etc.*

(ii) Name and describe one type of fabric finish.

Name: 2 marks Description: 2 points @ 2 marks each

(6)

e.g. Flame retardant finish – Proban

- *Proban is used on cotton, linen, and cellulose fibres*
- *It protects the fabric by adding an invisible layer of phosphorus and nitrogen to the fibre structure*
- *On ignition an insulating char forms around the fabric with no melting, smouldering, or after-flame, flame will self-extinguish etc.*

or

- 2.(c) (i) Describe the role played by small businesses in the design / manufacture of clothing in Ireland.

3 points @ 3 marks each

(9)

- *They offer work, skilled and unskilled, in areas with limited employment opportunities*
- *Specialists e.g. machinists, those involved in pattern construction etc., are also involved in the industry*
- *They supply a niche market making specialist products e.g. knitwear, lace, crochet etc.*
- *Designers e.g. Paul Costelloe uses Donegal tweed giving the fabric a boost and ensuring the survival of the cottage industry*
- *Philip Treacy, as a milliner, has had his creations accessorise all the great couture shows etc.*

- (ii) Explain why there has been a major decrease in the number of people employed in the clothing and textile industry since the 1990's.

2 points @ 3 marks each

(6)

- *Clothing is a very labour intensive industry, high wages in Ireland, cannot compete with low cost competitors from Eastern Europe*
- *Training of staff is time consuming – developing modular production required – also machine operators and supervisors*
- *Computerisation – skill required for CAD and CAM*
- *Ranges of clothing produced twice a year – consumer demand is often non-seasonal so factories have a build-up of stock which is costly for companies etc.*

Total = 40

Elective 3 – Social Studies (80 marks)

Candidates selecting this elective must answer 3 (a) and either 3 (b) or 3 (c).

3.(a) ‘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.*

- (ii) Give a brief account of **three** different payments provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to families with children.
6 points @ 3 marks (names = 3 @ 3 , details = 3 @ 3) (18)

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. – a 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 etc.

and

- 3.(b) **‘The proportion of people at risk of poverty in Ireland was one of the highest in the EU in 2004.’**

(Measuring Ireland's Progress 2005 from CSO).

- (i) Identify **three** groups of people most at risk of poverty in Ireland today.
Explain why the groups named are affected by poverty.
3 groups @ 4 marks each (12)

- *Long term unemployed*
- *Those suffering from an illness or disability*
- *Lone parent families*
- *Those living in deprived areas, children, immigrants, elderly, homeless, travellers etc.*

Explanation: 2 points @ 5 marks each (10)

- *People in these categories can experience different levels of poverty*
- *Social standing may decrease their chances of getting a job*
- *Some groups (minority) can be discriminated against.*
- *Housing policy has concentrated low-income groups in one area – ‘poverty black spots’*
- *Some born into cycle of poverty*
- *Addiction can also lead to poverty etc.*

- (ii) State the role of the *Combat Poverty Agency*.
2 points @ 4 marks each (8)

- *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.*

Or

3.(c) Voluntary workers play a major role in today's community.

(i) Discuss the benefits of voluntary work to:

- the individual and
- the community.

4 points @ 5 marks

(20)

Individual gains expertise in a particular area

- Builds a sense of achievement, self-esteem
- Occupies free time and provides an interest (retired person)
- Provides social interaction

Community Awareness of certain issues in the community is increased e.g. environment

- Providing new skills in area
- Providing unfunded services e.g. Samaritans
- Sense of neighbourliness is cultivated
- Benefits community as services are provided quickly and at low cost.

(ii) Explain the difference between paid work and unpaid work.

Explanation = 2 points @ 5 marks each

(10)

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.

Total = 80

