

## Government & Economy Long Questions

### 1997 Q8

- (a) Name **five** semi-state companies that have been privatised in recent years. (15 marks)
- (b) Set out arguments for and arguments against the privatisation of semi-state companies. (40 marks)
- (c) Do you think that privatisation of these companies would benefit
- (i) the consumer
  - (ii) the taxpayer
- Briefly explain your answer in each case. (20 marks)

### 1999 Q8

- (a) State and explain **THREE** economic aims of the government. (20 marks)
- (b) The government has certain policies available to achieve its aims. Among these are:
- Fiscal Policy
  - Monetary Policy
- Explain what is meant by each of the above. (20 marks)
- (c) Give **TWO** examples where economic policies may conflict i.e policies introduced to achieve one aim make it more difficult to achieve one of the other aims. (20 marks)
- (d) Explain, briefly, what is meant by the term 'monetarist policy'. (15 marks)

### 2000 Q8

- (b) In recent years the Irish government has pursued a policy of privatising some Irish Semi-State bodies.
- (i) Outline **THREE** possible uses by government of the revenue received from privatisations.
  - (ii) Discuss the economic reasons **for or against** privatisation. (25 marks)

**2002 Q7**

- (c) (i) Outline, giving examples, **TWO** reasons why Irish semi-state companies are facing increasing competition.
- (ii) Discuss **ONE** advantage and **ONE** disadvantage of this development for:
- Consumers
  - Employees of semi-state firms

(30 marks)

**2005 Q4**

- (c) (i) One of the government's economic aims is to achieve balanced regional development. Outline **FOUR** possible government policies to achieve this aim.
- (ii) "Policies to achieve balanced regional development may make it more difficult for the government to achieve other economic aims". Explain this statement, using examples to support your answer.

(30 marks)

[75marks]

**2006 Q8**

- (a) The government announced plans to **decentralise/re-locate** many government departments and state agencies throughout the country. Discuss **TWO** possible economic advantages and **TWO** possible economic disadvantages of this policy for the development of the Irish economy.

(20 marks)

**2007 Q8**

- (b) (i) State and explain **FOUR** economic aims of the Irish government.
- (ii) Discuss **TWO** examples where economic policies introduced to achieve one economic aim, may make it more difficult to achieve one of the other aims.

(25 marks)

**2009 Q3**

- (c) 'The Irish government should encourage initiatives that will prevent further cost increases and in turn sustain employment in small firms'.

Suggest with reasons actions the government could take to improve the competitiveness of small firms.

(20 marks)

[75 marks]

### 2010 DEB Q8

- (b) The government is considering introducing a utility charge for water for domestic consumers in 2011.

Outline **one** positive economic consequence and **one** negative economic consequence of this course of action for:

- the government;
- the consumer.

*(20 marks)*

### 2010 EC Q5

- (c) Outline possible courses of action the Irish government could take to stimulate **employment** in the Irish economy.

*(25 marks)*

**[75 marks]**

### 2010 EC Q6

- (b) Due to the economic downturn in the Irish economy the **public sector wage bill** needs to be reduced. Identify possible ways in which the Minister for Finance could reduce the public sector wage bill.

*(25 marks)*

- (c) Outline the arguments in favour of '**Privatisation**' of state-owned companies in Ireland.

*(20 marks)*

**[75 marks]**

### 2010 Q6

- (b) (i) State and explain what you consider to be the **three** most important economic aims of the Irish Government.  
(ii) Outline **two** examples of possible conflicts between government economic aims/objectives.

*(25 marks)*

## 2011 DEB Q6

- (b) Discuss economic policies which the Irish government might pursue in order to reduce the level of unemployment.

(25 marks)

## 2011 Q5

- (a) The Budget is a statement of the Government's fiscal policy. The Irish Government, in its National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 committed to reducing the General Government Deficit to under 3% of GDP by 2014.

- (i) Explain the underlined term.  
(ii) State and explain **four** possible economic effects on the Irish economy of the government's plan to significantly reduce the deficit over the next four years.

(30)

- (c) 'The number of staff in the Irish public sector grew by 15.5% from 2001 to 2008, according to OECD statistics'.  
(Report on the Sources of Ireland's Banking Crisis, 2010)

Discuss **four** measures the Minister for Finance could take to reduce the public sector wage bill.

(20)

[75 marks]

## 2012 Q6

- (a) One of the economic aims of the Irish Government at present is to decrease government current expenditure.  
Discuss **four** other economic aims of the Government **and** use relevant statistics/information to justify your choice. (20)

- (c) State and explain **two** economic arguments in favour of and **two** economic arguments against third level students contributing to the cost of their higher education. (20)

## 2012 Q7

- (c) 'Euro area growth is forecast to slow down from 1.6% in 2011 to 0.2% in 2012'.  
(OECD, 2011)

Discuss the possible effects on the Irish economy of the slowdown in the growth rate in the euro area. (20)

**2012 EC Q3**

- (c) The Irish Government is considering the privatisation of semi state companies such as Bord Gáis, CIÉ and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB).
- (i) Explain the underlined term.
  - (ii) Outline **two** possible economic arguments for and **two** possible economic arguments against the privatisation of semi-state companies. (25)

**2012 EC Q7**

- (b) On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, the government introduced a €100 household charge. Outline **one** positive economic consequence and **one** negative economic consequence of this course of action for:
- (i) The government;
  - (ii) Consumers. (20)

**2014 Q6**

- (a) (i) State and explain **four** current economic aims/objectives of the Irish Government.  
(ii) Outline **two** possible conflicts that could arise between some of these Government aims/objectives. (30)
- (b) Discuss arguments for **and** against the privatisation of state assets. (20)

- (c) In *The Irish Times* (November 2013) the economist Joseph Stiglitz predicted a "lost decade" for the Irish economy, due to the extended period of austerity.

(Austerity refers to government measures introduced to reduce a Budget Deficit.)

Outline **four** possible economic consequences for the Irish economy arising from the austerity measures introduced in recent Irish Government budgets. (25)

**[75 marks]**

**2015 Q8**

- (a) *“A Budget deficit stimulates the economy and therefore should be encouraged.”*

Discuss this statement with reference to the Irish economy. You may agree or disagree. (20)

- (b) (i) Outline three policies the Irish Government could consider to achieve balanced regional development.  
(ii) Outline two economic benefits to rural communities of balanced regional development. (25)

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