Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Ordinary Level Questions

Q1. Identify one government policy and describe the impact this policy may have on any sector of the Irish economy.

Government Policy: *Housing for All*
Sector: *Construction*
Impact: The policy increases demand for housing, leading to job creation and government incentives for builders. However, it may also result in labour shortages and rising construction costs.

Q2. Explain the difference between government policy and legislation

Government Policy A government policy is a set of guidelines or strategies to address issues like housing, climate, or digital development. It is not legally binding.
Legislation Legislation is a law passed by the Oireachtas. Businesses must comply with it or face penalties or fines.

Q3. Outline the role played by business in the development of national policy.

Businesses influence national policy through lobbying, consultations, and advisory groups. They engage directly with politicians, submit views on proposed policies, and join forums. Interest groups like IBEC and ISME represent business needs and help shape favourable policies.

Q4. True or False: Tick (✓) the correct box for each statement:

Statement	TRUE	FALSE
The European Commission is responsible for drafting and proposing legislation and the EU Budget.	✓	
The European Parliament has the power to set interest rates for the Eurozone.		✓
The European Central Bank's main goal is to keep inflation above 3%.		✓

Q5. True or False: Tick (✓) the correct box for each statement:

Statement	TRUE	FALSE
An EU Regulation automatically becomes law in Ireland without requiring action from the Irish government.	✓	
EU Directives allow Ireland to choose how they will achieve a required result.	✓	
EU Opinions are legally binding and must be implemented by member states.		✓

Q6. & Q7. Student input – sample layout show in textbook

Chapter 4 Higher Level Questions

Q1. (i) Identify one government policy and describe the impact this policy has had on the manufacturing sector of the Irish economy

Policy: *National Industrial Strategy for a Circular Economy (2022–2023)*
Impact on sector (Manufacturing) This policy has encouraged Irish manufacturers to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency. It has led to investment in eco-design, materials innovation, and new product lifecycle planning. It also enhances competitiveness and aligns businesses with sustainability expectations under EU law.

(ii) Identify any other government policy and describe the impact this policy has had on a sector of your choice from the Irish economy

Policy: *Climate Action Plan*
Impact on sector (Distribution, transport, hotels and restaurants) The plan promotes the shift to electric vehicles and improved public transport. It affects the transport sector by driving demand for EV infrastructure, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and encouraging logistics companies to invest in cleaner fleets.

Q2. Distinguish between **government policy** and **legislation**

Government Policy A government policy is a non-binding plan or strategy aimed at achieving specific goals, such as economic growth or climate action. It sets direction and guides public sector decision-making but is not legally enforceable.
Legislation

Legislation is a formal law passed by the Oireachtas. It is legally binding and must be followed by individuals and businesses or they may face punishments like fines. Examples include the Employment Equality Act or GDPR.

Q3. Explain two ways business can try to influence the development of national policy in Ireland.

1. Engaging in lobbying activities Businesses can directly contact government ministers or civil servants to present their views on proposed policies. This includes submitting proposals, meeting politicians, or using professional lobbyists to influence decision-making in their favour.
2. Participating in public consultations or working groups When the government seeks feedback on new policies, businesses can respond through written submissions or take part in stakeholder workshops. This helps ensure policies consider business interests and potential challenges in implementation.

Q4. Identify the correct choice in each case

EU Decision-maker	Their role in EU decision-making
A. European Commission	1. Main decision-making body of the EU, shares law-making power with Parliament through co-decision.
B. European Parliament	2. Sets monetary policy for the Eurozone, including setting interest rates to control inflation.
C. Council of the EU	3. Discusses, debates, and amends new legislation and the EU Budget
D. European Central Bank	4. Drafts and proposes new legislation and the EU Budget; implements laws using Regulations, Directives, and Decisions.
	5. Provides non-binding advice and recommendations to member states.

A	B	C	D
4	3	1	2

Q5. Distinguish between an EU Directive and an EU Regulation, referring to how the Irish government must respond at national level. Use examples.

An EU Directive sets a goal for all member states to reach within a set time limit, but gives each country flexibility in how to achieve it. Ireland must pass its own laws or update existing ones to meet the directive's objectives. *Example: The Working Time Directive led to the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 in Ireland.*
An EU Regulation becomes law in all member states immediately, without needing national legislation. Ireland must enforce it as written, with no changes. *Example: The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law across the EU, including Ireland, in 2018.*

Q6. (i) and (ii) – Student input – sample layout show in textbook.