

Describe and explain the development of the primary industry in an Irish region that you have studied

(30 marks)

### Answer

In this answer I will discuss the development of the farming industry in the Greater Dublin area (Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow).

The soils of the GDA are very well suited to a productive farming sector, as most of the region is underlain by limestone over which there have been numerous river/ glacial depositions. In North country Dublin, for example in Rush and Lusk, sandy soils provide for fertile market gardening. Keelings have based the majority of their production out of this region as a result. Salad vegetables are grown in greenhouses while cabbages, onions and potatoes are grown in fields. Largo food company (Tayto) are based out of this region. About 50% of potato growing in Ireland is based out of Meath and Dublin. Kildare is home to the bloodstock industry as a result of the fertile soil allowing horses to thrive on the grasslands of the area, while in County Meath, boulder clay (from glaciation) is used for arable farming. The podzol soils of the more mountainous region of Wicklow hinder farming, where coniferous plantations are common.

The relief of county Wicklow encourages tree growth. With milder temperatures in the winter by comparison to the west of Ireland, Trees mature more quickly for harvest. The low lying and undulating landscape of the rest of the GDA allow highly mechanized farming which increase productivity. Here farms are larger than average (42.3 hectares). Along with this the region has a vibrant young workforce with over 45% under the age of 25, who are highly educated and bring new farming techniques to the region consistently, thereby increasing productivity.

Dublin city provides an excellent market for this produce and with a well developed transport network for export, companies can take advantage of Dublin port for the export of their produce. The Greater Dublin region has a well-developed transport network, which connects it to all parts of Ireland with motorways such as the M50, M1, M4, M6 and M7. This gives farmers in the Dublin region access to a countrywide market. Farming is productive in the region and this has also led to the development of the food processing industries, e.g. Bachelors.