

Tourism in a developed economy| sample answer

Q: 'Explain the growth of any one developed economy that you have studied under one or more of the following headings: Financial services, Tourism and Industrial decline.' (2010 Q8 B.)

The Irish region I have studied is the Greater Dublin Area (GDA).

Tourism in the GDA is a tertiary economic activity providing up to 200000 jobs.

In 2010 tourism generated €4.6 billion for the Irish economy, there were over 5.6 million overseas visitors. 33% are from mainland Europe and 25% are from the UK. The people from the UK usually only stay for a weekend city break.

Tourists from Europe and America usually come around summer time but tourism in Ireland is a year round industry due to our temperate climate.

Dublin is a lively city with a historical and cultural background. Many tourists are drawn to Dublin for its museums, art galleries and historic buildings. It is Europe's fourth most visited city.

It is also famous for its literary traditions as it was home to the famous writers like James Joyce and W.B. Yeats.

Dublin is also known for vibrant nightlife around the city centre (eg Temple Bar) and live traditional music in pubs.

It is also becoming increasingly known for holding events which can boost tourism. For example live concerts in the Three Arena and International rugby matches in the Aviva Stadium.

Dublin is marketed at high-spending tourists with a number of high end restaurants and retailers. Dublin offers a variety of attractions ranging from castles (Dublin Castle) to churches (St. Patrick's Cathedral).

Dublin is easily accessible through Dublin International Airport with a large variety of airlines flying direct to countless locations.

The construction of Terminal 2 has expanded this and also increased the number of tourists visiting Dublin.

Dublin is also accessible through ferries with Dublin Port.

Dublin City is easy to get around on foot or by car, DART, Bus, Luas or taxi. The rent-a-bike scheme has proved a success with over 1 million users.

The GDA is known to be relatively safe and many students from Spain travel to study English.

The good thing about the city is that you are never really more than a 40minute drive from a nice scenic walk in the countryside. eg Powerscourt or Glendalough. This encourages tourists to come, and even for a long weekend they can see both city and country side.

The development of tourism has many disadvantages as well. It can increase in crime rate and increased noise pollution and congestion. In Dublin city centre there is constantly bumper to bumper traffic especially with tour buses and taxis.

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The economic recession has caused the levels of tourism in the GDA to decrease but it is slowly increasing again, however it is obvious that the amount of money tourists spend here has decreased. Tourist operators blame this decrease in numbers on high fuel costs and surplus hotel rooms for this decline in business.