**Primary Activities in the BMW:**  
  
Q. Examine two factors that have influenced the development of primary activities in any Irish region you have studied.

* Border, Midlands and West (BMW) region.
* Fishing and Forestry
* The wet climate, varied relief and poor soils are an obstacle to the development of agriculture in the region.

**Forestry:**

* Many farmers are part-time and also work in forestry to make a living.
* In Donegal, 14% of farmers had some forestry in 2005. 12% of Donegal is forestry.
* Galway, Mayo, Donegal and Leitrim have more forest cover due to the high percentage of marginal land (mountainous with poor soil).
* These regions are suitable for forestry because the mild, wet, Irish climate encourages rapid growth of coniferous trees.

**Fishing:**

* The west coast of Ireland has a number of natural advantages for the fishing industry:
* It is close to the North Atlantic.
* It is influenced by the North Atlantic Drift ocean current which brings warm water and a variety of fish.
* The sea is shallow and rich in plankton due to the wide, gently sloping continental shelf.
* The indented coast provides natural sheltered harbours.
* Killybegs is the centre of the Irish pelagic (open ocean) fleet.
* They may fish up to 200miles off the coast.

2007 Q. 6C  
[30 marks]