

# **Academic Writing (EN323)**

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## **Assessment 2**

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## **1. Chronological order: narration**

### **Feed the world: from pennies to persuasion**

Over the past fifty years or so, the methods used for collecting money from the public to aid the developing world have changed out of all recognition along with the gravity of the problems faced and the increasing awareness among the population that something must be done. At the beginning of this period people kindly donated money directly into beggars' outstretched hands and to the needy in general at a time when the Welfare State did not cover anyone. Indeed, the collection box in churches and private homes was the most important source of charity until the 1960s. The history of charity, however, is one of increasing professionalism and soon shops which sold second-hand goods and which were founded by large charitable organisations like UNICEF began to appear on the High Streets. By the 1980s large charitable events, fronted by internationally famous people, were becoming more common. For example, the popular movie star Julie Andrews and other performers participated in fundraising event in favour of an Alzheimer's disease foundation in 1980. Four years later, in response of famine in Ethiopia, came the most renowned of these movements, when a group of pop singers organised by Bob Geldoff recorded, under the name of Band Aid, a hit single entitled "Do They Know It's Christmas?". The power of the media, together with the horrendous images of hunger and death, which some considered in extreme bad taste, had an enormous impact on the public and changed the style of previous fundraising methods. Finally, repeat of this act this year has been another successful contribution to charity despite music piracy, as Band Aid sold 72,000 copies the first day they released their new album. Thus, we can claim that people are involved in charity more than fifty years ago as a consequence of the new fundraising methods.

## **2. Concrete support**

### **How Ireland has changed over 30 years**

Thanks to social and economic developments, Ireland has made important progress in several areas over the last 30 years according to a recent Central Statistics Office (CSO) report. First of all, life expectancy has increased by more than six years for both men and women, despite the fact that Ireland was in a low position in 2001 as compared with other EU countries. This has been achieved not only thanks to better medical treatment and an improved diet but, more importantly, to a richer economy. Secondly, the number of people in third-level education has increased five-fold. Unemployment seems to decrease every year as firms seek trainees who are usually well paid and hired after their training period. In addition, more students want to go to university and are prepared to be more mobile and flexible to gain employment. Thirdly, the economy has significantly improved as both the GDP per capita as percentage of EU average and the price of consumer goods and services have also risen. This is not surprising due to the fact that figures show that while in 1973 the average annual industrial earnings were just under €2,000 per annum, in 2003 they were almost €27,000. Moreover, compared to figures in 1973, the GNP per capita is more than three times the 1973 level in real terms. Last, but not least, it is important to note that the employment rate for women has grown. By 1973, only 287,000 women were in some kind of employment. However, about 735,000 women work nowadays. In conclusion, it can be stated that after 30 years Ireland may be considered as one of the most developed countries in the UE.

### 3. Write a short biography of a famous Irish person

#### James Joyce

James Joyce, whose real name was James Augustine Aloysius Joyce, was a very famous Irish writer and poet who is widely considered as one of the most significant writers of the 20th century thanks to many brilliant works such as *Dubliners* and *Ulysses*. He was born on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1882 in a suburb of Dublin city, where he would base his fictional world reflecting his family life and the events and friends from his school and college days. As his father had to change his occupation, Joyce had to move to Bray. He entered Clongowes Wood College in 1888, where he was educated by Jesuits. Nevertheless, he had to leave in 1892, one year after printing his first poem, because his father could no longer afford to pay the fees. Therefore, in 1893 he went to Belvedere College, a free public school also run by the Jesuits. Then, by 1898, he left Belvedere to enroll in University College, where he studied modern languages like French or Italian. Moreover, he started to participate actively in several literary activities.

His first essay, which was a review of Ibsen's *New Drama*, was published in 1900. Two years later he left Ireland to go to both Switzerland and Italy thinking he would never return, although he visited Ireland again as the person whom he married lived in Galway. He even said that Dublin was too dead for him. However, this is rather surprising, since Joyce always wrote about Dublin. His first work, *Music Chamber*, which consisted of 36 short lyrics, was published by 1907. During 1912 he tried to publish *Dubliners*, a collection of short stories of people who lived in Dublin, but finally it was not published until 1914. A few years later, in 1922, he published his masterpiece *Ulysses*, in which explores various areas of Dublin life again. Towards the very end of 1940 Joyce moved to Zurich, where he was just about to get blind. Finally, on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1941, he died while he was having a major surgery.

#### Reference List

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Wikipedia, La Enciclopedia Libre. 2005. *James Joyce* [online]. Wikipedia Foundation, Inc. Available from: [http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Joyce](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Joyce) [Accessed 11 January 2005]