

Economic Statistics

Topic	Statistic
Unemployment Rate	8.8% and falling
Inflation	-0.1% for the 12 months to March 2016
National Debt	203 Bn and falling
Government Finances	Deficit has gone from 32% of GDP in 2011 to 1.8% of GDP in 2015.
Balance of Payments on Current Account	€2.9 Bn Surplus for 2015
Interest Rates	ECB Rate of 0.00% (Lowest Ever)
GDP	€189 Bn and rising

TOPICS that could be asked

- Quantitative Easing/Increasing Money Supply by ECB

Positive	Negative

- Water Charges/Stealth Taxes

Positive (Govt)	Negative (Govt)

Positive (Household)	Negative (Household)

- Consequences of moving to regressive taxation (indirect taxation)

Positive	Negative

- Exited the Bailout

Positive	Negative

- Falling Energy Prices

Causes	
Positive	Negative

- Lifting Dairy Quota

Positive	Negative

- Rising Exports

Positive	Negative

- House Prices Recovering

Positive	Negative

- New Mortgage Rules (20% down payment)

Positive	Negative

- Two tier recovery/Unbalanced Regional Development

Causes	Correcting it

- Depreciating Euro

Positive	Negative

- Fixed vs Floating Exchange Rates

Fixed – Positive & Negative	Floating – Positive & Negative

- Oligopoly – Merger (Mobile Phone Market)

Positive	Negative

- Privatisation (Aer Lingus)

Positive	Negative

- Sovereign Default (Greece)

Positive	Negative

- Many MNCS

Positive	Negative

- Lowest ECB Interest Rate in History

Positive	Negative

- Ireland Credit Rating improving

Impact

- Rising consumer confidence

Impact

- Falling Unemployment

Positive	Negative

- Reduced Income Tax Rates

Positive	Negative

- Brexit - Impact on Ireland

Positive	Negative

- Economic impact of Migrant Refugees

Positive	Negative

- Shortage of houses in Dublin

Impact

- Reduced growth in developing markets abroad (eg China)

Positive	Negative

- Increasing tourism with weak euro

Impact

- Free GP care for U6s – Economic Impact

Positive	Negative

- Phasing out of USC

Impact

- Rising Minimum Wage

Positive	Negative

- Kyoto Environment Targets - Impacts

Positive	Negative

- Rising cost of Third Level Education - Impacts

Positive	Negative