**Secondary Activities in the West:**

Q. Examine the development of secondary economic activities in an Irish region that you have studied.

* The West – Part of the Peripheral BMW Region
* Industries include; Traditional Food processing (Castlebar), timber processing and textiles.
* Physical and human factors have combined to limit the development of industry in the West region. The region does not have a wide variety of industry because it is a generally unattractive location for industry. In particular large MNC’s
* It has a poorly developed transport network. It is a peripheral economic region with a low population density and contains few urban centres. There are no major port facilities, unlike in Dublin.
* The knowledge-based IT industry is concentrated in Galway. (Boston Scientific/Medtronic/ Nortel Telcommunications). A Route Focus – M6 to Dublin/N18 to Limerick
* The region is generally mountainous – 12 Pins Mountains/Maamturk Mountains and has many large lakes such as Lough Corrib.
* Poor Infrastructure - As a result the road and rail network has been underdeveloped. Roads are often narrow and winding.
* This has prevented the development of industries dependent on fast, efficient road transport to deliver goods and raw materials.
* The West is a peripheral region: West Mayo, for example, is over 200km from Dublin. This adds to transport costs for industries that locate in the Westregion and discourages industrial development.
* The West region has a low population density (30 per sq km). The population is dispersed across the region. There are few large towns - Galway and Sligo are the largest centres.
* This means that industries that require large numbers of workers may have difficulty finding enough people in an area, and the workers may have to commute long distances to their jobs.
* Train and bus services in the West region are underdeveloped. As a result many workers commute by car.

2007 Q. 5B
[30 marks]