

# fittings



planning, marriage law, housing and planning regulations, and consumer rights when it comes to the home-economics exam.

Families with a large disposable income have greater choice when shopping. They are not restricted to buying "own brand" goods or looking for "special offers".

## Merchandising

Retailers have a number of ways of trying to increase sales of products. Examples of these include special offers, eg two items for the price of one, buy two items and get the second one at half price.

## Packaging

The shape, colour and materials used in packaging can influence shoppers to buy products. Products aimed at women are often in pastel colours, eg Fructis shampoo.

The shape of the product helps consumers to recognise products, eg Dairygold, Dawn Light and other dairy spreads are always in rectangular plastic cartons.

**Discount store:** for example, Argos

**Advantage:** Less expensive than a department store.

**Disadvantage:** No specialised sales staff.

**Department Store:** for example, Arnotts

**Advantage:** Trained sales staff will give consumers a "professional" service.

**Disadvantage:** More expensive than discount store.

## (c) DEEP FAT FRYER

### (i) Working principle

The appliance is plugged in and an indicator light comes on. This indicates that there is electric current entering the appliance.

Heat is generated by electricity. This causes (a) the heating element to heat up, which heats the oil, (b) the bi-metallic strip to heat up.

The bi-metallic strip is composed of two metals that expand at different rates when heated, eg copper and invar. Copper expands faster than invar and the strip bends.

When the desired temperature is reached, eg 190 degrees for chips, the strip bends and breaks the circuit. The indicator light goes off.

The light goes off indicating the electric current is disconnected. The heating element cools down (cooling oil and preventing it from overheating).

The strip returns to its original position as it cools, the light comes back on and oil is heated again. This cycle continues while the fryer is on.

### (ii) Guidelines for using the appliance

◆ Have the oil at the right temperature for cooking specific foods, eg 190 degrees for cooking chips.

◆ Never fill beyond the "maximum line" with oil.

◆ Clean the oil regularly.

◆ Follow the instructions.

### (iii) Energy efficiency

◆ Replace the filter regularly so the appliance works efficiently. This saves energy.

◆ Do not "half fill" the wire basket when deep fat frying, as this wastes electricity.

### (d)

◆ If the fault is recognised straight away, ie after opening the box, the consumer is entitled to a full cash refund if he/she returns the product to the shop.

◆ If a fault appears a few months after purchase, the consumer is entitled to a replacement, repair or credit note.

Other topics in Section B include food additives, food spoilage, microbiology, food preservation, dietary requirements, the Irish food industry, and food processing/packaging.

## SECTION C

Students should be aware that the elective is worth 20 per cent of the overall grade (mentioned earlier).

Study all topics in each elective before the exam as the first part of each elective question (part A) is obligatory.

Therefore if one topic is left out, it may be the very topic that appears in part A. Don't risk it.

On parts B and C of the elective topic, students have the choice to pick one or the other. Very few students take the textile elective. The social studies and home design/management electives are equally popular with students.

A point that applies to all students is to familiarise yourself with up to date prices of fuels, floor coverings, wall coverings (home design/management) and laws/new bills (social studies).

Consider this question from the Folens sample papers.

### Home Design and Management (80 marks)

1 (a) Housing styles changed considerably in Ireland during the 19th and 20th centuries.

(i) Outline the historical development of housing styles from the 19th century onwards. (18)

(ii) Enumerate housing styles that are popular in Ireland today (12)

(iii) Summarise the main points to be taken into consideration

when deciding on:

◆ A housing style

◆ A location for a house (20)

## Answer

1. (a) (i) At the beginning of the 20th century 70 per cent of Irish people lived in the countryside and 30 per cent lived in cities and towns.

### Rural Housing

The most common house in the countryside was the thatched cottage. They had thick, solid walls with tiny windows and roofs were thatched with reeds or hay. Most cottages had only two rooms ie a kitchen and a bedroom to the right of the kitchen. The front door was a "half door".

In some houses there was a small room up under the thatch where the children slept. Some of the family slept in a settle in the kitchen. More prosperous farmers had an extra room called the parlour.

Better-off farmers lived in two storey stone houses with a slated roof and at least five rooms. Wealthy landowners lived in big estate houses.

After the second World War, thatched roofs were replaced with slates. Extra rooms were added. Some people moved to new single and two storey houses which they built near old cottages.

### Urban Housing

Most Irish towns were small at the beginning of the 20th century and houses were built around the main streets. They were either terraced or two storey stone houses and mainly housed working people.

In the cities, many poor people lived in tenements (large Georgian houses, previously owned by wealthy families). These houses were divided up and the rooms were let to poor people. Most could only afford one room.

In the 1930s, the government gave grants to local authorities to pay for council housing which mainly consisted of two storey brick houses with plaster walls.

Three-storey flats with deck access were built in city centers. They consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen and a bathroom.

In the 1960s high tower blocks of flats were built in Ballymun (these have now been demolished).

Private developers built housing estates (detached and semi-detached houses, usually three bed roomed).

In the cities, old Georgian tenements were knocked down or crumbled to the ground. Some 19th century artisan cottages still remain in parts of the cities (Dublin-Liberties).

### Popular housing styles in Ireland

Today only 43 per cent of Ireland's population lives in the countryside.

### Rural Housing

Many old cottages built in the mid 1900s still exist in the countryside but they have changed in appearance due to extensions, double glazing, new bathrooms, etc.

The bungalow is a popular type of house in the countryside. Most of these type of houses were built in the 1970s and 1980s.

The dormer bungalow was a popular house style in the 1990s. These are spacious and blend fairly well aesthetically in the countryside. Today, mock Tudor and mock Georgian style houses are extremely popular.

In tourist areas in the countryside, new trigonal style cottages have been erected eg Mountshannon, Co Clare. (Some have thatch laid over their tiled roof).

### Urban Housing

Approximately 57 per cent of Ireland's population live in towns and cities today. Many old stone town house still remain in towns today. Most of them have been converted to shops and a lot of them are painted with bright coloured paint eg Dingle town and Killarney.

Very few people live over businesses in towns today (there are no remaining residents on Dublin's O'Connell Street).

Local authorities are trying to encourage people back into cities by building apartment complexes in city/town centers. The suburbs of towns and cities have developed so much that they are now referred to as urban sprawl. Detached, semi-detached and terraced houses in housing estates are very popular.

There are local authority flats and houses in towns and cities as well.

### Choice of housing style

◆ Personal choice - Some people will only live in a two-storey house. They may dislike bungalows.

◆ Environment - the style of house must blend in with the style of existing houses in the area.

◆ Building regulations - you may want to build a two-storey but planning permission might only be given for a dormer bungalow.

◆ Fashion - There is a trend towards Mock Georgian-style houses and stone-faced houses in the countryside.

### Choice of location

◆ Price ie money available to spend on a site.

◆ Depending on the location eg views of a river and if the site is a serviced site ie near mains water.

◆ Proximity of shops, schools, local churches, banks, must be considered.

◆ Site orientation. How much sunlight the site gets and whether it is a very windy location or not.

◆ Near public transport route, ie near a main road or bus route.