



Fishermen handling a trawl in the Barents Sea. Photograph: Marcel Mochet/AFP/Getty

Tourists would overcrowd the narrow roads of this area (three marks). Their cars would cause noise pollution and air pollution (one mark) that might disturb local people and wildlife (one mark).

The Burren contains many rare plants (three marks) of Alpine and Mediterranean origins (one mark). Visitors might pick or trample these plants (one mark).

◆ **SAMPLE QUESTION 2: PART OF A GEOGRAPHICAL MIX.**

**SAMPLE QUESTION 2: FISHING**

| Fish type | 1997  | 1998  |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1999      | 2000  | Cod   |
| 5,706     | 5,294 | 3,860 |

(a) Fishing

(i) Examine the table (above) that shows fish catches in tonnes between 1997 and 2000.

Describe the trend shown by the figures in the table. (two marks)

(ii) Explain two reasons why over-fishing has occurred in Irish waters. (four marks)

(iii) Describe two means by which fish stocks are conserved in Irish waters. (four marks)

Marking scheme for (a)

(i) One description at two marks, marked as follows:

Statement: one mark

Reference to a statistic: one mark

(ii) Two reasons at two marks each, marked as follows:

Statement: one mark

Development: one mark

(iii) Two means of conservation at two marks each, marked as follows:

Statement: one mark

Development: one mark

**Sample answers to (a)**

(i) The tonnes of both cod and herring decreased from 1997 to 2000 (one mark). Cod, for example, decreased from 5,706 tonnes to 2,928 tonnes in that period (one mark).

(ii) Some of today's super-trawlers are as long as Croke Park (one mark). These huge boats can catch and hold great quantities of fish (one mark). Modern boats are so well equipped that it is hard for fish to escape them (one mark). Equipment such as echo sounders and sonar are used to locate fish (one mark).

(iii) Fishing is sometimes suspended in some sea areas

(one mark). Large areas of the Irish Sea, for example, have been closed to cod fishing (one mark). Ireland's fishery protection vessels do their best to prevent poaching, (one mark) which is the illegal catching of fish (one mark).

(b) A major irrigation scheme

With reference to a major irrigation scheme you have studied:

(i) Name the scheme. (two marks)

(ii) Outline its operation. (four marks)

(iii) Discuss two benefits of the scheme to the local population. (four marks)

Marking scheme for (b)

(i) Named scheme: two marks

(ii) Outline of operation:

Statement: two marks

Development: two marks or two statements at two marks each

(iii) Two benefits of scheme at two marks each, marked as follows:

Statement: one mark

Development: one mark

**Sample Answers to (b)**

(i) The Central Valley Project in California, USA. (two marks)

(ii) Dams have been built and reservoirs created on the Sacramento river (two marks). Canals and aqueducts carry Sacramento water south into the valley of the San Joaquin river (two marks).

(iii) Water from the reservoirs is used to irrigate the southern part of the Central Valley (one mark), where cotton, oranges and other crops are grown (one mark). Some of the water from the project is used to supply large urban areas (one mark), such as Los Angeles and San Francisco (one mark).

**Notice the following about the sample questions given here:**

All of the questions contained the following command words:

- ◆ Name
- ◆ Describe/Outline
- ◆ Explain
- ◆ Discuss

These command words are very important. They appear all the time in Junior Certificate examinations.

The length of your answer should depend on the number of marks allotted to a question. A five-mark question, for example, usually requires a longer answer than a two-mark question.

# The A1 student



**Christine Greene sat her Junior Cert at Rosses Community School, in Dungloe, Co Donegal**

I'm in transition year now, in Rosses Community School, in Dungloe, Co Donegal. I had thought that third year was going to be hard – I was dreading going into it, and a lot of people told me how difficult it was – but it wasn't that bad, once you get into it. Geography was always a subject that I really loved, so I didn't really mind sitting down and studying it, so I wasn't as worried as I thought I'd be when it came to the exam.

I looked at all the chapters that had to be looked over and I broke them down into sections. I'd only do a few chapters every night, not a big load all in one go. It was important to separate it out over the few months coming up to the exam. I found that was better, because I remembered the information more. I wrote down all the main points for each chapter, so then, on the night before the exam, I didn't have to go through the whole book – I could use them as triggers to remember everything.

For anything that was really important, I'd try to write short explanatory sentences for myself which were easy to remember. I thought that was a very good way of doing it. If you stick those up on the wall in your room, you don't think that you're looking at them, but they do stick in your head, and you will remember them on the day.

I didn't really start all that until after Christmas. We were still trying to cover all of the course until then – we had most of it done by the holidays. Our teacher did it really well, I think. She covered the course early, so that we could go over the whole course again using the past papers. I thought that was really great because we had the course nearly covered twice by the time of the exam. It meant you knew what was coming up in the exam – it wasn't too difficult because we were ready for it.

One of the questions in the exam that I really recommend doing extra study on is the Ordnance Survey maps. Everyone should do it – it's just a dead cert if you've done the work. If you know that, if you've gone through it, you know that you'll have one question that you can be sure of which is great for confidence.

I thought the mocks were really good too, because they really woke everybody up. It made us realise that the exams were actually coming, and that there was a lot of work to do. What I found they were especially good for was timing. It showed you how long you should be spending on each question. That's so important, because if you learnt from that, you knew in the exam that your timing worked. I'd recommend everyone bring in their own watch with them – if you follow your timing well, then you'll know where you're at in the exam and how to use the time that you have. You'll even find that you've got plenty of time at the end to go through things.

– In conversation with Eoin Cunningham

