

LC Geography – Key Definitions

The Low Countries



The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. These are located on the North European Plain, an extensive region of lowlands.

Bread Basket



A region where cereals, such as wheat, are grown. Cereals are used in the production of bread and flour.

The South-East (of Ireland)



Counties Wexford, Waterford and southern parts of adjoining counties of Wicklow, Kilkenny and Carlow.

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Dialect



A local variety of a language that is spoken in one area.

Language of Play



The spontaneous, unprompted language that children use among themselves in their interactions with each other. It can be considered as a measure of the future of the language.

Federal State



A union of self-governing states or regions under a central national government. The USA has a federal system.

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Separatists

REVISE
WISE

People who want their region to be politically independent.

Caliphate

REVISE
WISE

In a caliphate, a state is governed in accordance with Islamic or Sharia law.

Apartheid

REVISE
WISE

Segregation of a group of people on the grounds of race or cultural differences.

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Peripheral Regions



These are regions that are located far from core economic regions. They are economically less developed than core regions. Examples of peripheral regions in the EU include the West of Ireland, the Highlands of Scotland or the Mezzogiorno in Italy and Greece.

Brain Drain



The term is used to describe outward migration of young, well-educated and ambitious young people from an area because of a lack of opportunity there.

Rust Belt



A region that is experiencing industrial decline, with unattractive rusting plants and machinery scarring the landscape. Nord, located in North-East France is an example.

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Pastoral Farming



Involves the production of livestock, such as cattle and sheep, rather than growing crops. More than one-third of the farmland in Co. Dublin is under pasture.

Market Gardening



Also known as horticulture, is defined as the science of growing fruits, vegetables and flowers. North Co. Dublin is the highest concentration of market gardening in the state.

Eurostat



Statistical office of the EU, based in Luxembourg. Eurostat provides statistics on a great number of economic and social sectors in the EU.

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Research and Development (R&D)



Consists of investigative activities that a business pursues to develop new products or procedures.

The Lemass Era



The years from 1959 to 1966, when Seán Lemass presided over the first major economic expansion in the Republic of Ireland.

The Atlantic Corridor



A road project in Ireland that, when complete, will upgrade the route from Waterford via Cork to Letterkenny to dual carriageway or motorway standard. This will make urban centres in the Western region more attractive for inward investment.

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Nodal Point



A nodal point is a route focus where routes, such as roads and/or railways, meet. As the only crossing point on the Corrib River, Galway became a nodal point and a market centre.

Rotation Crops



Under this system, crops such as wheat, maize, barley and sunflowers are rotated in successive years in farmland to avoid soil exhaustion.

Deindustrialisation



The decline of manufacturing in an area (both in the number of plants and the number of workers). Greater Paris has experienced deindustrialisation because of small sites and the high cost of land and labour in the city.

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Growth Pole



An urban area chosen by the government as a centre of economic activity and investment in manufacturing and services. The Bari–Brindisi–Taranto industrial triangle in Italy is an example.

GDP (gross domestic product)



The total value of goods and services that are produced in a country. GDP figures also includes the value of goods and services produced in that country by foreign-owned companies.

Primate city



A city that is at least twice as big as the next largest city in the same state. Dublin is an example.