

Account for the development of transport or tourism in an Irish region that you have studied.

(30 marks)

In this answer I will discuss the development of **tourism** in the Greater Dublin Area. The tourism sector contributes greatly to the economy of the Greater Dublin Area. Tourism earns over €2 Billion for the Dublin economy and over €8.4 billion for the country. As Dublin is the main point of entry for tourists, tourist numbers are high with the region attracting over 40% of all visitors to Ireland. In 2018 approximately 11 million tourists visited Ireland, with the majority of these arriving through Dublin. Dublin's international airport, with Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, makes it a very accessible location for weekend visitors from the U.K and other parts of Europe. Here cheap flights provided by companies such as Ryanair have helped promote this. As Ireland has a Cool Temperature Oceanic climate, which includes regular rainfall, city attractions allow the Dublin region to have a year round tourism industry. Attractions such as museums and art galleries, e.g. The National History Museum makes it an attractive destination for tourists. Also the surrounding counties are very scenic and the physical relief of places such as Newgrange or Glendalough in Co. Wicklow attracts thousands of tourists annually.

The successful development of tourism in the Greater Dublin Area can also be attributed to government investment in the sector, e.g. Failte Ireland. The government has invested heavily in marketing Ireland as a tourist destination and the Greater Dublin Area has benefited greatly from this. 'The Gathering' in 2013, for example, encouraged more visitors to Ireland, leading to a 13% increase in tourist numbers from the USA in that year.

The Greater Dublin Area also has the most efficient transport system in the country. All road networks radiate from the M50 which circles Dublin city making it easy for tourists to access all parts of the region, from the M1 coming from Belfast all the way around to the M11 coming from Rosslare Harbor in the South. A well-developed public transport network supports the tourist industry with Dublin Bus, Dart and a recently extended Luas service. Plans are also underway to develop a metro in the city. Currently the most appropriate route is being discussed for this. Finally with the expansion of Dublin airport to two terminals, and the construction of an extended north runway, this enables over 30 million passengers to arrive to Dublin every year. All of these factors have contributed to the development of a successful tourism sector in the Greater Dublin Area.