

## Section A: Rationale and research

(35 marks)

(maximum 500 words)

Rationale: My personal experiences such as my cousin being denied an education due to her disability and my volunteer work in the autism unit in my local primary school, and key thinkers played a role in my decision to focus my project on the denial of education. "Everyone has the right to education.." according to article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From my Politics and Society course, I was greatly influenced by Kathleen Lynch and Martha Nussbaum. Kathleen Lynch focused her early studies on education and, along with Dr Anne Lodge of NUI Maynooth, produced Equality and Power in Schools (2002), a major work on the subject of education access and attainment. Based on two years of classroom observation in twelve Irish schools, Lynch examined the dynamics that create and perpetuate inequality in Irish education.

• STRONG PERSONAL MOTIVATION

• Link to course +

7/7 Key concepts

Aims: The aims of my citizen project were to raise awareness of the issues regarding access to education for children with special needs in Ireland. To obtain the views of people with disabilities and also people working in special needs' education. Another aim was to write a letter to Amnesty International, the leading advocate of Human Rights to lobby the Irish Government to allocate more funding to reduce class sizes, provide more trained teachers, and ensure all children in Ireland can access adequate school transport. The means I chose to achieve these aims, included developing a questionnaire to collect information on challenges and opportunities facing people with disabilities and those working in the educational sectors. I emailed a questionnaire to Autism Ireland, Input Ireland and Inclusion Ireland. I undertook qualitative interviews with a teacher who works for a special unit facilitating children with disabilities and my adult cousin who has a disability. My action plan was to collect all relevant data, review it, summarise key findings and communicate this to Amnesty International.

|| CLEAR, LOGICAL STRUCTURE OF PROJECT

12/12

→ links overtly to the key requirements on page 3 of booklet

→ Identifies multiple relevant institutions

Research Undertaken: For my sources I identified specific reports on autism and education in Ireland which helps support my research findings and I reviewed websites and recent press coverage on the issue. I purposely reviewed a broad range of material so that I could collect unbiased and validated data.

12/12

links between research findings from online reports + own investigations

Research Findings: A CSO report showed 13% of people in Ireland have a disability and 43% have not progressed further than primary education. The questionnaire's showed schools are not equipped to work with children with disabilities. 8000 students with disabilities are in mainstream schools because they can't get a place in special schools according to NDAs report. In Ireland according to the OECD report, there is an average of 25 students per class in primary schools. This is the 5th highest of the 36 members in the OECD. The questionnaires further raised the issue that there is a lack of suitable transport. In summary the government needs to allocate more resources so that children with special needs in Ireland can access an education. Allocating more funding to support education for children with disabilities will yield returns. My research indicates the cost of not doing this doesn't only effect the individual but society as a whole as they they become dependent on the social welfare system due to the lack of employment opportunities.

↓  
Good summary of the implications of key research findings

↓  
succinct data from multiple sources

\* References + Bibliography provided

Full details of every report cited briefly here + other supporting material.

11 research items consulted in total.

Paper	Total
94	
Question	Total Mark
A(i)	7
A(ii)	12
A(iii)	12
A(iv)	4
B(i)	15
B(ii)	13
B(iii)	13
C(i)	6
C(ii)	6
C(iii)	3
C(iv)	3

→ Rationale

→ Aims

→ Summary of

Research Bibliography